
Andrew David Irvine*

For the price of a meal in this town you can buy all the books. Eat at home and buy the books.

Jack Rabinovitch

Founded in 1994 by Jack Rabinovitch, the Giller Prize was established to honour Rabinovitch’s late wife, the journalist Doris Giller, who had died from cancer a year earlier. Since its inception, the prize has served to recognize excellence in Canadian English-language fiction, including both novels and short stories.

Initially the award was endowed to provide an annual cash prize of $25,000. In 2005, the Giller Prize partnered with Scotiabank to create the Scotiabank Giller Prize. Under the new arrangement, the annual purse doubled in size to $50,000, with $40,000 going to the winner and $2,500 going to each of four additional finalists. Beginning in 2008, $50,000 was given to the winner and $5,000

* Andrew Irvine holds the position of Professor and Head of Economics, Philosophy and Political Science at the University of British Columbia, Okanagan. Errata may be sent to the author at andrew.irvine@ubc.ca.


was given to each of the other finalists.\(^5\) Beginning in 2014 the prize was again doubled, with $100,000 going to the winner and $10,000 to each finalist.\(^6\) Since the award’s inception, all finalists have also received specially bound copies of their books. The significant size of the awards has served not only as recognition of the importance of Canadian fiction but also as an incentive for other literary awards to increase the size of their prizes.

Each year a three-member jury selects the winning book from a publicly announced short list of five or six nominees. Since 2006 a preliminary long list of nominees has also been made public.\(^7\) In 2011 a Reader’s Choice selection was incorporated into the long list.\(^8\) (In 2012 the Reader’s Choice competition was held a second time, but independently of the Giller nomination process.)\(^9\) Since 1998, the black-tie award gala at which award winners receive their prizes has been broadcast regularly on national television. As Rabinovitch reports, the purpose of the broadcasts has been not just to help publicize the prize, but also to help authors “sell more books.”\(^10\)


---


10 Rabinovitch, “Introduction,” (see note 2), xx.

(isbn 978-0-670-06802-9) and in a leather-bound presentation edition that same year (isbn 978-0-670-06983-5).

Over the past twenty-one years, two authors have won the award twice (M.G. Vassanji in 1994 and 2003, and Alice Munro in 1998 and 2004). Only once has the prize been given to multiple authors (Michael Ondaatje and David Adams Richards in 2000).

The following list contains bibliographical information about all winning books from 1994 to 2014. A unique reference number accompanies each title. For example, the number Gi-1994.p, which accompanies Vassanji’s *The Book of Secrets*, indicates that this book was the first Giller winner, Gi; that it won in 1994; and that it was originally issued in paperback, p (or alternatively in hardcover, h).

Background information has been gathered from the following collections:

- BCU University of British Columbia Okanagan, Library
- BVAUS University of British Columbia, Special Collections and University Archives Division
- IRV Author’s private collection
- OONL Library and Archives Canada / Bibliothèque et Archives Canada

The names of award winners and jury members have been drawn from Giller Prize press releases and related sources, all of which remain available online. Bibliographical information regarding individual titles has been taken from books within the author’s private collection (IRV).

1994 (1ST YEAR)


(Gi-1994.p) Issued in paperback with French flaps; isbn 0-7710-8719-5, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 98 97 96 95 94; TITLE VARIANT

The Book of Secrets: A Novel; design credit Kong; artwork credit Greg Spalenka; photo credit Denise Grant; price $19.99; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


Jury members Alice Munro, Mordecai Richler, David Staines.

1995 (2nd year)\(^1\)


(G2-1995.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-7710-6052-1, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 99 98 97 96 95; Title variant A Fine Balance: A Novel; design credit K.T. Njo; photo credits F. Mistry, Dario Mitidieri; price $35.00; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


Jury members Mordecai Richler, David Staines, Jane Urquhart.

1996 (3RD YEAR)\textsuperscript{13}


(G3-1996.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; isbn 0-7710-0835-X, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 00 99 98 97 96; partner companies New York: Doubleday, a division of Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, Inc., London: Bloomsbury Publishing Limited; design credits Kong, Marysarah Quinn; artwork credit Dante Gabriel Rossetti; photo credit Andrew MacNaughton; price $32.50; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


Jury members Bonnie Burnard, Carol Shields, David Staines.

1997 (4TH YEAR)\textsuperscript{14}


(G4-1997.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; isbn 0-676-97078-8, with the designation “First Canadian Edition”; end material Michael Panofsky; design credit Spender Francey Peters; photo credits Jillian Edelstein, John Scully; price $32.95; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


jury members Bonnie Burnard, Mavis Gallant, Peter Gzowski.

1998 (5th year)


(G5-1998.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-7710-6685-6, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 6 03 02 01 00 99 98; design credit Sari Ginsberg; artwork credit Paul Peel; photo credit Jerry Bauer; price $32.99; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


jury members Margaret Atwood, Peter Gzowski, Guy Vanderhaeghe.

1999 (6th year)


(G6-1999.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-00-225526-X, with the designation “First HarperCollins hardcover ed.”; title variant A Good House: A Novel; partner company HarperCollins; design credit Bill Douglas at The Bang; photo credits Fred Lum, Andrew Southon; price $29.00; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


JURY MEMBERS Alberto Manguel, Judith Mappin, Nino Ricci.

2000 (7TH YEAR)17


(G7-2000.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-7710-6893-X, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 6 05 04 03 02 00; design credits Carol Devine Carson, Anthea Lingeman, K.T. Njo; photo credits Adam Elder, Jana León; price $34.99; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


(G8-2000.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-385-25917-4, with the full number line BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1; design credits Linda Gustafson/Counterpunch, Susan Thomas/Digital Zone; photo credits Calum Colvin/Photonica, Debra Thier; price $32.95; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


jury members Margaret Atwood, Alistair MacLeod, Jane Urquhart.

2001 (8TH YEAR)\(^{18}\)


(G9-2001.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-00-200501-8, with the designation “First edition” and the full number line HC 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1; partner company Toronto: HarperCollins Canada; design credit Pylon; artwork credit Tamara de Lempicka; price $32.00; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


jury members Joan Clark, Robert Fulford, David Adams Richards.

2002 (9TH YEAR)\(^{19}\)


(G10–2002.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-88762-110-4, with no print run announced; editing credit Patrick Crean; design credit Gordon Robertson; photo credits Nermeen Mouftah, John Sann/Getty Images; price $34.95; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


JURY MEMBERS Barbara Gowdy, Thomas King, William H. New.

2003 (10TH YEAR)20


(G11–2003.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-385-65990-3, with the full number line BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1; design credit CS Richardson; artwork credit Grant V. Faint/Getty Images; photo credit Denise Grant; price $35.95; copy examined IRV; award $25,000.


JURY MEMBERS Rosalie Abella, David Staines, Rudy Wiebe.

---

**2004 (11TH YEAR)**


(G12-2004.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-7710-6506-X, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 6 08 07 06 05 04; DESIGN CREDIT Kong; ARTWORK CREDIT Mary Pratt; PHOTO CREDIT Derek Shapton; PRICE $34.99; COPY EXAMINED IRV; AWARD $25,000.


JURY MEMBERS Charlotte Gray, Alistair MacLeod, M.G. Vassanji.

**2005 (12TH YEAR)**


(G13-2005.h) Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-7710-1178-4, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 09 08 07 06 05; TITLE VARIANT *The Time in Between: A Novel*; DESIGN CREDIT Kong Njo; PHOTO CREDITS Thomas Fricke, Peter Turnley/Corbis; PRICE $34.99; COPY EXAMINED IRV; AWARD $40,000.


---


**Jury Members** Warren Cariou, Elizabeth Hay, Richard B. Wright.

### 2006 (13th Year)


*(G14-2006.h)* Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 0-385-66143-6, with the full number line BVG 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1; Design Credit CS Richardson; Artwork Credit Bettmann/Corbis; Photo Credit Margarita Lam Antoniades; Price US $21.95 / CAN $29.95; Copy Examined IRV; Award $40,000.


**Jury Members** Adrienne Clarkson, Alice Munro, Michael Winter.

### 2007 (14th Year)


*(G15-2007.h)* Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 978-0-7710-3811-2, with the full number line 1 2 3 4 5 11 10 09 08 07; Title Variant

---


Late Nights on Air: A Novel; design credit Kelly Hill; artwork credit Richard Hamilton Smith/Corbis; photo credit Mark Fried; price $32.99; copy examined IRV; award $40,000.


Jury members David Bergen, Camilla Gibb, Lorna Goodison.

2008 (15th Year)25


Jury members Margaret Atwood, Bob Rae, Colm Toibin.

2009 (16TH YEAR)\textsuperscript{26}


\[(G17-2009,h)\] Issued in hardcover with dust jacket; ISBN 978-0-307-35706-9, with the full number line 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1; DESIGN CREDIT CS Richardson; ARTWORK CREDIT Shadow/Getty Images; PHOTO CREDIT David Kaufman; PRICE $32.00; COPY EXAMINED IRV; AWARD $50,000.


JURY MEMBERS Russell Banks, Victoria Glendinning, Alistair MacLeod.

2010 (17TH YEAR)\textsuperscript{27}


\[(G18-2010,p)\] Issued in paperback with dust jacket; ISBN 978-155447-078-5, with the full number line 7 6 5 4 3 2 1; ARTWORK CREDIT Wesley Bates; PRODUCTION CREDIT Andrew Steeves; PRINTED BY Gary Dunfield, Gaspereau Press; PRICE $27.95; COPY EXAMINED IRV; AWARD $50,000.


Jury members Michael Enright, Claire Messud, Ali Smith.

2011 (18th Year)²⁸


(G19-2011.p) Issued in paperback with Frenchflaps; ISBN 978-0-88762-741-5, with the full number line 15 14 13 12 11 12 3 4 5; title variant *Half-Blood Blues: A Novel*; design credits Martin Gould, Michel Vrana; photo credits Philartphace/iStockphoto.com, Steven Price; price $24.95; copy examined IRV; award $50,000.


Jury members Annabel Lyon, Howard Norman, Andrew O’Hagan.

2012 (19th Year)²⁹


JURY MEMBERS Roddy Doyle, Anna Porter, Gary Shteyngart.

2013 (20TH YEAR)30


(G21-2013.p) Issued in paperback; ISBN 978-1-77089-308-5, with the full number line 17 16 15 14 13 1 2 3 4 5; DESIGN CREDITS Erin Mallory, Alysia Shewchuk; ARTWORK CREDIT Nikreates/Alamy; PHOTO CREDIT Rob Appleford; PRODUCTION CREDIT Alysia Shewchuk; PRICE $19.95; COPY EXAMINED IRV; AWARD $50,000.

OTHER FINALISTS (1) Dennis Bock, Going Home Again, Toronto: HarperCollins Canada, 2013; (2) Craig Davidson, Cataract City, Toronto: Doubleday Canada, 2013; (3) Lisa Moore, Caught, Toronto:

---


JURY MEMBERS Margaret Atwood, Esi Edugyan, Jonathan Lethem.

2014 (21ST YEAR)\(^{31}\)


(G22-2014,p) Issued in paperback with French flaps; ISBN 978-0-345-81332-9, with the full number line 2 4 6 8 9 7 5 3 1; DESIGN CREDITS Andrew Roberts, CS Richardson; PHOTO CREDITS Skippy Adelman, John Londo; PRICE $24.95; COPY EXAMINED IRV; AWARD $100,000.


JURY MEMBERS Shauna Singh Baldwin, Justin Cartwright, Francine Prose.\(^{32}\)

SOMMAIRE

Pendant vingt ans, le prix Giller (renommé le prix Banque Scotia Giller en 2005) a été la récompense la plus importante offerte aux


\(^{32}\) For their help in the preparation of this article, I am grateful to an anonymous referee, as well as to David Irvine, Joan Irvine, Eli MacLaren, Jenna Moore, Bill New, Elana Rabinovitch, and Roger Seamon.
romanciers et aux nouvellistes canadiens-anglais. Au cours des années, le prix a reconnu l’excellence tant des romans que des recueils de nouvelles publiés au pays. Dans cet article, l’auteur dresse la liste exhaustive des auteurs qui se sont vus attribuer ce prix entre 1994 et 2013.