

The Book Awards were established by Whitbread in 1971 and encouraged, promoted and celebrated the enjoyment of reading. They became the Costa Book Awards in 2006.

There are six awards:

- Novel Award, First Novel Award, Biography Award, Poetry Award and Children's Book Award winners (£5,000 each)
- Book of the Year (selected from five winners above): £30,000
- Total prize fund is £55,000.

COSTA WINNERS 2006 – present

2021	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE KIDS	Hannah Lowe	Bloodaxe Books
	First Novel Award	Open Water	Caleb Azumah Nelson	Viking
	Novel Award	Unsettled Ground	Claire Fuller	Fig Tree
	Biography Award	Fall: The Mystery of Robert	John Preston	Viking
		Maxwell		
	Poetry Award	The Kids	Hannah Lowe	Bloodaxe Books
	Children's Book Award	The Crossing	Manjeet Mann	Penguin
2020	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE MERMAID OF BLACK CONCH: A	Manigua Boffoy	Peepal Tree
2020	BOOK OF THE TEAK	LOVE STORY	Monique Roffey	reepui Tree
	First Novel Award	Love After Love	Ingrid Persaud	Faber
	Novel Award	The Mermaid Of Black Conch: A	Monique Roffey	Peepal Tree
	Novel Award		Monique Koney	reepui Tree
	Piography Award	Love Story The Louder I Will Sing	Lee Lawrence	Sphere
	Biography Award Poetry Award	The Historians	Eavan Boland	Carcanet
	Children's Book Award	Voyage of the Sparrowhawk	Natasha Farrant	Faber
	Cilidren's Book Award	voyage of the Sparrownawk	Natasiia Fairaiit	ruber
2019	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE VOLUNTEER	Jack Fairweather	WH Allen
	First Novel Award	The Confessions of Frannie Langton	Sara Collins	Viking
	Novel Award	Middle England	Jonathan Coe	Viking
	Biography Award	The Volunteer	Jack Fairweather	WH Allen
	Poetry Award	Flèche	Mary Jean Chan	Faber & Faber
	Children's Book Award	Asha & the Spirit Bird	Jasbinder Bilan	Chicken House
2018	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE CUT OUT GIRL	Bart van Es	Fig Tree Books
	First Novel Award	The Seven Deaths of Evelyn	Stuart Turton	Bloomsbury Books
		Hardcastle		
	Novel Award	Normal People	Sally Rooney	Faber & Faber
	Biography Award	The Cut Out Girl	Bart van Es	Fig Tree Books
	Poetry Award	Assurances	J O Morgan	Jonathan Cape
	Children's Book Award	The Skylarks' War	Hilary McKay	Macmillan Children's
				Books
2017	DOOK OF THE VEAR	INSIDE THE WAVE	Halan Dummana	Diagday a Dagle
2017	BOOK OF THE YEAR		Helen Dunmore	Bloodaxe Books
	First Novel Award	Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine	Gail Honeyman	HarperCollins 4 th Estate
	Novel Award	Reservoir 13 In the Days of Rain	Jon McGregor	4 th Estate
	Biography Award	•	Rebecca Stott	
	Poetry Award Children's Book Award	Inside the Wave	Helen Dunmore	Bloodaxe Books
	Children's Book Award	The Explorer	Katherine Rundell	Bloomsbury Children's
				Books
2016	BOOK OF THE YEAR	DAYS WITHOUT END	Sebastian Barry	Faber & Faber
	First Novel Award	Golden Hill	Francis Spufford	Faber & Faber
	Novel Award	Days Without End	Sebastian Barry	Faber & Faber
	Biography Award	Dadland	Keggie Carew	Chatto & Windus
	Poetry Award	Falling Awake	Alice Oswald	Jonathan Cape Poetry
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	Children's Book Award	The Bombs That Brought Us Together	Brian Conaghan	Bloomsbury
2015	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE LIE TREE	Frances Hardinge	Macmillan Children's Books
	First Novel Award	The Loney	Andrew Michael Hurley	John Murray
	Novel Award	A God in Ruins	Kate Atkinson	Doubleday .
	Biography Award	The Invention of Nature: The	Andrea Wulf	John Murray
		Adventures of Alexander von		
		Humboldt, The Lost Hero of Science		
	Poetry Award	40 Sonnets	Don Paterson	Faber & Faber
	Children's Book Award	The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	Macmillan Children's Books
2014	BOOK OF THE YEAR	H IS FOR HAWK	Helen Macdonald	Random House
	First Novel Award	Elizabeth is Missing	Emma Healey	Viking
	Novel Award	How to be both	, Ali Smith	Hamish Hamilton
	Biography Award	H is for Hawk	Helen Macdonald	Random House
	Poetry Award	My Family and Other Superheroes	Jonathan Edwards	Seren
	Children's Book Award	Five Children on the Western Front	Kate Saunders	Faber & Faber
2013	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE SHOCK OF THE FALL	Nathan Filer	Borough Press
2013	BOOK OF THE TEAK	THE SHOCK OF THE PALE	Nathanine	(HarperCollins)
	First Novel Award	The Shock of the Fall	Nathan Filer	Borough Press
				(HarperCollins)
	Novel Award	Life After Life	Kate Atkinson	Doubleday
	Biography Award	The Pike: Gabriele d'Annunzio,	Lucy Hughes-Hallett	Fourth Estate
		Poet, Seducer and Preacher of War		
	Poetry Award	Drysalter	Michael Symmons-Roberts	Jonathan Cape
	Children's Book Award	Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse	Chris Riddell	Macmillan Children's Books
2012	BOOK OF THE YEAR	BRING UP THE BODIES	Hilary Mantel	Fourth Estate
	First Novel Award	The Innocents	Francesca Segal	Chatto & Windus
	Novel Award	Bring Up The Bodies	Hilary Mantel	Fourth Estate
	Biography Award	Dotter of Her Father's Eyes	Mary Talbot and Bryan Talbot	Jonathan Cape
	Poetry Award	The Overhaul	Kathleen Jamie	Picador
	Children's Book Award	Maggot Moon	Sally Gardner	Hot Key Books
2011	BOOK OF THE YEAR	PURE	Andrew Miller	Sceptre
2011	First Novel Award	Tiny Sunbirds Far Away	Christie Watson	Quercus
	Novel Award	Pure	Andrew Miller	Sceptre
	Biography Award	Now All Roads Lead to France: The	Matthew Hollis	Faber & Faber
		Last Years of Edward Thomas		
	Poetry Award	The Bees	Carol Ann Duffy	Picador
	Children's Book Award	Blood Red Road	Moira Young	Marion Lloyd Books
2010	BOOK OF THE YEAR	OF MUTABILITY	Jo Shapcott	Faber & Faber
2010	First Novel Award	Witness the Night	Kishwar Desai	Beautiful Books
	Novel Award	The Hand that First Held Mine	Maggie O'Farrell	Headline Review
	Biography Award	The Hare with Amber Eyes	Edmund de Waal	Chatto & Windus
	Poetry Award	Of Mutability	Jo Shapcott	Faber & Faber
	Children's Book Award	Out of Shadows	Jason Wallace	Andersen Press
2009	BOOK OF THE YEAR	A SCATTERING	Christopher Reid	Faber & Faber
	First Novel Award	Beauty	Raphael Selbourne	Tindal Street Press
	Novel Award	Brooklyn	Colm Tóibín	Viking

The Strangest Man – The Hidden

Graham Farmelo

Faber and Faber

Biography Award



	Poetry Award Children's Book Award	Life of Paul Dirac, Quantum Genius A Scattering The Ask and the Answer: Chaos Walking, Book Two	Christopher Reid Patrick Ness	Arete Books Walker Books
2008	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE SECRET SCRIPTURE The Outcast The Secret Scripture Somewhere Towards the End The Broken Word Just Henry	Sebastian Barry Sadie Jones Sebastian Barry Diana Athill Adam Foulds Michelle Magorian	Faber & Faber Chatto & Windus Faber and Faber Granta Jonathan Cape Egmont Press
2007	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	DAY What Was Lost Day Young Stalin Tilt The Bower Bird	A L Kennedy Catherine O'Flynn A L Kennedy Simon Sebag-Montefiore Jean Sprackland Ann Kelley	Jonathan Cape Tindal Street Press Jonathan Cape Weidenfeld & Nicolson Cape Poetry Luath Press Limited
2006	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	THE TENDERNESS OF WOLVES The Tenderness of Wolves Restless Keeping Mum Letter to Patience Set in Stone	Stef Penney Stef Penney William Boyd Brian Thompson John Haynes Linda Newbery	Quercus Quercus Bloomsbury Atlantic Books Seren David Fickling Books

WHITBREAD WINNERS 1971 - 2005

2005	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award Children's Book Award	MATISSE: THE MASTER The Harmony Silk Factory the accidental Matisse: The Master Cold Calls The New Policeman	Hilary Spurling Tash Aw Ali Smith Hilary Spurling Christopher Logue Kate Thompson	Hamish Hamilton Harper Perennial Hamish Hamilton Hamish Hamilton Faber and Faber The Bodley Head
2004	BOOK OF THE YEAR First Novel Award	SMALL ISLAND Eve Green	Andrea Levy Susan Fletcher	Headline
	Novel Award Biography Award	Small Island My Heart is My Own: The Life of Mary Queen of Scots	Andrea Levy John Guy	Headline Fourth Estate
	Poetry Award	Corpus	Michael Simmons Roberts	Jonathan Cape
	Children's Book Award	Not the End of the World	Geraldine McCaughrean	Oxford University Press
2003	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME	Mark Haddon	Jonathan Cape
	First Novel Award	Vernon God Little	DBC Pierre	Faber & Faber
	Novel Award	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon	Jonathan Cape
	Biography Award	Orwell: The Life	DJ Taylor	Chatto & Windus
	Poetry Award	Landing Light	Don Paterson	Faber & Faber
	Children's Book Award	The Fire-Eaters	David Almond	Hodder Children's
2002	BOOK OF THE YEAR	SAMUEL PEPYS: THE UNEQUALLED SELF	Claire Tomalin	Viking
	First Novel Award	The Song of Names	Norman Lebrecht	Review
	Novel Award	Spies	Michael Frayn	Faber & Faber



Biography Award Samuel Pepys: The Unequalled Claire Tomalin Viking

Self

Poetry Award The Ice Age Paul Farley Picador

Children's Book Award Saffy's Angel Hilary McKay Hodder Children's

NB: The structure of the Awards changed for the final time in 2002, and the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year reverted to the original format of being one of five categories, with its winner, like the others, selected by the category judges and competing for title of Whitbread Book of the Year.

2001	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE AMBER SPYGLASS The Amber Spyglass	Philip Pullman Philip Pullman	Scholastic Scholastic
	First Novel Award	Something Like a House	Sid Smith	Picador
	Novel Award	Twelve Bar Blues	Patrick Neate	Viking
	Biography Award	Selkirk's Island	Diana Souhami	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
	Poetry Award	Bunny	Selima Hill	Bloodaxe
2000	BOOK OF THE YEAR CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE	ENGLISH PASSENGERS Coram Boy	Matthew Kneale Jamila Gavin	Hamish Hamilton Egmont

YEAR YEAR	Coram Boy	Jamila Gavin	Egmont
First Novel Award	White Teeth	Zadie Smith	Hamish Hamilton
Novel Award	English Passengers	Matthew Kneale	Hamish Hamilton
Biography Award	Bad Blood	Lorna Sage	Fourth Estate
Poetry Award	The Asylum Dance	John Burnside	Cape Poetry
BOOK OF THE YEAR	BEOWULF	Seamus Heaney	Faber & Faber

1999	BOOK OF THE YEAR	BEOWULF	Seamus Heaney	Faber & Faber
	CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE	Harry Potter and the Prisoner of	J K Rowling	Bloomsbury
	YEAR	Azkaban		
	First Novel Award	White City Blue	Tim Lott	Viking
	Novel Award	Music and Silence	Rose Tremain	Chatto & Windus
	Biography Award	Berlioz, Volume 2	David Cairns	Allen Lane The Penguin
				Press

Poetry Award Beowulf Seamus Heaney Faber & Faber

NB: The structure of the Awards changed once more in 1999 when the winner of the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year was selected by the final judging panel and then judged against the other four categories for overall Whitbread Book of the Year.

1998	BOOK OF THE YEAR	BIRTHDAY LETTERS	Ted Hughes	Faber & Faber
	CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE	SKELLIG	David Almond	Hodder Children's Books
	YEAR			
	First Novel Award	The Last King of Scotland	Giles Foden	Faber & Faber
	Novel Award	Leading the Cheers	Justin Cartwright	Sceptre
	Biography Award	Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire	Amanda Foreman	HarperCollins
	Poetry Award	Birthday Letters	Ted Hughes	Faber & Faber
1997	BOOK OF THE YEAR	TALES FROM OVID	Ted Hughes	Faber & Faber
	CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE	AQUILA	Andrew Norriss	Hamish Hamilton
	YEAR			
	First Novel Award	The Ventriloquist's Tale	Pauline Melville	Bloomsbury
	Novel Award	Quarantine	Jim Crace	Viking
	Biography Award	Victor Hugo	Graham Robb	Picador
	Poetry Award	Tales from Ovid	Ted Hughes	Faber & Faber
1000	DOOK OF THE VEAR	THE COURT LEVEL	Caamanallaanan	Fahan Q Fahan

1996 BOOK OF THE YEAR THE SPIRIT LEVEL Seamus Heaney Faber & Faber



CHILDREN'S BOOK OF THE

YEAR

Novel

Poetry

1989

Biography

First Novel

Biography

Novel

Poetry

Children's Novel

BOOK OF THE YEAR

First Novel Award Novel Award Biography Award Poetry Award THE TULIP TOUCH

The Debt to Pleasure Every Man for Himself Thomas Cranmer: A Life The Spirit Level Anne Fine

John Lanchester Beryl Bainbridge Diarmaid MacCulloch Seamus Heaney Hamish Hamilton

Picador Duckworth Yale University Press Faber & Faber

NB: The structure of the Awards changed again in 1996 when the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year became an award in its own right (ie not judged against the other four categories) for the first time, with prize money of £10,000.

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1995	BOOK OF THE YEAR	BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE MUSEUM	Kate Atkinson	Doubleday/Black Swan
	First Novel	Behind the Scenes at the Museum	Kate Atkinson	Doubleday/Black Swan
	Novel	The Moor's Last Sigh	Salman Rushdie	Jonathan Cape
	Biography	Gladstone	Roy Jenkins	Macmillan
	Poetry	Gunpowder	Bernard O'Donoghue	Chatto & Windus
	Beefeater Children's Novel	The Wreck of the Zanzibar	Michael Morpurgo	Heinemann/Mammoth
1994	BOOK OF THE YEAR	FELICIA'S JOURNEY	William Trevor	Viking
	First Novel	The Longest Memory	Fred D'Aguiar	Chatto & Windus
	Novel	Felicia's Journey	William Trevor	Viking
	Biography	D H Lawrence: The Married Man	Brenda Maddox	Sinclair-Stevenson
	Poetry	Out of Danger	James Fenton	Penguin Poetry
	Children's Novel	Gold Dust	Geraldine McCaughrean	OUP
1993	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THEORY OF WAR	Joan Brady	Andre Deutsch
	First Novel	Saving Agnes	Rachel Cusk	Macmillan
	Novel	Theory of War	Joan Brady	Andre Deutsch
	Biography	Philip Larkin: A Writer's Life	Andrew Motion	Faber & Faber
	Poetry	Mean Time	Carol Ann Duffy	Anvil Press
	Children's Novel	Flour Babies	Anne Fine	Hamish Hamilton
1992	BOOK OF THE YEAR	SWING HAMMER SWING!	Jeff Torrington	Secker & Warburg
	First Novel	Swing Hammer Swing!	Jeff Torrington	Secker & Warburg
	Novel	Poor Things	Alasdair Gray	Bloomsbury
	Biography	Trollope	Victoria Glendinning	Hutchinson
	Poetry	The Gaze of the Gorgon	Tony Harrison	Bloodaxe Books
	Children's Novel	The Great Elephant Chase	Gillian Cross	OUP
1991	BOOK OF THE YEAR	A LIFE OF PICASSO	John Richardson	Jonathan Cape
	First Novel	Alma Cogan	Gordon Burn	Secker & Warburg
	Novel	The Queen of the Tambourine	Jane Gardam	Sinclair-Stevenson
	Biography	A Life of Picasso	John Richardson	Jonathan Cape
	Poetry	Gorse Fires	Michael Longley	Secker & Warburg
	Children's Novel	Harvey Angell	Diana Hendry	Julia MacRae
1990	BOOK OF THE YEAR	HOPEFUL MONSTERS	Nicholas Mosley	Secker & Warburg
	First Novel	The Buddha of Suburbia	Hanif Kureishi	Faber & Faber

Hopeful Monsters

A A Milne: His Life

COLERIDGE: EARLY VISIONS

The Chymical Wedding

Coleridge: Early Visions

Daddy, Daddy

Gerontius

Shibboleth

ΑK

Richard Holmes James Hamilton-Paterson Lindsay Clarke Richard Holmes Michael Donaghy

Nicholas Mosley

Peter Dickinson

Ann Thwaite

Paul Durcan

Hodder & Stoughton Macmillan Jonathan Cape Hodder & Stoughton OUP

Secker & Warburg

The Blackstaff Press

Faber & Faber

Victor Gollancz



	Children's Novel	Why Weeps the Brogan?	Hugh Scott	Walker Books
1988	BOOK OF THE YEAR	THE COMFORTS OF MADNESS	Paul Sayer	Constable
	First Novel	The Comforts of Madness	Paul Sayer	Constable
	Novel	The Satanic Verses	Salman Rushdie	Viking
	Biography	Tolstoy	A N Wilson	Hamish Hamilton
	Poetry	The Automatic Oracle	Peter Porter	OUP
	Children's Novel	Awaiting Developments	Judy Allen	Julia MacRae
1987	BOOK OF THE YEAR	UNDER THE EYE OF THE CLOCK	Christopher Nolan	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
	First Novel	The Other Garden	Francis Wyndham	Jonathan Cape
	Novel	The Child in Time	lan McEwan	Jonathan Cape
	Biography	Under the Eye of the Clock	Christopher Nolan	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
	Poetry	The Haw Lantern	Seamus Heaney	Faber & Faber
	Children's Novel	A Little Lower than the Angels	Geraldine McCaughrean	OUP

1986	BOOK OF THE YEAR	AN ARTIST OF THE FLOATING WORLD	Kazuo Ishiguro	Faber & Faber
	First Novel	Continent	Jim Crace	Heinemann
	Novel	An Artist of the Floating World	Kazuo Ishiguro	Faber & Faber
	Biography	Gilbert White	Richard Mabey	Century Hutchinson
	Poetry	Stet	Peter Reading	Secker & Warburg
	Children's Novel	The Coal House	Andrew Taylor	Collins
1985	BOOK OF THE YEAR	ELEGIES	Douglas Dunn	Faber & Faber
	First Novel	Oranges are not the only Fruit	Jeanette Winterson	Pandora Press
	Novel	Hawksmoor	Peter Ackroyd	Hamish Hamilton
	Biography	Hugh Dalton	Ben Pimlott	Jonathan Cape
	Poetry	Elegies	Douglas Dunn	Faber & Faber
	Children's Novel	The Nature of the Beast	Janni Howker	Julia MacRae

NB: The Whitbread Book of the Year was awarded for the first time in 1985 when the format of the Awards was changed. Prior to that, the Whitbread Literary Awards (as they were then called) were given as follows:

1984	First Novel	A Parish of Rich Women	James Buchan	Hamish Hamilton
	Novel	Kruger's Alp	Christopher Hope	Heinemann
	Biography	T S Eliot	Peter Ackroyd	Hamish Hamilton
	Short Story	Tomorrow is our Permanent	Diane Rowe	
		Address		
	Children's Novel	The Queen of the Pharisees'	Barbara Willard	Julia MacRae
		Children		
1983	First Novel	Flying to Nowhere	John Fuller	Salamander Press
	Novel	Fools of Fortune	William Trevor	Bodley Head
	Joint Biography	Vita	Victoria Glendinning	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
		King George V	Kenneth Rose	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
	Children's Novel	The Witches	Roald Dahl	Jonathan Cape
1982	First Novel	On the Black Hill	Bruce Chatwin	Jonathan Cape
	Novel	Young Shoulders	John Wain	Macmillan
	Biography	Bismarck	Edward Crankshaw	Macmillan
	Children's Novel	The Song of Pentecost	W J Corbett	Methuen
1981	First Novel	A Good Man in Africa	William Boyd	Hamish Hamilton
	Novel	Silver's City	Maurice Leitch	Secker & Warburg
	Biography	Monty: The Making of a General	Nigel Hamilton	Hamish Hamilton



	Children's Novel	The Hollow Land	Jane Gardam	Julia MacRae
1980	Novel and Book of the Year Biography	How Far Can You Go? On the Edge of Paradise: A C Benson the Diarist	David Lodge David Newsome	Secker & Warburg John Murrary
	Children's Novel	John Diamond	Leon Garfield	Kestrel
1979	Novel Autobiography Children's Novel	The Old Jest About Time Tulku	Jennifer Johnston Penelope Mortimer Peter Dickinson	Hamish Hamilton Allen Lane Victor Gollancz
1978	Novel Biography Children's Book	Picture Palace Lloyd George: The People's Champion The Battle of Bubble & Squeak	Paul Theroux John Grigg Philippa Pearce	Hamish Hamilton Methuen Andre Deutsch
		·		
1977	Novel Biography Children's Book	Injury Time Mary Curzon No End to Yesterday	Beryl Bainbridge Nigel Nicolson Shelagh Macdonald	Duckworth Weidenfeld & Nicolson Andre Deutsch
1976	Novel Biography Children's Book	The Children of Dynmouth Elizabeth Gaskell A Stitch in Time	William Trevor Winifred Gerin Penelope Lively	Bodley Head OUP William Heinemann
1975	Novel Autobiography First Book	Docherty In Our Infancy The Improbable Puritan: A Life of Bulstrode Whitelock	William McIlvanney Helen Corke Ruth Spalding	Allen & Unwin Cambridge University Press Faber & Faber
1974	Novel	The Sacred & Profane Love Machine	Iris Murdoch	Chatto & Windus
	Biography Joint Children's Books	Poor Dear Brendan How Tom Beat Captain Najork & His Hired Sportsmen The Emperor's Winding Sheet	Andrew Boyle Russell Hoban & Quentin Blake Jill Paton Walsh	Hutchinson Jonathan Cape Macmillan
	First Book	The Life & Death of Mary Wollstonecraft	Claire Tomalin	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
1973	Novel Biography	The Chip Chip Gatherers CB: A Life of Sir Henry Campbell- Bannerman	Shiva Naipaul John Wilson	Andre Deutsch Constable
	Children's Book	The Butterfly Ball & The Grasshopper's Feast	Alan Aldridge & William Plomer	Jonathan Cape
1972	Novel Biography Children's Book	The Bird of Night Trollope The Diddakoi	Susan Hill James Pope-Hennessey Rumer Godden	Hamish Hamilton Jonathan Cape Macmillan
1971	Novel Biography Poetry	The Destiny Waltz Henrik Ibsen Mercian Hymns	Gerda Charles Michael Meyer Geoffrey Hill	Eyre & Spottiswoode Hart-Davis Andre Deutsch