



## THE PROVERSE PRIZE

At the Proverse Spring Reception, 19 April 2016, held in Central Hong Kong, Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, Co-Founder, with his wife Dr Gillian Bickley, of the international Proverse Prize for unpublished writing, announced the winners in the 2015 competition.

First, Dr Bickley reported that, as in previous years, entries had been received from around the world and the standard was very high. Again the judges had difficulty in selecting a single winner. Once again, two winners share the Proverse Prize.

They are: Gustav Preller for a novel set in South Africa (where he lives) and Lawrence Gray for a novel set in a developing country. This is the third time that Lawrence Gray, founding President of the Hong Kong Writers' Circle, has entered for the prize. His previous entries, *Odds and Sods* and *Cop Show Heaven*, have been published as Proverse Prize publications.

One Supplementary Prize was awarded, to Henrik Hoeg for his first poetry collection, *Irreverent Poems for Pretentious People*.

Warm congratulations to Gustav Preller, Lawrence Gray and Henrik Hoeg!

It is hoped that the winning entries will be launched in November this year (2016). Unusually, the book awarded a Supplementary Prize was launched early, on 19 April.

Previous winners have included writers based in Australia, England, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Scotland. Those published as a result of entering for the Proverse Prize also include writers based in Andorra and The Bahamas. As for the group of entrants as a whole, their nationalities and places of birth additionally include Bangladesh, Canada, Germany, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, and the USA.

Guests at the packed and convivial event included Honorary Advisors to the Proverse Prize, University of Hong Kong Librarian Peter Sidorko and Professor Emeritus Edwin Thumboo of Singapore. Margaret Clarke, also an Honorary Advisor to the Proverse Prize, sent a message of congratulation from Oxfordshire, UK.

*Information about the annual Proverse Prize for unpublished fiction, non-fiction and poetry (open to all who are eighteen years old or above and irrespective of residence, nationality or citizenship) are on the Proverse website, [proversepublishing.com](http://proversepublishing.com). Entries for the 2016 competition are now being received. Deadline for entry forms and fees: end May 2016; for entered work, end June 2016.*

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