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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Release

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**Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County Nominates Winner
of World's Richest Literacy Prize**
COLM TÓIBÍN FIRST IRISH AUTHOR TO WIN *INTERNATIONAL IMPAC DUBLIN LITERARY AWARD*

The Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ireland Councilor Catherine Byrne, announced that Colm Tóibín's novel **The Master** has won the *International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award* with a €100,000 prize – the world's richest literary prize for a single work of fiction published in English. Tóibín is also the first Irish writer to win the prize. In this the 11th year of the Award, The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award is administered by Dublin City Public Libraries and sponsored by IMPAC (Improved Management Productivity and Control), an international company with its headquarters based in Florida. **The Master** was chosen by an international panel of judges worldwide.

"It's an honor to present such a fine writer as Colm Tóibín with the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award - the largest and most international prize of its kind", said Lord Mayor Catherine Byrne. "Libraries from all corners of the globe nominated entries and the award is open to books written in any language. It is a Dublin City Council initiative and a partnership between Dublin City Council and IMPAC, a productivity improvement company operating in over 50 countries, and administered by Dublin City Public Libraries."

Seventeen libraries throughout the world, including the Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County, nominated **The Master**. The 10 short listed titles included three Irish authors and were selected from 132 novels, nominated by 180 libraries from 43 countries and from 124 cities; 32 titles were in translation, covering 15 non-English languages.

The shortlisted titles were:

- *Graceland* by Chris Abani
- *Maps for Lost Lovers* by Nadeem Aslam
- *Havoc, In Its Third Year* by Ronan Bennett
- *The Closed Circle* by Jonathan Coe
- *An Altered Light* by Jens Christian Grøndahl (translated from the Danish by Anne Born)
- *The Swallows of Kabul* by Yasmina Khadra (translated from the French by John Cullen)
- *Breaking the Tongue* by Vyvyane Loh
- *Don't Move* by Margaret Mazzantini (translated from the Italian by John Cullen)
- *The Master* by Colm Tóibín
- *The Logogryph* by Thomas Wharton

The judges this year were:

- Jane Koustas, currently serving as the Craig Dobbin Professor of Canadian Studies at University College Dublin.
- Mary O'Donnell, poet, novelist, translator and critic.
- Andrew O'Hagan, whose first novel, *Our Fathers*, was short listed for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, among other awards and was winner of the Holtby Prize for Fiction.
- Paulo Ruffilli, poet and novelist, is general editor of the Edizioni del Leone in Venice.
- Eugene R. Sullivan, non-voting chair, is a former Chief Judge of a U.S. Court of Appeals.

About Colm Tóibín

Colm Tóibín is the author of four other novels: *The South*, *The Heather Blazing*, *The Story of the Night* and *The Blackwater Lightship*, which was short listed for the 1999 Booker Prize and the 2001 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. His non-fiction works include *Bad Blood*, *Homage to Barcelona*, *The Sign of the Cross*, and *Love in a Dark Time*. Mr. Tóibín is now a Stein Visiting Writer at Stanford University, USA.

Previous winners of the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award:

- 2005: *The Known World* by Edward P Jones.
- 2004: *This Blinding Absence of Light* by Tahar Ben Jelloun
- 2003: *My Name Is Red* by Orhan Pamuk
- 2002: *Atomised* by Michel Houellebecq
- 2001: *No Great Mischief* by Alistair MacLeod
- 2000: *Wide Open* by Nicola Barker
- 1999: *Ingenious Pain* by Andrew Miller
- 1998: *The Land of Green Plums* by Herta Muller
- 1997: *A Heart So White* by Javier Marias
- 1996: *Remembering Babylon* by David Malouf

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