



**Under Embargo until 10:00, 2nd December 2005**

**CRIME WRITERS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES WORLD'S BIGGEST  
AWARD FOR CRIME FICTION**

- **Duncan Lawrie Private Bank to become new sponsor**
- **Award to be renamed the Duncan Lawrie Dagger**
- **New Award will replace the CWA Gold Dagger**

**2 December 2005:** The Crime Writers Association today announced it has secured Duncan Lawrie Private Bank as the new sponsor for its largest annual prize for crime fiction. The award will be renamed the Duncan Lawrie Dagger (replacing the Gold Dagger) and will increase in value from £3,000 to £20,000, making it the largest award for crime fiction in the world.

Crime author and CWA Chair, Danuta Reah, said:

“In the year that the Dagger awards celebrate their golden jubilee, the CWA committed itself to significantly expanding the scope and reach of its activities. Crime and thriller writing is the largest and most popular genre in the market today and we can at last offer an award which truly reflects that fact.”

Danuta Reah continued: “We began our search for a sponsor a while ago, but we felt it was important to tread carefully. We needed to find one who understood how we worked and would respect the legacy built up by the CWA. With Duncan Lawrie we feel we have found the right sponsor, one that has integrity and an already-established standing in the literary world.”

Peter Ostacchini, Deputy Managing Director, Duncan Lawrie Private Bank, said:

“We are delighted to sponsor this prestigious award and look forward to a long relationship with the Crime Writers Association. Duncan Lawrie has for many years supported literature in its various forms. Many of our clients are involved in the arts; a large number are writers and literary agents while others simply have an interest in literature. We are often referred to as ‘the writers’ bank’ and sponsoring this award is a nice way to acknowledge our literary legacy.”

“The CWA Dagger awards are the longest established literary awards in the UK and are internationally recognised as a mark of excellence and achievement. By sponsoring the awards we can help the CWA to reflect the national and international status that crime fiction and thrillers deserve.”

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **The Crime Writers Association**

The Crime Writers Association is the leading voice in contemporary crime and thriller writing. It is a professional group of crime authors who, each year, stage the prestigious Dagger Awards for the best crime writing of the year. The CWA has more than 450 members, all writers of fiction or non-fiction. All members must have had at least one book published by a bona fide publisher. The association was formed over fifty years ago as a body committed to the support of professional writers.

[www.thecwa.co.uk](http://www.thecwa.co.uk)

### **Exclusion of translations from award**

Recent press stories have erroneously stated that the new sponsor of the Dagger Awards requested changes to entrance requirements for the Gold Dagger, stipulating that

translated works should no longer be included. Duncan Lawrie and the Crime Writers Association would like to make it clear that this is entirely untrue and that the decision had been taken before Duncan Lawrie entered into talks with the CWA.

### **Duncan Lawrie Private Bankers**

Duncan Lawrie has its head office in Belgravia, London. It is a traditional and exclusive private bank giving the highest level of service to a discerning clientele. Duncan Lawrie prides itself on offering the traditional personal approach that other banks used to offer but for the most part don't now.

- Duncan Lawrie has one of the best staff retention rates in banking: relationship managers have been with Duncan Lawrie for an average of twelve years.
- A recent survey of Duncan Lawrie clients showed that 96% of clients were happy with the level of service they were getting, and of those 73% ticked "very happy".
- Most Duncan Lawrie clients come through personal introduction. However, Duncan Lawrie welcomes direct applications from those who wish enjoy the benefits of an exclusive private bank.
- Duncan Lawrie does not encourage clients to take risks with their money.
- Duncan Lawrie is authorised and regulated by the FSA.
- 30% of existing Duncan Lawrie clients work in the arts.
- Duncan Lawrie is owned by the Camellia Group PLC.

[www.duncanlawrie.com](http://www.duncanlawrie.com)