

# Basic Detail Report

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**1972. 26th Strega Prize. Hostesses stand by**

**to present the prize to the winner Raffaello Brignetti**

**Date**

1971-1971

**Medium**

gelatin silver print

**Description**

The Strega Prize is the most prestigious Italian literary award. It has been awarded annually since 1947 for the best work of prose fiction by an Italian author and first published between 1 May of the previous year and 30 April. In 1944 Maria and Goffredo Bellonci started to host a literary salon at their home in Rome. These Sunday gatherings of writers, artists and intellectuals grew to include many of the most notable figures of Italian cultural life. The group became known as the Amici della Domenica, or 'Sunday Friends'. In 1947 the Belloncis, together with Guido Alberti, owner of the firm which produces the Strega liqueur, decided to inaugurate a prize for fiction, the winner being chosen by the Sunday friends. The activities of the Bellonci circle and the institution of the prize were seen as marking a tentative return to 'normality' in Italian cultural life: a feature of the reconstruction which followed the years of Fascism, war, occupation and liberation. Giuseppe Dessimò was an Italian novelist, short-story writer and playwright from Sardinia. His novel *Paese d'ombre* won the 1972 Strega Prize and was translated into English as *The forests of Norbio*.

**Dimensions**

Overall: 30.2 x 20.4 cm (11 7/8 x 8 in.)

