



THE LITERARY CRITERION CENTRE
For English Studies and Indigenous Arts

C. D. NARASIMHAIAH
 Director

Dhvanyaloka
 MYSORE-570 006

16 April 1984

Dear Dr. John McLaren,

I have just received the two elegantly typed and bound volumes of your dissertation on Leavis which I treasure. I am writing within minutes of the receipt of the volumes, such is my enthusiasm, to acknowledge the gift and to tell you you have shown (I glanced through the contents pages, and the introduction) the immediate relevance of Leavis to your context, a thing which our Indian theses seldom do. They write as though they are in England and ^{no} die a natural death before they are awarded the degree. I want to read the whole of it, at least as much as I can, spread over weeks and see how you have handled it as an Australian and learn from it.

You speak of Leavis's criticism being challenged by recent theories which emphasize the determinate nature of literary work. Yes, determinate nature of literary work and language, but that will not invalidate the relevance of Leavis to the reader and the learner. I don't know if I have grasped what you mean.

I have my disagreements with Leavis on certain assumptions and even approaches but which critic, living or dead brought ~~to~~ his urgency (*like a fire brigade!*) and 'focussed sharpness of critical intelligence'!. Your volumes are the crowning ^{my} reward of my visit to Australia last year, I hope our paths meet either here or in Australia. Do please let me know



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if you are visiting India or passing through India. I
would very much like you to come and stay with us.

Yours sincerely,

C. D. Narasimhaiah