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Dear John,

I believe that Overlout, owing to Dr. Murray-Smith's death, might be put into the hands of guest-editors, unless the opening of his will reveal more precise instructions. Tom Shepcott and yourself, it was further suggested, will be handling affairs until there is more clarity on all these issues. The purpose of this letter is to offer my help - in a major or minor capacity - with any of the work arising now or later.

I am not sure whether I am following the appropriate protocol in these matters (if, indeed, there is such thing); but I learned of your presumed "trusteeship" of Overlout after it was possible for me to talk to you directly at the A.S.A.L. conference.

I have worked, by the bye, as a stylistic consultant to Dr. John Martin's forthcoming book on Swedish settlers, & apart from working at present full-time on a number of reviews & review-articles, I have also a very keen sense of the modes of non-critical writing: that is because I consider myself first and foremost to be active in these areas.

This is just a hastily scribbled note (while I am awaiting my kind try at securing a stand-by flight to Melbourne!). Perhaps the person suggesting the above things to me spoke out of turn, or else you & Mr. Shepcott may already have a working team? In any case, this is my offer.

With best wishes,

Walter _____