

28.XI.1988/

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Dear John:

A first read-thru of O'1 112 reveals it as a fine tribute to Stephen. warmest congratulations to all concerned! It has the best possible balance between 'remembering' and 'the moment that is'. I am so happy that this is not a traditional, or even near-traditional, memorial issue.

And Barry's SWAG hits the perfect note. Excerpts from a diary, letters, then the notes on the Nettie Palmer book.

Two comments. The tributees tell ~~about~~ a good deal about themselves, don't they? Esp. Manning. And Dorothy Hewett's review of the Earn Malley thing is the best on this topic, and best condensed, which, I believe, I have yet read. Both, very personal and also very factual.

On Rod Shaw's letter: Bottles cast into that ocean simply sink. Who knows? We all know that, with a lower case k. I feel, further, that M. Harris' likening of Stephen to Koestler is mal apropos. M.H. is right on Koestler, who was a great liberal, and also on Stephen, but yet... Stephen was so grandly un-European, in all his universality. The best comparison ~~is~~ with Sir Joseph Banks. *(We even looked like him!)*

Richenda and I enclose \$150 as (let us hope first) contribution to that fund for young writers. Vivat, creat, floreat. If I go broke I shall apply to the fund to help a young writer.

A writer with a strange diction, John. I am very pleased and grateful to have my tribute included, but I should have asked much more strongly to be shown the transcript. I was emotional, spoke only from heading notes, I have a strong foreign accent, the tape may not have been good, and you were in rush to get it all to the printer. But I would have liked to come before O'1 readers, on this special occasion, in a slightly better light, so to speak.

Some of the mistakes are minor and ones hopes that people will see what I really said or meant. Some are more serious. I stayed with Stephen's friends in all those places - how could I have stayed with him?? I didn't learn to 'trick myself'. ~~I~~ I learned the trick of speaking as Stephen did, *on the phone,* and never unlearnt it. And did I really speak of 'sparkling frangipani?' if so - Father, I have sinned. (Seems to me, John, Stephen is still alive. He sometimes got such groans from me. The actual truth is, I'm not difficult enough to work with: early grumbles save late grumbles.

This penny-fathing pic: that was just staged on that occasion, a meeting of p-f and SMS? To see him on such a contraption, that would have been something!

Love to you and to Shirley. Greetings and good thoughts.

The editorial ~~also~~ earned itself laurels. Promises well!

Confidentiality on Deal and Love to you to Shi, Richenda.

Quite aware.