

OVERLAND

P.O. BOX 14148
MELBOURNE, 3000

EDITORIAL ADDRESS:
P.O. BOX 249, MOUNT ELIZA,
VICTORIA, 3930, AUSTRALIA.

EDITOR: BARRETT REID
EDITORIAL PHONE: (03) 850 4347
BUSINESS PHONE: (03) 380 2586

April 3, 1990

David Davies;
29 Milford Street,
NEWPORT. 3015

Dear David Davies,

I am most interested in your letter of 25 March. Sorry about the mistakes in my reference to Kharkov. These came straight from Frank Hardy's report of his telephone conversation *with Yurtschenko* as published in The Sunday Herald.

We would indeed be willing to carry an appeal for donations to the Bucharest University Library and I am sure it would bring results: our readers number lots of people both generous and practical. All we need is a letter from someone authorising us to make an appeal. You could write the copy for a $\frac{1}{2}$ page piece and it would need to include an address of the responsible Australian organiser to which our readers could send books. Then the organizer would need to make arrangements for despatch of the books and the costing for this. It may be that the major Victorian libraries would assist.

We want very much to publish articles in Overland by writers (including literary critics and intellectuals) on the current situation of creative writing and publishing in Romania, the U.S.S.R., Poland and indeed, all the Eastern European countries. If you could contact your friend in Romania about this I would be very pleased.

As I may be in hospital for a while I'm sending a copy of your letter and this reply to our Associate Editor, John McLaren, so if I'm not available, he will be when he returns from Italy in a week or so,.

Thank you for the subscription,

Barrett Reid.

c.c. John McLaren.

John, see his letter attached

29 Milford St
NEWPORT 3015

Tel: 391 3513 (h)
326 6001(w)

25/3/1990

Dear Barrett Reid,

Enclosed is cheque for \$24 to renew subscription to Overland.

I read with interest your comments in your "On the Line" column about eastern Europe and the USSR. I should like to point out that Kharkov is not "Russia's third largest city". In the first place, it is not in Russia, but in the Ukraine (or Ukraine without the article as some prefer it.) This is a rather unfortunate error in a piece which refers to national issues in the USSR. In the second place, I do not believe that Kharkov is even the third largest city in the USSR, unless its rate of growth has outstripped that of Tashkent, Baku and Kiev in the last couple of years.

You might be interested to know that I recently received a letter from a friend in Romania. I had not corresponded with her for many years because I feared that contact with me might mean trouble for her. She teaches at Bucharest University and is editing a Romanian edition of Oscar Wilde. In her letter she described how the University Library, with all its English-language books, was burned down by the security forces during the recent turmoil.

I will be sending her a few books which she requested, but I have asked her whether it is worth making an appeal for wider donations of books in English for their library. If so, I will be contacting you to see whether such an appeal can be made in the pages of Overland.

If you would like to solicit articles on the role of writers in democracy movements in Romania, I would be pleased to do so, or give you my friend's address.

Best wishes,



David Davies