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6th March, 1986.

My Dear Harry,

It was only yesterday that I received a copy of P.I.M. containing your review of *The Phosphateers*; and how refreshing it is to read, after seeing that trivial (and I venture to suggest unscholarly) piece by Derek Scarr in the *Canberra Times*.

Looking at your review as objectively as is possible for an author to look at any review of his work, I can only say that to me it meets all of the literary and scholarly requirements that are the hallmarks of professionalism. On the personal level I have to acknowledge your courteous generosity.

As was to be expected, such reviews as have appeared in the public press have been of no significance, and it would have been foolish to expect anything better. What has been a pleasure and (I confess) a surprise to me has been the perceptive quality of a couple of pieces from New Zealand.

With the job completed I am still wondering if it was sensible of me to tackle an assignment for which, in terms of training, I was not adequately qualified. It has, of course, had its rewards not the least of which has been the opportunity it created to enjoy the development of a most pleasant - and on the part of Beverley and myself - affectionate friendship with you and Honor.

This is something we shall continue to treasure for such time as is left, along with the gratitude we feel for your encouragement and assistance from the beginning of the enterprise.

Yours sincerely,


Maslyn