

Nov. 16th, 1986



Dear Peter and Phoebe,

I suppose this is not the ideal way of doing things. Combining a relatively negative letter with a relatively happy greeting card.

The negative relates to the death of our Brun Jacques in September. I know you have a vested interest in this as he was the one who went after your bantams. Maybe he's in a bantam filled heaven right now! He died of a combination of Parva and old age. He was 16½ and that is a long time to love anyone. We miss him a great deal. This includes his foster brother Louis. He too had Parva but was stronger than Jackie and survived but he still mourns and often mopes around looking for him. It can last months I'm told.

I'll stay on negatives a while. Have you seen or heard from Jill recently? I had a letter recently and she is certainly distraught. Through Barry Streek's parents (who live nearby) I have read Jill's paper The Liberal Slide-away. Undated and unidentified. It reads as though it was presented at a meeting. Perhaps one of the Liberal revivalist meetings you have been planning?? Her thesis is interesting and reminds me of what was happening when we put on the series on Western Civilisation, just before the L.P. had to fold up. The justification for violence cropped up there and I remember how it was very firmly dealt with by Ernie and Jack in particular.

And talking of Ernie. I liked your piece on him The Means and People Man in the July REALITY (it was yours, Peter, surely?) I thought Alan's was cold and unmoving. Where has Alan's humanity gone or was he always like this? The answer is probably yes, when you look at his record on people and old friends.

We still just jog along, watching with sadness and horror all that is happening in SA. I feel that the death of Samora Machel may have a profound effect in SA akin to the fall of the Portugese in 1975. Even if it is proved conclusively that the crash was truly an error of the pilot's, the perception is otherwise and no one will really believe that. What an irony.

I'll try and end on an optimistic note by wishing you both, and your family a happy Christmas season and maybe a glimmer of hope for next year.

*PS. Sorry about the red envelope. I didn't realise it till I opened the packet!*

*Love Anthony & Kerry*