

Subject: Re: Clareification  
Date: Sun, 10 Jun 2001 12:52:18 -0400  
From: magnus gunther <magnusg@magma.ca>  
To: nrubin <nrubin@compuserve.com>

Dear Neville,

Feeling guilty about not replying earlier to your v sprightly note  
commenting

on J Clare. Loved the thumb nail sketch--seems to me right on just from  
reading

his letters which both irritated and then nauseated and then worried me.  
Smart

boy but a shit I thought not having met him tho I was much taken with Sheila  
when I met her in the early 60s.

Will try to send the letters today and hope it works.

No haven't heard from RV tho no reason to. We are usually in touch on very  
specific matters. Have been doing a lot of work on him recently. Just  
finished

going thru his papers on the work he did in the Transkei. v Impressive I  
thought esp w Sabata. I had no idea before this how many liberals spent time  
in

the Transkei in those key 61-63 years. ie after the E Pondo revolt had been  
crushed. What an admirable group they were and clearly RV had much energy  
and

charm. Ability to relate to Africans obviously v real. Was this in part  
because

he spoke Xhosa-I believe well> (Tho I see his pal Nujomo does not like bum  
boys-shame on him!) Have written a short section on the sig. of the LP work  
in

the Transkei because RV says he/NCL were definitely looking for possible  
people

for poss. expansion to T when the time was ripe. So it was for him and AL  
and

RWatson who went with him on one or two occasions def. a dual operation.

I am sure you had a good time with Derek and lovely Susan--no doubt much  
skinnering about awful germans.

Jan calling for me to do some house work-something about sanding a table but  
Ill still try to get those letters off today. Tho after hard labour we are  
off

to a picnic/dinner/party at pals in the Gatineau Hills. No cochonaille but  
good

wine and Co--So ??

Keep well

Magnus

nrubin wrote:

> Dear Mag,

>

> Your new gadget notwithstanding, I can't say I'm falling over with

> anticipation to read Clare's snide & barbed pieces. Haven't set eyes on

> him for well over 20 years and have no particular desire to do so. He was

> a pretty boy, handy with words and possessed of a superior manner that

> combined itself with an enquiring mind. Never finished university, though

- > that didn't hurt him. Good journalist but unable to resist the sly dig,
- > which was ok when directed at the enemy - n. Ireland nasties, home-grown
- > southern English fascists, crooked Newcastle Labour Party bosses - but
- > annoying when used against our own preferred projects. Had to put him down
- > the first time when he wrote a laudatory review of the 1st number of the
- > New African (for Varsity) and then, in the last line told the readers not ✕
- > to subscribe as it wouldn't last. Left-leaning but never active in
- > anything, his beef at the ARM was that he hadn't known that Sheila
- > Robertson was in it when he married her (wife No.1). Always a pretty boy,
- > he's casual about wives (now with No. 4, at least, unless his ditched her
- > too) and none too wonderful with his children either. In short, an
- > adornment of the fourth estate.
- >
- > On another matter: have you heard from Randolph at all? I've not - at
- > least in substance, since his return to the UK from Fish Hoek at the end
- of
- > Feb. Only an (uncharacteristically abject) apology for not responding and
- a
- > promise to do so. Can something be wrong?
- >
- > We should be seeing the Cohens next week, for the odd bit of anti-semitism
- > and cochonaille. (In an email to you a while ago, I referred wrongly to the
- the
- > wife of Robin as being the 2nd gentile Mrs. C. She's the third, of course,
- > as I'd overlooked Susan's claim to be Annie's runner-up).
- >
- > Yours,
- >
- > Neville