

# QUADRANT

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11th November 1970

D. J. Lake, Esq.,  
Department of English,  
University of Queensland,  
St Lucia,  
Queensland 4067.

Dear Mr Lake,

I am sorry not to have answered more than one communication from you. I was struggling with being Deputy Vice-Chancellor for a while, and now with examinations and some other problems.

It is Peter Lawrence by the way, not Peter Alexander who wrote 'Don Juan in Melanesia' which I am glad you liked. I shall await further drafts of your epic, with more interest than one awaited ~~of~~ Pound's Canto's. I wish I was philosophically learned enough to understand 'A Matter of Mind'. I shall pass it over to Bill Joske, our Philosophy Professor.

I think very poorly indeed of the present state of poetry, but have almost given up railing at it, because that doesn't tell one what should be done in place of the rubbish. In the end, only the worthwhile things are worth meditating on. I was confirmed in this recently by reading Solzhenitsyn's The First Circle. At last, a truly great twentieth century novel, both in its art and its depth of humanity. It makes all the rest (including P. White) not worth complaining about. To a very much smaller degree, in the case of poetry, I have the same feeling for the late poems of Pasternak. But principally it is the work (some of the work) of Georg Trakl, whom I have discovered only in recent years, that sustains my hope for twentieth century poetry.

You may be interested in the enclosed effusion by Daryl Hine, which Alec Hope sent on to me. I am not going to use it, but would like a copy back. You might find some solace in communicating with the author *who is now editor of Poetry Chicago.*

With kind regards,

*James McIntyre*