

THE COMMONWEALTH LITERARY FUND AND SEMANTOGRAPHY

After 7 years of work I finished my 3 books on Semantography in 1949. Then I started to approach publishers and universities first in Australia. It soon became apparent that the going is very heavy and will be heavy. I placed most of my hopes on Prof. O. L. Reiser's lecture on my work to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In this I was disappointed. I started then the sorry way of the beggar. I began to approach scientific foundations - with sorry results. Then I turned to the Australian Commonwealth Literary Fund. The title suggests that only works of Literature are within the scope of the Fund. Someone however told me that the scope is wider. I therefore requested information from the Prime Minister's office which controls the Fund.

From the information received (a mimeographed number of sheets) it became apparent that the scope indeed is greater. The Fund sponsored a number of works which dealt not with Literature as such, but natural history (History of the Great Barrier Reef) with anthropology (Expedition to the aborigines of Central Australia) economy (Development of the pastoral industry, 1949) politics (The Future of Australian Federalism) international relations (Early American-Australian Relations) music (Schubert and Schumann), zoology (Insect Wonders of Australia) and other subjects which were in no way related to belles lettres. I was particularly attracted by the following works which the Fund had sponsored and which dealt directly with the problems of the aborigines (and did so not in the form of a novel). I found the following works: "Black Australians", "The Papuan Achievement", "Australia's Coloured Minority," and others. Furthermore there are a few works mainly by Sydney J. Baker which dealt with linguistics as such, though it is related to the language spoken in Australia. (Dictionary of Australian Language and a supplementary volume). I decided that my work falls into the scope of the Fund in so far as it could provide a literary Medium for the illiterates of New Guinea. I made therefore my application to the Fund in which I said this:

One of the great obstacles to the development of New Guinea and a recurring theme of debate in the U.N.O. is the great difficulty of educating the natives. According to the Commonwealth Office of Education, the one million of natives "are broken up into a large number of small village communities, rarely containing more than a few hundreds; and divided into a large number of linguistic groups, with nearly a hundred languages already counted and more to come...even adjacent villages might have entirely different languages...Authority has to be extended by ... finding some means of communication in so many separate cases" (Current Affairs Bulletin, Volume 4. No. 4)

Obviously, a pictorial writing (which can be typed on an adjusted ordinary typewriter) could bridge all languages. A government notice, a paper, a primer or a letter could be read and understood in all languages. Tests with children made by educators in England have proved that children are "fascinated" by Semantography. Earl (Bertrand) Russell wrote that "the symbols are ingenious and easy to understand". I attach a number of testimonials from competent scholars. I attach also a number of leaflets, etc. which I have printed with my own money. However, this is a new idea. What is needed is a low priced book to make it known to the world. And what is needed with regard to New Guinea is that I be given the opportunity to make a thorough study of the native languages in order to write a textbook and compile primers to be tested by missionaries and teachers.

Such a work would be a basis for a new Universal Literacy for New Guinea, a bold attempt at silencing the critics of Australia's endeavours. But the book would be applicable to the illiteracy problem of the whole world. As scholars of Sydney University have

agreed that Semantography can be used even for scientific and technological communication, we have here a new ONE WRITING FOR ONE WORLD in which scientists, engineers, businessmen or natives who speak different languages can write letters to each other or read the same paper. What I ask for is the financial assistance to write such a handy book.

I then submitted all testimonials of famous scholars Australian, British and others, including the testimonies which referred directly to my work and New Guinea, namely :

F.D. McCarthy

Dip. Anthr. (Sydney) Curator of Anthropology Australian Museum Sydney, Author of AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL DECORATIVE ART, STONE IMPLEMENTS OF AUSTRALIA, and numerous papers, said:

"Such a simple "language" of symbols will help tremendously to overcome the very difficult problem of disseminating information to peoples of diverse languages, either in one country, such as New Guinea, or in different countries in many parts of the world."

The Australian School of Pacific Administration, Sydney. After a demonstration before a group of teachers, the registrar, Mr. Wilfred S. ARTHUR, wrote:

"We feel that a system of ideogrammic writing would have uses for such things as public notices, and that it could be used among peoples speaking a variety of vernaculars."

In no time I received a negative answer "The Advisory Board regrets to advise you that you were not among the successful applicants." I looked up the names of the people on the Advisory Board and found that they were all novel writers. Surely, they were not the people to judge my work, least of all to promote it. But this was the end of it, and I made no further attempt. I thought however of writing directly to the Prime Minister because he together with three of the most prominent men of the government and opposition are forming the committee. Here is the text of my draft. It remained a draft only.

The Prime Minister of Australia,
The Right Honorable R.G. Menzies, Draft only 6th November, 1953
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Sir,

I approach you with a matter which may reflect on Australia's reputation in America, and which is of importance in the retention of the trust territories of Papua New Guinea. It refers to my work, a pioneering idea, highly praised by eminent scholars abroad, but suffering the fate of many a pioneering idea, of finding no recognition in its own country.

Earl (Bertrand) Russell, on his visit to Australia in 1950 studied my work and wrote that assistance to it means "performing an important service to Mankind." In the name of Mankind, in the name of the People of Australia, I protest with burning indignation against the humiliating treatment meted out to me and my work by the officials and official scholars here in Australia whose business it is to examine, test and help the work of Australian pioneers.

As usual, recognition comes from abroad. At the 1951 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. Reiser of the University of Pittsburgh presented my work with these words: "Bliss heroic work - a powerful stimulus and aid to President Truman's Point Four Program." The Library of Congress in Washington and Harvard University have given standing advance orders to Angus & Robertson to collect whatever I write. When an American paper of world repute brought an article about this "Australian" invention, the President of Boston University was approached to sponsor a lecture tour for me, the only obstacle being money. Prof. Clyde Kluckhohn is seriously investigating the possibilities of a position at an American University and he is at present endeavouring to secure a grant from an

American Foundation. More and more is the realization growing among scholars who know of my work that Australia is letting down another of her pioneers. The praise of eminent scholars abroad has even reached the Russians and I have received an order for my 3 mimeographed volumes from the Academy of Science in Leningrad. However, I have declined the order, saying that these volumes are not more available. The new idea for Mankind should not come from the Russians, I want that it should be given to Mankind by the Western World and in particular by Australia.

But so far - and in contrast to the growing recognition abroad, the scholars and authorities of various Australian universities have rejected every approach I made to them, in spite of the eulogistic praise of Bertrand Russell and other British and American scholars, in spite of successful lectures to students of Sydney University. Only Australian librarians, thinking of the future, have, like a number of American librarians, begun to collect my writings.

Turning to Papua New Guinea, the administration of native affairs are under constant attack in the United Nations. Any day, the former "Colonial" nations can spring a majority vote depriving Australia of the moral and political right to govern the trust territories so vital for the defence of Australia. The former Minister, Dr. Percy Spender was in favour of the application of my work in New Guinea, but then he took up the post as Ambassador to Washington. British and American scholars of world repute have approached the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation on behalf of my work, but were told that it is up to the Australian authorities to make a move. However all Australian administrative and scholarly authorities directly concerned with the trust territories have refused to investigate a practical test of my work in the territories. The Australian Unesco Committee have turned down all my pleas to make a move at Unesco.

So far, I have not indicated the nature of my work because it is difficult to explain a new and unorthodox idea in a few words. However, I have submitted all particulars to your Department a year ago when I made an application for an award from the Commonwealth Literary Fund. I asked for a grant for a publication which would inform the general public of my work and stimulate interest in it for the benefit of Australia and for the benefit of Mankind. However, I got the application and all particulars back. What I have is not a literary work nor anything near to it. Therefore your Advisory Board, good for novels, poems, biographies and the like, is not in a position to judge my work.

I ask therefore for your personal consideration outside of the limits of the Literary Award. I ask you and the Government of Australia to implement the appeal of Earl (Bertrand) Russell who wrote: "Any man or men who will spend the money necessary to get your work printed, will in my opinion be performing an important service to Mankind." In the name of Mankind, in the name of Australia I make this unorthodox approach to you about an unorthodox idea of which you shall receive full information as soon as I know of your willingness to investigate my claims with regard to American recognition, and the application to the Trust Territories of Australia.

Awaiting your reply I am

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

Two years later, by a freak chance I met Sir Robert Garran. He is one of the builders of Australian Federalism, he himself knows of the Fund and has even been a beneficiary. It subsidised his work on Schubert and Schumann. And he knows all the people in Canberra. I told him of my plight and a few days later I wrote to him the following letter.

Sydney 23rd January, 1955

Sir Robert Garran,
22 Mugga Way,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Sir,

I praise my good fortune of having met you and having enjoyed your company. I thank you too for giving a willing ear to my grievances. I told you that the history of every new idea shows that its creator had to go through all tribulations of finding no recognition in his own country, and I told you of my abortive attempt to attract the interest of the members of the Commonwealth Literary Fund.

Bertrand Russell, realising that publishers must make money and won't risk money in a new idea such as mine, wrote : "Any man or men who will spend money necessary to get this work printed will be performing an important service to mankind." It was then obvious for me to approach the Prime Minister's Fund, because I could prove that my work is not only a service to mankind but a service to Australia in so far as it gives a new literary medium to the coloured people of Australia and Australia's external territories, which in New Guinea are divided by hundreds of languages.

This territory vital to the defence of Australia is not Australian property. It is given us in trust only. Almost every year a commission of the United Nations Trusteeship Council tours the territory and does not fail to criticize Australia for its failure to educate the natives. Any day a majority motion can be sprung in the United Nations supported by the so-called "anti-colonial" nations, and Australia may lose the moral and virtual right to control the territory. My work provides a bold experiment which would show to the world that Australia does not only cultivate Pidgeon English, but is really trying to overcome the linguistic difficulties, opposing education of the natives.

The Advisory Board of the Literary Fund is composed of people who understand novels and other writings. The man in charge quickly sorted out my application. I feel sure that the other members may not even know of it. The amazing thing is that though democratic procedures should be adhered to in such and other cases, the matter is ruled in camera and the applicant and defendant has no opportunity to speak for his case, nor can he get a counsel for his defence, nor can he appeal to a higher court. He is condemned in contumaciam without getting a fair trial.

Instead the mediocre, the writer who complies with usual standards gets the scholarships and the grants. It is a fact that all the great men of creative ability failed to get these helps, simply because the way and the medium of their work was novel and seemed absurd to the judges who knew only of the usual ideas. This fact holds true even with such coveted scholarships as the Rhodes scholarship. Some time ago, there was an article in the Sydney Morning Herald about Rhodes scholars in which it was admitted that the hope of this and any other scholarship never materialised: that of fostering a genius. Instead, mediocrities are sent to Oxford who get then a good post and whose only creative attribute is that they have scored a Rhodes scholarship. Indeed, the students who show abnormal critical mental powers, who corner their professors with tricky questions, who are very critical of existing theories, they are the nuisance. They are not the good boys who are recommended for scholarships. The good boys are those who know how to answer questions, that is how the answer is to please and conform with the views of the teacher.

And so, throughout the centuries, throughout the countries and throughout the civilisations, the great minds, the geniuses whose ideas in the end overthrew the accepted teachings, they were the ones who got the roughest deals in life. No help, no scholarship, no grant for them. Usually they have to scrape the money together to pay the printer. Yesterday, the Sydney Morning Herald brought an article about Robert Burns, celebrated Scottish poet, whose birth centenary is now to be celebrated by Burns societies all over the world. But in his lifetime Burns had to give up his farm in order to have the money for 600 copies of his poems. At the same time, there were fellowships, and stipends and grants available at the Universities of Scotland and England, but not for Burns. I can prove that it was the same with every great man of creative ability.

And so as Bertrand Russell, Julian Huxley and other eminent scholars have testified to the importance and greatness of my work for mankind, I raise my voice in protest, and ask you to rectify the treatment meted out to me by the authorities in literature and education of Australia. What I want is a £600 grant for the printing costs of my work in a small and cheap edition so that it should be made available to everyone. I think that the Prime Minister could grant this outside the Advisory Board, and I think that you could persuade him to do so.

If you want to get familiar with my work, I recommend the following information available in Canberra:

At the Prime Minister's Office: My application made in October, 1952

At the Department for External Territories: the correspondence about my approach, my personal demonstration to officers of the Department and the futile result.

At the Australian National Library: Two sets of 3 books each about "Semantography". Furthermore two sets of my Semantography Series, consisting of 84 issues containing my leaflets, pamphlets, brochures, courses, letters and approaches, articles and controversies, etc.

At the National University Canberra: The correspondence with Professor Oliphant, and the abortive approach to all four schools of the University.

You may inquire at Angus and Robertson, who will confirm that the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and Harvard University have given a standing order to buy and collect all my writings, past, present and future ones. Already my work has been termed in American papers as an "Australian" invention, but as usual *Nemo propheta in sua patria honorem habet*. I have written a letter of protest to the Prime Minister, but have not sent it off. Someone else would have dealt with it. In the end, all these approaches, including this letter to you will be collected by libraries. I hope that my approach to you will not be futile.

Yours sincerely,

C. K. Bliss

At the time of this letter I prepared for my appearance before the Committee enquiring into secondary school education in New South Wales. As he had expressed interest in the semantic aspect of my work and as I have told him of my appearance before the Committee, I attached Semantography Series No. 152 and 1953 to my letter, my Submission to the Committee and my Draft of the Speech to be held.

Many months passed. I believed that the matter has been filed for good. But in November, 1955 I received a letter from Sir Robert together with a reply from the Secretary of the Fund. As it happened, Sir Robert had made a direct application to the Fund on behalf of my work and had apparently not stressed the aspect of New Guinea. Instead he had attached my two issues No. 152 and 1953 (mentioned above) which referred solely to Semantics and to secondary school education. It was therefore easy for the Secretary to turn down the application with the following arguments.

In referring to Sir Robert's representations on behalf of my work, the Secretary said that the Literary Fund is charged with the responsibility of assisting authors to produce creative literature of outstanding merit. As my work deals only with the application of the science of Semantics, it would not come within the scope of the Fund and therefore, etc. etc. With this the Secretary returned the Submission and the Draft of a speech. And thus the matter was closed.

Sir Robert's letter to the Fund is dated 10th November. The answer has been given on the 15th November, only a few days later. Theoretically, there is a possibility that the Advisory Committee has studied Sir Robert's proposal during the few days between 10th and 15th November. More likely however is

that the Secretary has made his own decision. It was easy for him. Semantics is not Literature.

In his accompanying letter Sir Robert wrote that he is sorry to inform me that the Board Committee is resolved to restrict the Fund to certain literary work - practically fiction, belles, lettres and poetry, and to exclude a scientific work which though basic to literature is not itself literature. He told me therefore to "give up any hope of assistance from the Fund", and said my best hope would be some university or academic journal.

I answered:

28th November, 1955

Sir Robert Garran, G.C.M.G., Q.C.,
22 Mugga Way,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Sir,

This is to thank you very much for your kind letter and for the attached letter of the Secretary of the Prime Minister. Unfortunately the statement that only creative literary of outstanding merit is awarded in the Commonwealth Literary Fund is not in accordance with the facts. I have studied closely the awards made during the last years and some of them are not creative literature at all but only related to language. It was exactly this fact which prompted me to apply for a grant on one basis only, namely a new literary medium for poetry, art fiction and communication amongst the people of Papua and New Guinea who are divided by over 100 languages.

In my application I did not refer with one word to the aspect of semantics. The Secretary seized upon the material which I sent to you because you are interested in semantics. It was a good excuse to refuse any assistance. I shall study again the awards and single out those who have nothing to do with creative literature and shall approach Mr. Cummings. It remains now for me to thank you for your kind endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

C.K. Bliss

Sir Robert replied.

16th December, 1955

Dear Mr. Bliss,

I don't think the Lit. Fund would deny that in the past they have spread their net wider. The point is that within the last year or two they have made policy decisions for the future.

However, carry on with them, and see what you can do and good luck to your hunting.

With all best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd) R. R. Garran

In order to end this unhappy affair I wrote the following letter:

2nd April, 1956

W. R. Cumming,
Secretary,
Commonwealth Literary Fund,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Sir Robert Garran was kind enough to ask for consideration of my work by the Advisory Board of the Commonwealth Literary Fund. His letter is dated 10th November. He has forwarded to me your answer dated 15th November. It is likely that your negative answer in so short a time has been made without referring the matter to the Advisory Board. Most probably, you thought that this was not necessary, as you could judge for yourself that my work is not within the scope of the Commonwealth Literary Fund. Such a judgement might have been precipitated by Sir Robert himself. He attached to his letter two mimeographed memoranda which I have written for my appearance before the Committee ordered by the Minister for Education in N.S.W. enquiring into secondary school education. These memoranda deal with only one aspect of Semantography, namely Semantics. I have sent these memoranda to Sir Robert because he expressed personal interest in this aspect.

I never dreamt of approaching the Literary Fund with this aspect of my work. Indeed, I was most unhappy when I saw on what ground you have based your rejection. Bitter though this disappointment is for me, it is but one in a series related with the Fund, and it remains for me only to put things right. May be, you will realize that a certain aspect of my work is of concern for the Fund. I claim it is of great concern for the Government and the People of Australia.

The aspect on which I approached the Fund in 1952, and later Sir Robert concerns the vital territory of Papua, New Guinea. This territory is not Australian. We hold it in Trust only. We may lose it. In my first application and in my letter to Sir Robert I maintained that my work can be of vital help to Australia. I said in my letter to Sir Robert -

"This territory vital to the defence of Australia is not Australian property. It is given us in trust only. Almost every year a commission of the United Nations Trusteeship Council tours the territory and does not fail to criticize Australia for its failure to educate the natives. Any day a majority motion can be sprung in the United Nations supported by the so-called "anti-colonial" nations and Australia may lose the moral and virtual right to control the territory. My work provides a bold experiment which would show to the world that Australia does not only cultivate Pidgeon English, but is really trying to overcome the linguistic difficulties, opposing education of the natives."

And in my application to the Fund in 1952 I said:

"One of the great obstacles to the development of New Guinea and a recurring theme of debate in the U.N.O. is the great difficulty of educating the natives. According to the Commonwealth Office of Education, the one million of natives "are broken up into a large number of small village communities, rarely containing more than a few hundreds; and divided into a large number of linguistic groups, with nearly a hundred languages already counted and more to come ... even adjacent villages might have entirely different languages Authority / has to be extended by ... finding some means of communication in so many separate cases" (Current Affairs Bulletin, Volume 4 No. 4)

Obviously, a pictorial writing (which can be typed on an adjusted ordinary typewriter) could bridge all languages. A government notice, a paper, a primer or a letter could be read and understood in all languages. Tests with children made by educators in England have proved that children are "fascinated" by Semantography. Earl (Bertrand) Russell wrote that "the symbols are ingenious and easy to understand". I attach a number of testimonials from competent scholars. I attach also a number of leaflets, etc. which I have printed with my own money. However, this is a new idea. What is needed is a low priced book to make it known to the world. And what is needed with regard to New Guinea is that I be given the opportunity to make a thorough study of the native languages in order to write a textbook and compile primers to be tested by missionaries and teachers.

Such a work would be a basis for a new Universal Literacy for New

Guinea, a bold attempt at silencing the critics of Australia's endeavours.

You may counter that the Fund is concerned with Literature only, belles, lettres and all that. But this is not the case. The Fund has sponsored books on zoology, economy, politics, natural history, music and other items which are not belles lettres at all. Moreover the Fund has sponsored books on linguistics and on the problems of the aborigines and coloured peoples in the Australian territories. Exactly those two items made me resolve to apply to the Fund.

The coloured peoples of Papua, New Guinea have not yet a medium in which to express their poetry, creative literature, etc. It is here where my work can fill a vital gap, vital to the creative literary efforts of the natives, and vital to Australia, because the trust territories are vital for the defence of Australia and they can be taken away from us by the United Nations, precisely on the ground that we haven't been able to educate the natives. The first thing to do so is to give them a medium in which they can express themselves. This medium must bridge the great handicap of the territories where hundreds of languages are spoken.

Now that you have seen my work from this angle, would you let me know whether or not it should be brought to the knowledge of the Committee, not the Advisory Board which can judge only on belles lettres. In my great disappointment I once thought of approaching the Prime Minister. But he is a busy man. My letter would be considered and answered by someone else and, most likely, again rejected.

I have been hailed as a pioneer in a new field, but so far I am experiencing the fate of pioneers - of finding no recognition during their life-time in their own country. The same fate has happened to pioneers of all countries. The authorities in the particular field usually find radically new approaches to a problem as outside their scope, outside their teaching, outside their activities. The result is rejection. In all countries, pioneers had to die first, and they have often been driven into an untimely death by the bitter disappointment which they have suffered at the hands of the particular authorities. This refers even to literature. The history of the great books of the past show that their writers got no mercy from the men who could have helped with a grant, but did not.

Just a short while ago, an article appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald (18th February) written by T. Inglis Moore, Senior Lecturer of the Canberra University College. He referred to Australian, American, Canadian and other universities and their treatment of their literary pioneers. He said:

"Universities prefer to deal safely with classic writers long and respectably dead."

It is a fact that the classic writers of the past, found no recognition and no help from the Advisory Boards of Literary Funds of their days, simply because their idea and their writing was ahead of their time. Only the mediocre were favoured, because they wrote in the familiar veins, familiar to the members of the Boards, familiar with the literary taste of the day.

Another instance which highlights my complaints is this: Up till now there is no satisfactory publications of Captain Cook's Journals of his discovery of New Zealand and Australia available. One should think that here is a grand national task which should have been done decades ago. Yet, when the Hakluyt Society of Britain decided to undertake this task

"the Governments of Great Britain, Canada and Australia found various reasons for refusing to assist."

wrote A. Grenfell Price, in his review in the Sydney Morning Herald of February 4th, 1956. The only assistance given by Australia was to help in providing Captain Cook's journal which is in the National Library of Canberra.

The National Library of Canberra has already realized the importance of my work for Australia and for Mankind and is collecting my books and all my other writings. One day when most of the books of the present beneficiaries of the Literary Fund will be forgotten, the Commonwealth National Library will assist the publications on my pioneering work. But it will be too late for me.

The only hope I still nurture is a bold approach to the Prime Minister himself. Is there any possibility that I can get a private hearing, that I can tell him in my own words of the great help which my work can give to Australia? Bertrand Russell went even further and said that assistance and furtherance of my work means "performing an important service to Mankind."

I ask you to be instrumental in making a meeting between the Prime Minister and me possible.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to Sir Robert Garran

C.K. Bliss B.Sc.

I then received the following letter

Prime Minister's Department
Commonwealth Literary Fund

Dear Mr. Bliss,

14th May 1956

I refer to your letter of the 2nd April in which you request assistance in the publication of your work on Semantography.

I placed your letter before the Advisory Board of the Commonwealth Literary Fund at its recent meeting. For your information I would advise that Dr. A. Grenfell Price, C. M. G. is Chairman of the Advisory Board, Mr. T. Inglis Moore a member and the National Librarian an ex officio member of the Board.

You may not be aware that the Committee of the Fund, of which the Prime Minister is Chairman, has decided the type of work for which assistance can be granted from the Fund. As I pointed out in my letter of the 15th November the Fund is charged with the responsibility of assisting authors to produce creative literature of outstanding merit. Whether the work be purely imaginative, biography, history, or literary criticism the dominant factor influencing the Fund is whether it has literary merit.

The Board gave consideration to your claims but are of the opinion that as your work is in the field of linguistics and not literature as such it does not come within the scope of the Fund.

The Fund cannot assist but it has been suggested that you might get in touch with Mr. T.G.H. Strahlow of the University of Adelaide, or Dr. Cappell of the University of Sydney, who are lecturers in linguistics at those Universities and may be interested in your work.

Yours sincerely

W.R. Cuning
Secretary

Well, it would have been a terrific surprise if the Board had granted me anything. As it was, I was not the least surprised to receive this letter. "Not being within the scope"... I have read this before in other official letters. Naturally, a new idea is never and can never be within the scope of a Board if the members wanted to reject it. If, however, the members would have wanted to help me, the many indications I have given about my work, especially in its applications for the natives of New Guinea, would surely have made them see the light that indeed my work is well within the scope of their activities.

This becomes clear when we examine the letter and try to find which literature is creative literature. The secretary says that fiction, biography and history can be creative literature and I agree with this. However, in my opinion and in the opinion of many others "literary criticism" can never be creative literature. There is the fact that literary criticism by its very word is only a way of examining the creative literature of other writers. The critic is not creative in any sense. More than often he is destructive to creative literature and their creators. If however, literary criticism with all its sorry aspects falls within the scope and linguistics falls not, what about the grants given to Sydney J. Baker for his manuscripts on Australian slang, prison idiom and similar not creative writing? And what about the application of my work for New Guinea? After all, it's the Prime Minister's Department which turned me down. Well, another futile effort ending in failure! Nevermind, I shall win!