

2 Claremont  
99 Shast. Road  
Kings Cross, Sydney  
30. 9. 57

Dear Mr. Blakemore, your letter  
(G.L.B.W.T.) to head - wait till that  
Sheep - history - book is even 20 years  
old!

about the William Dobell portrait,  
I wd. like it - to go to Waff (someone else  
wanted it - there & with earlier) but to  
whom to write about it I really don't know!  
It was presented to me last week as a  
formal thing, but I had from the first - given  
it - to the artist - Casahuate. At present it  
is in the care of the Sydney National Gallery.  
If you write to Mr. Waterhouse, the President  
of the Gallery, he will know from whom to  
hold it. It is to go next - to Melb. for a  
month.

I had the battle of my life for over a

week with critics & interviewers trying to make me say something nasty about the portrait. But I beat them all - one man said "I have <sup>been</sup> doing this (interviewing) for years, & this is the first time I have been beaten. And when I think of you get..."

It is an astonishing piece of work. If you want a full and good summary of it - see Trent (29.9.57) & read Andrea as well as the back page. Andrea is best - <sup>It is</sup> ~~It is~~ <sup>told</sup> repeats that the portrait is the first one painted in Australia who is <sup>like</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Old Masters.

Months ago I wrote you asking you to find someone to call for a pottery Aboriginal head, a good one, for my collection at the College. I have had no reply. What about it? Potth is small & can easily be carried. (About the portrait again (but this is absolutely confidential) I was told last week that if I wanted to sell it, it wd. bring £5,000 at once. But of course I wd. not sell it - if I could <sup>anyhow</sup> ~~get~~ I gave it to the auction two years ago.)

With every good wish  
Yours sincerely  
Mary Gilmore