

I first met Martin at Roseanne's Darlington house in about April, 1979. After that, I often had a drink with them at the Criterion. I was at their wedding in October, 1982, at the Thompson street house. In June, 1983, I took extended leave, including travelling in Greece for 2 months, which gave me much more to talk about with Martin. Lyn Gain travelled with me for about 3 weeks. It was then that I discovered Sifnos, Lyn had arranged to meet Roseanne in Hydra and I went too. We met Anthony Kingsmill in a bar and Roseanne interviewed him for Nadia. I remember he said that not a day passed without him remembering Charmian. Roseanne decided that he was exaggerating and said that she would not pass that on to Nadia. I thought at the time that he seemed genuine, and that, whether true or not, what he said should not be censored. Lyn and Roseanne travelled on to Paris. I explored Rhodos, Symi, Kastellorizo, Crete...

I returned to Greece for another 2 months in 1985. I was living in Nimrod street from 1985. I was invited to evenings at Thompson st. with John and Lyn Tranter and once with Peter Porter. In early 1987 I retired. In about June I flew to London. I stayed with Martin and Roseanne in an apartment there for perhaps 2 nights before leaving for Paris, buying a new Citroen 2CV, 5 months travel throughout Europe, to Athens, where the car was stolen, ferry to Sifnos where I spent the winter.

In April, 1988, I spent about a week with Roseanne and Martin near Sinalunga, Toscana, where they had rented a formerly grand house, but remote and crumbling; Martin was writing a novel about the Greek General Makryiannis. At dinner he told us that he had diverted from the novel to write about Greek folk stories, but had to pull himself back to the novel, or he would never get it written. I came out with one of my puns, which usually are clangers, but Martin appreciated it: 'Vita brevis, Sinalunga'. We spent some days in Florence, sharing a large room with 3 beds at a pension. Later in 1988 or perhaps early 1989 I walked into Lakis' Kafeneion in Apollonia, Sifnos, and there was Roseanne. Unannounced. She had become disenchanted with Lesbos where they had gone after Toscana. Soon after, I went to Luzern for some weeks and Martin and Roseanne spent that time in a small apartment I had rented in Apollonia. Martin told me later that in Sifnos I had discovered 'the earthly Paradise'. I was in Athens often in 1988 and 1989. I used lunch daily at Apotsos restaurant, patronised by parliamentarians and journalists (so I was told); I often was with Martin. A few years later one of the waiters asked after Martin. I told him of Martin's death. The waiter made a gesture, miming raising a glass to the mouth.

I meant to mention Martin's brilliant and devastating review in the SMH at a very young age of Norman Mailer's book about Marilyn Monroe. It is in John Tranter's book. I was very friendly over many years in Sifnos with the Lady Jeanne Campbell, one of Norman's 6 wives, (and incidentally the granddaughter of Lord Beaverbrook and also the daughter of the Duke of Argyle). I gave her the review to read. She read it, pulled a face and handed it back.

Kevin Anderson