

John Hall to Martin Bulmer 19 Oct 94

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Dear Martin,

Thankyou for sending me a copy of your letter to Rebecca Abrams. I very much appreciate your call to let me know that Mark had died, and your request for help with an obituary. Later that day I also had a call from *The Guardian* and on the Tuesday from Michael Warren at the MRS who was writing something for *The Independent*.

I'm sorry I couldn't be more help at the time, but I have been up to my neck in designing and building an extension at the cottage. (I actually started writing this on 4 October, but kept having to break off) However we got the foundations in yesterday and I can now relax and concentrate more on how best to commemorate Mark and his work.✂

I always felt very close to Mark and was very fond of him. We had a kind of interdependence more like that between father and son than between professional colleagues, especially after Philip died, and I couldn't possibly have done justice to him in the timescale available. My contribution would have been too personal and probably not appropriate except possibly as a second or third note in *The Guardian*, but they wanted it the same day.

Although in the last year or two we hadn't seen each other all that often, we did keep in touch by telephone from time to time (often when Mark had yet again forgotten someone's name or lost an address or a publication reference!). These little chats used to cheer us up, and earlier this year we actually joked that, since I hadn't seen an obituary, he must be alive and kicking!

No doubt the BSA, MRS and SRA will all be thinking about how best to commemorate Mark. I should be happy to contribute to any or all of their efforts in whatever way is felt most appropriate. Please find attached a few notes which may be helpful. They need working up properly, but I think I should send them now as there are probably already some initiatives under way for which they may be useful, and yet another week has gone by.

I am also copying this letter to Michael Warren. Please keep me briefed and do not hesitate to ask for help. I look forward to hearing about developments.

Yours sincerely,