

Essays in Modern Italian & French Literature



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In Recollection of Tom O'Neill

EDITED BY ALASTAIR HURST & TONY PAGLIARO

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Foreword

Tom O'Neill, who died in 2001, was Professor of Italian at the University of Melbourne from 1985 until his retirement in 1998. He was a scholar of distinction and published extensively over some twenty years, his research focussing, in particular, on modern Italian writers, including Bigongiari, Consolo, Lampedusa, Luzi, Montale and Sciascia.¹ He was warm, encouraging and generous in support of his colleagues in both French and Italian, at Melbourne University and also at La Trobe and Monash. The Symposium on modern French and Italian poetry he organised and hosted at Melbourne University in 1994 was an eloquent witness to his commitment to fostering a research culture and building up a sense of community amongst his colleagues.

As a tribute to Tom O'Neill and in a spirit of recollection, we held a one-day Colloquium at the Gryphon Gallery, Melbourne University, in November 2002. Papers were invited on any aspect of modern Italian and French Literature. The Colloquium was a great success ending, appropriately for Tom, on a high gastronomic note with a celebratory dinner. The present volume has its origins in that day of recollection: many of the essays were first presented at that forum.

For their editorial advice and assistance we wish to thank the Editorial Board of *Spunti e ricerche* and, among others, the following colleagues: Paolo Bartoloni (University of Sydney) Roberto Bertoni (Trinity College Dublin), Brian Moloney (University of Hull), Raylene Ramsay, (University of Auckland) Anne Freadman, (University of Melbourne), Flavia Coassin (Flinders University), Judith Kelly (University of Lancaster), George Talbot (University of Hull), Roy C. Boland, (La Trobe University), Patricia Clancy (University of Melbourne), Giuseppe Traina (Università di Catania).

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Alastair Hurst
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¹ A full bibliography of Tom O'Neill's publications is published in *Spunti e ricerche* 17 (2002) 8–14.