

When my interview with Ian was published, he seemed a little nervy as to how it would be received. I sent him excerpts from the following responses from readers to set his mind at rest.

Dear Ian,

I thought you might find interesting these comments on your interview in issue 3 of *The Dark Horse*.

Of course the high point — or rather plateau — is your conversation with Ian Hamilton, full of wit and wisdom in which you play a notable part. I don't know anything of Mr Hamilton but I've seldom read anyone who so nearly expressed my own views — not least in what he says about the 'miraculous persuasion'.

—*Kirkpatrick Dobie* (88 year old Dumfries poet, featured in TDH#1)

I enjoyed the Hamilton interview (to my surprise) and agreed with all he said about reviewing; that it should be honest and acerbic, that that's easy when you're young and think you know the truth, and that it gets progressively harder as you a) get less absolutist in your opinions and b) actually meet the people you are rude about.

—*Dick Davis*

What an achievement. I particularly was interested in the Ian Hamilton interview. It needs to be roneo'd and sent to every aspirant poet on the planet.

—*Gus Ferguson* (South African poet/small press publisher)

Interview with IH an excellent feature...

—*Roland John* (Outposts)

Your interview with Ian Hamilton is quite brilliant. How was he (illegible, but could be 'doing' or 'living')? I bear him no malice — indeed, we have co-operated from time to time — but he did review my first book of poems three times, once anonymously, and also under his own name and also under a pseudonym, each time adversely!

—*Philip Hobsbaum*

The Hamilton interview is quite a find!

—*Edwin Morgan*

I have now read the Ian Hamilton interview, which is sharp, and sufficiently acerbic to annoy almost all of the Scotlit Establishment. Refreshing. I liked the notion of Edward Pygge. Could you not arrange a Glasgow-Irish counterpart called, say, Eideard O'Muice? Hamilton's remarks about tenure in American universities I find terrifying. It is beginning to happen here. Think of the number of practising academics who have poetry by the lapels on this island and are free to pit the heid on any unfortunate bard who happens to annoy them.

—*William Neill* (Scottish poet)

...the Ian Hamilton interview was a good idea that worked out well.

—**Wendy Cope**

Your interview with Ian Hamilton I at first thought might be a bit remote from me, of interest mainly to editors of poetry magazines. But as I got into it, it took hold of me and I found his words about Dylan Thomas, in particular, fascinating. I wish he had developed his brief remarks about Larkin. The conversation is high art and I'll return to it.

—**Ian Gough** (poet, Canada)

I'm very impressed with what I've read so far of **The Dark Horse**, especially the Ian Hamilton interview, which is fascinating.

—**Steven Blyth** (young poet-editor from Lancashire)