



UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY
Hawkesbury

21 September 1992

Mr Tom Lonsdale
Tom Lonsdale and Associates
Riverstone Veterinary Hospital
Garfield Rd
RIVERSTONE NSW 2765

Dear Tom,

Thanks so much for sending me copies of your propositions. I am flattered by your use of some of my jottings.

You may not know that my PhD was in parasitology - a thousand years ago. Funnily enough, parasitism provides a great conceptual model for the Age of Persistence. It is co-evolution at its best of course - if the parasite overdoes its effects, it commits hari kare. If the host over-reacts, it dies of anaphylactic shock. So the balance is learned and sustained so that the relationship can persist.

When I first started on my PhD my supervisor (John Spent at Queensland Vet School) warned me about getting too carried away with philosophical questions - How does a parasite know where it is? And if it doesn't, how does it know where to stop in its migrations, settle down, and enjoy its site of predilection?

Discouraged, I turned to measuring things in an objectified world: It's only in the past decade that I have been allowed to indulge my whimsy again and turn to the metaphysical. The need for others to do so earlier, is crucial. That is what we try to do for the Virginians and the Angelas of this world - to our great relief, a significant number of them are so empowered: Not a moment too soon.

I hope we can meet and pursue some of these notions.

All best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Richard Bawden', written in a cursive style.

RICHARD BAWDEN
PROFESSOR AND DEAN
FACULTY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT