

Candidates Should Attempt to Answer all the Questions

Intelligence tests? Those are what intelligent chaps
are good at. And History? That's what historians make
after a cosy breakfast knuckled down to damning *perhaps*
and *might have been* rearranging some plausible given.
Biography? There's an unleavened bread to puff
into occasion . . . or Poetry now? Insubstantial stuff,
yet, worth a go, with a worthwhile outcome too
as can be said for Kids' books, Picture books,
editing Memoirs and Journals,

where still

Drama's untouched, untouched that once projected Novel,
although in an Age of Floppy Discs

who knows?

Only define define where to begin
answering questions Dame Academia warned off,
"Don't be too clever, dear, don't tackle too much"
but he did, and again, and does, despiting.

On this public occasion

somewhere not far behind my leftish shoulder
I sense the Tempter urging "Tell them about —"
you as public person in or almost in or out of office,
you as student pushing your bike into a headwind
across Western Springs flat (we'd meet Bruce
on our way to Training College) you training with Jack
in the Reserve (he'd be making the running) or you
driving my station wagon cut and thrust through London,
then (lightly, but lightly!) into a pillar at Heathrow?

Not quite, not so.

But so

I shall tell how as you make your histories
(what are not histories?) you sit at a window place
gazing out and over spread of salt water below,
that salt which is part of your stream in history,
looking over the Point from which we came, to which recur.
Where may you continue so to do answering
(tested, attested) questions not yet proposed.

KENDRICK SMITHYMAN

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