

PREFACE

A preface to any literary work carries with it either a justification for the work, or an excuse for having written it; either an apology, or an indication of what the reader can expect.

The letters can be regarded as sequential chapters in a journey which began at birth, and which will continue throughout a life of awareness until the wheels fall off the carriage, and the journey ends.

As Roland Barthes says in his essay on *Structural Analysis of Narrative*, "A sequence is a logical succession of nuclei bound together by a relation of solidarity"; so I offer something of that solidarity which forms the core, sometimes obscure, sometimes selective, of my journey.

My journey and the sequence of events are intrinsically tied in with the journey of others undertaken prior to, or contiguous with that of my own. All our journeys form the nuclei of the solidarity of which Barthes speaks, and thus emerges a pattern of living, not in isolation, one to the other, but in the complex whole which makes up the human experience.

Whether my journey was worthwhile, or the telling of it justified, must be left to the reader's judgement. I make no apology for having dared to write it down, and sharing it with whoever may have journeyed also.

J.T.G.