

Sunday night. 11 September 1988

A.D. DIRKZWAGER

3161 BC RHODEN.

ORANJE NASSAULAAN 38

"Do not go gentle into that great night
Rage, rage against the dying of the light"
Dylan Thomas

Dear Madame Maria
and Mr Enrico.

Thank you for your letter wherein you shared the news of the demise of Mr Huper. It is always sad that someone for whom you had an awfully lot of reverence passes away. A man of great esteem and for me he was an example of growing old with dignity. He has succumbed of the accumulation of years.

I am inclined to think that when you have reached Top Huper's age whilst keeping your curiosity and interest in what is happening in the world around you until the last week of your life, Death is not an enemy. Dylan Thomas' quote in the heading of this letter is more

likely an expression of my feelings; of
someone who is left behind. Anyhow,
there is the saying that somebody only
dies at the time that the last person
dies who has known the first one alive.
And I, myself, expect to continue to
live for at least another forty years.
I have been now seven years in succession
in Pianello. I have never before taken
a picture of my Top Hunter. The enclosed
picture was taken on 29 July 1988. The
morning I left for Holland. I went to his
house to say goodbye and asked him
if could take a picture of him. I am glad
that I did ask. Once more thank you
for your kind letter. Look well after your-
selves. Don't catch pneumonia this time!!
Please convey my respect to Madame
Maria and the whole family.

We all know: *ARS longa Vita Brevis*.
That we ~~die~~ is not a deception but because
that it always comes upon an inconvenient moment
troubling us. Many greetings + love from Vera +
Adrian.