



**Letters (March 29<sup>th</sup>, 08) from the acclaimed Romanian poet Constantin Severin to his agent (Marit Bødtker, Bodtker Yuniku Agency)**

*I have very good news for you, in the last weeks I abandoned painting to write my first novel, "Esto's Lover" and in one week half of the book will be finished.*

*The major character is Ernesto Sabato, the famous Argentinian writer, and secondary characters are J.L. Borges, Astor Piazzola, Victor Brauner, etc. One of my friends from Buenos Aires, Salvador Amore, a very known theater director, who studied in Bucharest, **who is a friend and a neighbor of Sabato, obtained his agreement for this novel, Sabato is waiting with a great pleasure for the result of this project (the letter is below).***

*One of the best Romanian literary magazines, VATRA, accepted to publish a long fragment of this novel, and the most famous Romanian novelist, Norman Manea, our candidate for the Nobel award, the winner of the prestigious Medicis Award in France, wrote me (the message is below) that my novel seems to be very interesting and he promised to recommend it to our best publisher, Polirom, next month, when he will visit Romania.*

*The best translator from Romanian into English, **Joaquin Garrigos**, wrote me that "Esto's Lover" is a very original novel and that I'm a big writer.*

*I'm sure now that my first novel, "Esto's Lover" could become an international best-seller and we have to make a good strategy to promote it together.*

Love,

Constantin

*PS I this I'll finish it in two months, in the future you have to try to find a translator from Romanian into Norwegian, too. I'm also sure that many important movie companies will be interested for this amazing Sabato's love story with a young physicist originally from Romania.*

#### **Letter from Salvador Amore**

Draga Severin Am citit cu mare placere primele pagini pe care m-ati trimis, si am gasit si un stil asemenator a lui Sábato dar in limba Romina,. Nu stiu daca e chiar asa dar a fos o surprize dubla. Mai ales ca apar ca un personaj in romanul.

AM vrut sa-i spun lui Sabato inainte de va scrie aceste rinduri, si doar am putut sa vorbesc la telefon, pentru ca Sabato are deja 96 de ani, si are niste chestie fireste ale oamenii din acesta virsta.

S'-a bucurat de afi iaras un peronaj de nuvele ( iaras zice pentru ca si in Abaddon Exterminatorul, dinsul isi-a bagat in rmanu ca un persnaj) si n-a urit noroc.

Dupa aceea am vorbit cu asistentul lui cine m-a cerut sa un pierdem legatura asupra faptul acestea.

Sper sa avetf vointá si inspiratie de a merge si mai departe. Poate ca anul acesta ca calatoresc in Europa poate sa ne intilnim

Saruturile pentru tine si pentru iti sutine fie cine o fi.

*Salvador Amore*

#### **English Translation:**

From Salvador Amore Sat Mar 8 13:43:04 2008

Dear Severin,

I read with a great pleasure the first pages you sent me and I found a style very close to Sabato's but in the Romanian language. I'm not quite sure this is the situation but I had a double surprise, especially that I'm a character in this novel.

I intended to meet Sabato before writing you this message but I only succeeded to have a conversation with him by phone, because Sabato is already 96 years old, and if he is'nt ill he has some specific problems normal for the people of his age, that's why he cannot receive guests (as we used to meet before).

But he was glad to be again a character in a novel (he reminded me that even in his novel "Abaddon, the Exterminator" he introduced himself as a character) and he wished us good luck and wants to know when the novel will be finished.

After our conversation I spoke with his assistant and he asked me to be in touch regarding this issue.

I hope you'll have enough will and inspiration to fulfill this project. I think this year I'll make a trip in Europe and I hope to meet you too. Excuse my bad Romanian language and greetings to you and your family.

**Salvador Amore** (Sabato's neighbour and friend, a famous Argentinian theatre director). [www.salvadoramore.com.ar](http://www.salvadoramore.com.ar)

### **Letter from Norman Manea**

Stimate Domule Constantin Severin,

Multumesc pentru text; este, intr-adevar, foarte interesant si romanul pare la fel.

In aceea priveste scrisoarea mea catre Sabato, ea este reprodusa in "Plicuri si portrete" volumul aparut la Polirom in 2004.

Voi vorbi d-lui Lupescu, in cursul excursiei noastre despre Dvs. si dorinta de a publica la Polirom. Nu stiu inca exact planul calatoriei noastre, nici cit si cind sintem in Suceava. Sintem, oricum, insotiti de destula lume, o echipa de la Polirom, cuplul Tabucchi, nu este exclus sa se asocieze si altii, de la o revista italiana, de la televiziunea romana, deci nu pot, deocamdata, prevedea nimic. Va voi scrie cind am un program clar.

Urari bune,

**Norman Manea**

### **English translation :**

Dear Mr. Constantin Severin,

Thanks for the text; it's really very interesting and the novel seems to be the same.

Regarding my letter sent to Sabato it was published in my book "Envelopes and portraits" edited by Polirom in 2004.

I'll speak with Mr. Lupescu (the owner of the most important Romanian publishing house, Polirom-C.S.) during our trip about you and your desire to publish at Polirom. I don't know yet the plan of our journey, nor the date will be in Suceava. We will be anyway accompanied by a lot of people, a team from Polirom, Tabucchi's couple (Antonio Tabucchi, famous Italian novelist-C.S.) and maybe others from an Italian magazine, Romanian television, so I cannot tell you now the program. I'll inform you when the program will be clear.

Best wishes,

**Norman Manea** (the most famous Romanian writer, Medicis award 2006, Nobel award candidate).

Letter from Joaquin Garrigos Thu Mar 13 04:29:20 2008

*Joaquin Garrigos* <[ygarrigos@gmail.com](mailto:ygarrigos@gmail.com)> wrote:

Draga domnule:

Am citit paginile si mi se par foarte bune. Va felicit fiindca sunteti un mare scriitor. Este foarte original: personajele sunt oameni faimosi si chiar autorul este alt personaj. si totul scris intr-o romana foarte curata, lucrul de remarcat azi caci starea romanei este penibila.

Am vazut unele greseli in cuvinte spaniole: Guevara (nu Guevarra) si guerrilleros (nu guerrillos).

Cu bine

### **English translation:**

Dear Sir,

I read the fragment of your novel and they are very good in my opinion. I congratulate you because you are a big writer. The novel is very original: the characters are very famous people and even the author is another character. And all is written into a very clean Romanian, a remarkable thing today when the situation of the Romanian language is not so good.

You must correct some Spanish names, Guevara (not Guevarra) and guerrilleros (not guerrillos).

Best wishes,

**Joaquin Garrigos** (the director of Cervantes Institute in Bucharest, the best translator from Romanian into Spanish).

For all rights, please contact Bodtke Yuniku Agency, [yuniku@online.no](mailto:yuniku@online.no)

For more information about Constantin Severin, read the website to [www.yuniku.no](http://www.yuniku.no)