A Writing Life

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Stan was a brilliant, world-class scholar with a prodigious knowledge of Shaw and an even more prodigious memory: he was also a born storyteller and raconteur, with a sharp wit, a flair for irony and ever-present sense of humour. His gift was to uncover the human story behind historical and biographical facts.

—Dr Anne Wright CBE, Chair, The Shaw Society

One gets the impression that seldom a day went by when Stan didn’t get considerable writing done. He provided a bedrock from which Shaw Studies will continue to live and develop.

—Richard Farr Dietrich, Professor Emeritus
University of South Florida

He was not only a Shaw expert, he was also a Queen Victoria expert ... a Disraeli expert, a Lawrence of Arabia expert, a Golding, Whistler and Beardsley expert, and a writer on an amazing number of other subjects.

—A.M. Gibbs, Emeritus Professor of English
Macquarie University, Sydney

When we consider Stan’s amazing achievements as a scholar and writer—all the books, prefaces, articles, and speeches, ranging from Shaw studies to biographies and histories—I believe we must call him not just a distinguished “man of letters,” but an American public intellectual.

—John McInerney, Professor Emeritus,
University of Scranton
—[It] was the most precious birthday gift I could ever receive. Uncle Jack and Aunt Anna presented me with a portable Royal typewriter. Although I would never be more than a one-finger typist, it altered my life.

Whether or not I had anything to say, scrolling a sheet of paper and tapping the keys set me on the path to writing. I could now produce what looked to me proudly like print.