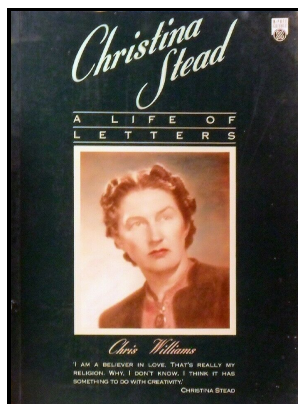


# Christina Stead - a life of letters

## McPhee Gribble - A Web of Friendship Selected Letters (1928)



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Stead, Christina, 1902-Christina Stead - a life of letters

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Notes: Includes bibliographical references (p. 335-337) and index.

This edition was published in 1989



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David Stead had a marked hatred of Jews her husband Bill Blake was Jewish , of the theatre, and alcohol. In one letter she relates a dinner in Paris with a Serbian anarchist poet hailed by Picasso and an Emir, the head of a famous Arabian family, people she would not be likely to meet in Sydney.

### The Man Who Loved Children, Christina Stead

In the years since the war, Stead had been on the radar for Commonwealth grants, but her communist associations and her absence from Australia, which she was now too poor to rectify, counted against her. I was enchanted by her cynical, satirical humour and the psychological evaluations of the characters of the Pollit Family.

### Christina Stead and her life in Letters — Melbourne University Publishing

One of the most beautiful and functional features in her living space is a custom rack that her husband, Ant, built himself! He mocks her writing and her attempt to construct her own private language. Conflicts with them occurred over his narcissistic failure to see them as anything more than an extension of himself.

### A Web of Friendship Selected Letters (1928)

Later Years Bill and Christina suffered for their Marxism. Her father, David Stead, was a Fabian Socialist, and eminent naturalist; later he formed and managed the New South Wales Government State Trawling Industry. On , they showed off pictures of themselves sipping champagne and even jumping from into blue water.

### Christina Stead and her life in Letters — Melbourne University Publishing

She was in in the summer of 1949, accompanied by her friend Anne Dooley née Kelly , a local woman, who was the model for Nellie Cotter, the extraordinary heroine of the book. Fiercely private, funny, caustic and cantankerous, by this stage she had grown bitterly angry and her hackles were quick to rise.



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