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Way back, with the onset of early male-pattern baldness but before the arrival of middle-age spread, I applied to Dundee University to do a PhD on George Eliot, and happily received a reply from the Director of Postgraduate Studies that my proposed thesis (on Eliot and German Romanticism) would be supervised by Dr Ken Newton. I'd read *George Eliot: Romantic Humanist* so was looking forward to working with him. For the next year, while I was resident in Dundee, we would discuss George Eliot, Yeats, Joyce, George Eliot, Goethe's *Faust*, Romantic atheism, Victorian science and pseudoscience, George Eliot, Nineteenth-Century exegesis, and George Eliot. Hardly a surprising revelation in the pages of *George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies*, and Lewes got a sizable look-in as well, but it was always good to listen to Ken's take on things. He was able to pinpoint matters in an idiosyncratic way – Philip Wakem, for instance, became an unsuccessful contestant on the ITV programme, *Blind Date* (Maggie Tulliver's attitude being, 'I like him, but I don't fancy him') – while clearly 'very deep with German writers' as *Twentieth-Century Literary Theory: A Reader* showed.

After about a year-and-a-half toiling through Eliot and Romanticism I admitted to Ken that I was more interested in exploring an idea associated with *Daniel Deronda* – that of the golem – and most of my recent research had been in that area, and I thought there would be more benefit in pursuing it further. He was enthusiastic: he pointed me to his own article 'Daniel Deronda and Circumcision'. As if I didn't already know! What I really appreciated about Ken was the way he encouraged this – gave me the freedom explore ideas and trains of thought, even if that did mean wandering down the occasional pathless path. We went on to collaborate on *George Eliot, Judaism and the Novels*, a back-and-forth – in the days before email was in common use – that was both rigorous and fun. I looked forward to the bang of a large envelope through the letter-box because it meant being able to scribble notes on one of Ken's sections, or incorporating his scribbled notes into one of mine. Ken generously took on the leg-work of approaching publishers, and wasn't above the mundanity of doing the index.

I have some things to remember Ken – several books by and from him. And a particular memory: during my PhD viva, with the discussion ranging this way and that, the internal examiner became embroiled in an exchange with my external examiner – a bloke by the name of Baker whom Ken had suggested as external due to his expertise on George Eliot

and Judaism (I often wonder what happened to him) – over myth criticism in the Nineteenth Century. The exchange went on for some time. I had little to do but sit back and listen, and looked over at Ken, who was sitting relaxed and insouciant, as if to ask, ‘What am I supposed to do?’ He shot back a grin of extreme merriment to let me know, ‘Not a clue! Just go with it.’

Cheers, too, to Ken for the introduction to Professor William Baker; and to Bill for dedicating an issue of the journal to K M Newton: a cool dude on the silvery Tay.