

Syd's Table

That table, everyone knew it at Flinders.

No one dared occupy his corner before Syd arrived,
no one dared sit there unless invited by Syd.

Jovially but strictly, he presided over his domain.
Shhhhh: secret academic business.

The Kangaroo Island conference dinners
provided an extension of that space,

Syd's table again, convivial,
sometimes serious, always fun, the place to be.

For me, it took four years and a Doctorate to be asked with a smile
to join Syd and Rick and Graham, I had arrived:

Flinders Doctor and honorary Australian academic
certified and celebrated at Syd's Table.

If Syd has found his way to King Ludd's share of heaven
perhaps he's got his own table there

perhaps he talks about fishing and poetry
and his never used computer.

Ioana Petrescu