



## Hugh Casson

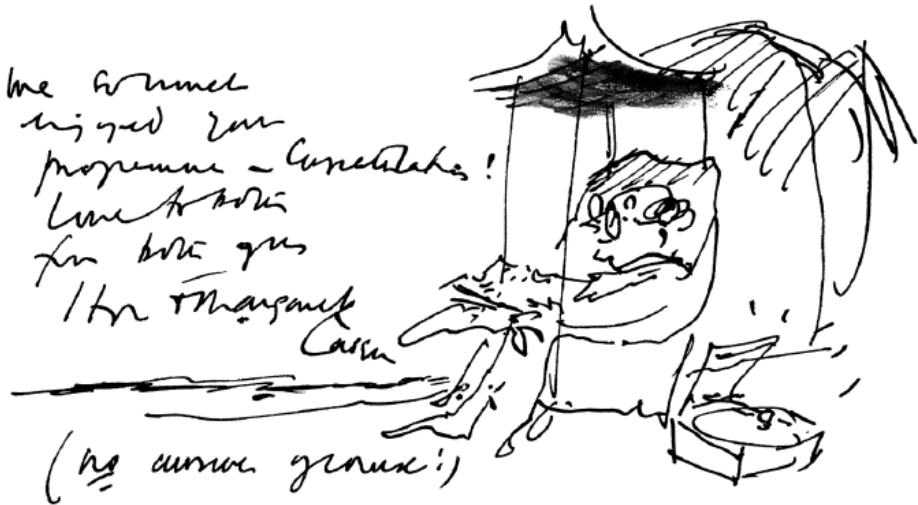
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# Hugh Casson

Tribute to Sir Hugh Casson, RA (the magazine for the Friends of the Royal Academy) no. 5 (December 1984), 27



*Hugh Casson's drawing of IB as the castaway on Desert Island Discs*

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INVITED AS I AM to contribute anecdotes, notable personal reminiscences, about Hugh Casson, I have none; perhaps the fault of failing memory. I can do no better than testify to the pleasure which his warm and affectionate nature has given, and the effect on one's spirits which meetings with him, especially in unlikely places, invariably create. One always knows, when someone enters a room, whether one's spirits rise or fall. Of all differences of taste, those on architecture are apt to be the sharpest. It is an art whose fruits everyone feels competent to criticise – old friendships founder, some wounds are never healed. One can differ radically from Hugh about his judgement on architects or modern styles of building, but the candour and amiability with which they are delivered are so potent that few scars can possibly be left. Even those who disagree with his assessments cannot deny the services he has rendered, if only by the marvellous exhibitions at the Royal Academy during his reign, which would not have taken place without his energy, imagination and powers of persuasion of those who matter. For all

HUGH CASSON

that, for his enchanting sketches worthy of Edward Lear, and for much else we are, and will remain, deeply in his debt.

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