

1956

Valvins

Herman Salinger

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq>

Recommended Citation

Salinger, Herman. "Valvins." *New Mexico Quarterly* 26, 3 (1956). <http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol26/iss3/13>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in *New Mexico Quarterly* by an authorized editor of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

Here in the ruins where roses shake,
 Time is adrift and the sunshine pure.
 Statue and briar and blossoms thresh,
 Sea wind and fragrance and cries obscure.
 Leaf, you are veined of a marble flesh
 Carving the light that the sun endure.

LINCOLN FITZELL

VALVINS

by Paul Valéry

If you would disentwine the forest that gives you airy
 lightness, you must melt in the leaves, — if you are
 within the fluidum forever literary
 dragging some suns, hung ardent and bizarre,
 along that white of thigh the slow Seine caresses,
 adumbrate afternoon, the sung and celebrated,
 while the great wood stands, steeping long low tresses,
 mingling its veil in summer's midst belated.

But always near to you let the silence presage
 a giving to the many-voiced, the bird-filled azure
 out of some volume the sparse shade of a page

trembling like that veil and vagabonding sure
 on the flaky flesh immense of the vast green waves that lie
 midmost the Seine's long look, half open to the sky.

Translated by HERMAN SALINGER