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A Sentimental Journey

Roland Dickey

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Farewells are fatiguing, but they are a part of the rite de passage which allows a Janus-view of past mistakes and future prospects. As I vacate this restless chair and abandon to nimble fingers this familiar typewriter, sentiment chokes me, and as an editor I have found sentiment gagging. Gratitude is the only coin available for unpayable debts. To the authors of more than 50,000 manuscripts the postman has dropped at our door, I give thanks. For the unlucky ones who didn't make it into our pages I underline the hopelessness and sorrow an editor experiences over every rejection slip. To those who have graced our pages with talent and imagination and the gem-pure slavery of writing, I am grateful. To our long-suffering readers I apologize for lapses in judgment. I could fill this page with a hundred and a thousand names of sterling souls who have made life bearable and even rewarding. The predecessors in this post—George Arms, Charles Allen, Kenneth Lash, Joaquin Ortega, T. M. Pearce, Paul Sears, Dudley Wynn—earned their laurels. Others, by sound advice, hard work, and spiritual comfort—Carolyn Adair, Blair Boyd, J. Robert Feyn, Edwin Honig, Helen Gentry and David Greenhood, Carol Kurman, Philip Legler, Edward Lueders, Virginia Manierre, William Peden, Winfield Townley Scott, Ramona Maher Weeks, Clifford Wood—have merited affection. Those carrying on—I salute.

New Mexico, which the great Witter Bynner called “this autumnal Spain,” I will miss. I will carry with me the myths and realities, so difficult to distinguish, which New Mexico spells, and which are the spell of New Mexico.

—Roland Dickey, Editor

In January 1967, Roland Dickey left for Milwaukee, where he is opening a new branch of the University of Wisconsin Press at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. He has been editor of NMQ, and Director of the University of New Mexico Press, since Autumn 1956. The materials to appear in the Spring 1967 issue have been selected under his aegis.