

1954

## Anniversary

Babette Sassoon

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Sassoon, Babette. "Anniversary." *New Mexico Quarterly* 24, 4 (1954). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/nmq/vol24/iss4/9>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by the University of New Mexico Press at 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 [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

## ANNIVERSARY

This is the anniversary of refusal,  
 The tracked zero of solemn talks,  
 And balked side-shows of old walks  
 Drill the unkept oath and tell  
 Yearly tribute to an undone maid.

I know she counts her years by no,  
 And walks the earth on stilts,  
 To lie straight and still under  
 Her bent back, seeing how her flesh  
 Has wrinkled many graves and her  
 Nails bear an ancient crest.

She heads her maiden night  
 With his mounting step by threes again;  
 And dreams the wagging finger's  
 Crescive fear will lead  
 Her helpless to a suffocating yes.

## ANGER AND QUIET

Coward I called as he retreated  
 To my advance. My arms reached out  
 And his body arched back.  
 My legs kicked courage,  
 Wound about the bent knees  
 Of his limping breath, but his toes cramped.  
 The head and feet of touch  
 Crouched beneath the kitchen stairs.  
 I strode out as boldly as any woman  
 After her night of love, stepping in false  
 Delight, his hand below my step.