

Postscript

“I have asked the largest, most important and relevant question about literature that I know how to ask,” remarks Bill Rueckert earlier in these pages. In choosing to run his essay, I side with his view. Though larger or better questions may occur to some, none came to us as essays while we were reading for this issue. For the present, then, his remark stands.

Rueckert’s essay compares interestingly to Larry Goldstein’s reading of Frost. Compare Frost’s will to penetrate nature to Rueckert’s inscription from Ponge. “Penetrate” “participate”—perhaps we are simply among abstractions now where ideas can be made to oppose each other all too easily. Perhaps we have just another instance of poets’ theories not matching their poems. Or, possibly, we have a subject that could bear more discussion.

I hope the last possibility proves true. In our next two issues, TIR will present other kinds of writing along with stories and poems. Autobiography first, with a study by Robert Sayre and autobiographical essays by Austin Warren and several other writers. In the following issue, then, we plan to feature an unpublished prose work called “Rome” by William Carlos Williams. For the last issue of volume nine, however, we have accepted nothing so far, and I would like to hold it open for essays that take up matters offered here. If readers agree with me that some of the ideas in these essays are useful and engaging, there ought to be ways of moving on with them. I hope that by late summer a few such essays will be forthcoming and that we will also want to let them stand.

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