

LOOSE BOTTOMS ON HER BLOUSE . *A Postscript*

As we bring this first year of our editorship to a close, we must, at the very least, laugh at ourselves. Faint plans go awry and our quest for accuracy slips into wanton error. We caused Austin Warren to mention a home for retired Congressional missionaries, and we barely avoided, in Thomas Friedmann's story, the protagonist's softly musing, of his mistress, that "loose bottoms on her blouse were rarely preludes to seductions." Readers can call other errors to our attention, not all of them humorous.

As for plans, the projection of particular issues devoted wholly or partially to particular themes seems unworkable. What we discover is that themes emerge, at least centers of attention emerge as we collect works issue by issue. We have no doctrine to advance and are open, we believe, to suggestion. We don't want to foreclose on possibilities by suggesting we know just what we are after. We do know we favor essays over learned articles. Nor need all our essays be studies of literature; some might read as literature instead.

With volume ten we plan to introduce reviews. We hope to place several in each issue and won't try to cover any one area of publishing. Since a quarterly is not a timely publication, our interest is less in helping books sell than in informing ourselves about good books that we may have missed. We are interested in reviews of recent books—not necessarily just published, and not necessarily just volumes of poetry and fiction—and we would want to be convinced of the riches those books offer our readers. Here, in any case, is an invitation for some brief essays that we will consider as we consider all others.

When we come to the end of volume ten, a year from now more or less, we plan to close it with a thorough index of our first decade of publication. Sometime before too long we will have an issue drawn from the Olson Festival that Sherman Paul organized and presented at Iowa this year. Before getting to that we have stories to publish by John Hawkes, Susan Engberg, and Barry Targan, among others; memoirs and essays by Frederick Manfred, Paul West, Paul Baender, and Douglas Wilson; and poems by Maxine Kumin, Patricia Hampl, Laura Jensen, David Shapiro, David Wagoner, John Engels, and, among several others, Richard Wilbur and Galway Kinnell. At this writing we have selected about half the work for volume ten and remain open to suggestion. We look always for what we take to be good and valuable writing. Maybe you can help us button up our next volume.

DH and FW