

Foreword

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY

OF ROBERT H. MIRANDON

7 January 1935–17 May 2001

Bob Mirandon—I doubt if he ever identified himself more formally than that—died suddenly in mid-May 2001, just after completing the last of his tasks on *AmLS 2000*. He had begun his association with this series, overseeing both copyediting and production, when he became managing editor at Duke University Press in 1983; and he continued to do the copyediting after leaving the press in 1990 to freelance.

Bob and I never met. During the early years of our association, in the 1980s, he communicated by long, efficient letters, prepared on a typewriter, querying matters of fact and style in chapter manuscripts: “p. 107—according to the *Columbia Encyclopedia*, the *World Almanac*, and my own recollection, the dates for the Chinese Cultural Revolution are 1966–69, not as the author has it”; “p. 322—I feel certain that many readers will interpret the reference to ‘the ladies’ here as sexist.” Gradually, letters gave way to mutually scheduled long-distance telephone calls, still as thorough and insistent that things be right, but more leisurely than the letters, punctuated by his hearty laughter about critical idiocies and by outbursts of passion directed at some recent and particularly egregious craziness in human behavior. Bob was the epitome of the editor. He respected the authors whose prose he was reviewing and insisted on showing them at their best. He had an intuition for the general style appropriate to the material, and the discipline and precision to translate that intuition into a style sheet for others to follow. He not only read the prose submitted to him but thought about it. His knowledge of literature, and much else besides, was not mechanical, located in reference books, but experienced and personal, grounded in his own deep acquaintance with it. He knew modern history, film, art, and music deeply—and he knew them because he had actually lived them: he had been active in

the jazz scene in New York while a student at Columbia, a labor organizer at Duke in the 1960s, a bookstore owner in California in the 1970s.

Bob was too busy working with other people's words to produce many of his own. His wonderful stories went with him. This series and the many other projects from Duke and other presses in which he participated are his legacy. His influence is pervasive and yet invisible. Modest Bob preferred it that way. We are grateful to him. We miss him.

Six chapters in this volume feature new contributors. J. Gerald Kennedy, Louisiana State University, takes over "Early-19th-Century Literature" from Thomas Wortham, UCLA. Michael J. Kiskis, Elmira College, takes over "Late-19th-Century Literature" from Terry Oggel, Virginia Commonwealth University. Donna M. Campbell, Gonzaga University, replaces Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio, in "Fiction: 1900 to the 1930s." Lee Bartlett, University of New Mexico, returns after a 15-year hiatus from the chapter and a 10-year break from the series to take over "Poetry: The 1940s to the Present" from Anita Plath Helle, Oregon State University; Bartlett contributed the same chapter from 1980 to 1985, and did a one-year turn at "Poetry: 1900 to the 1940s" in 1990. Theodore O. Mason Jr., Kenyon College, joins Gary Lee Stonum in the preparation of "Themes, Topics, Criticism." Sandra Lee Kleppe, University of Tromsø, replaces Axel Nissen, Oslo University, as the Norwegian representative in the "Scandinavian Contributions" to "Scholarship in Languages Other Than English." In three chapters co-authors have become sole authors—M. Jimmie Killingsworth for "Whitman and Dickinson," Joseph R. Urgo for "Faulkner," and Françoise Clary for "French Contributions." Only two changes are anticipated in next year's roster: Edward P. Walkiewicz, Oklahoma State University, steps in for Suzanne Clark, University of Oregon, who is taking a leave from "Poetry: 1900 to the 1940s" in order to enjoy a Fulbright appointment in France; and Frank Kearful, University of Bonn, replaces Christoph Irmscher, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, whose seven years of preparing "German Contributions" represents the longest tenure among the retirees. Warmest thanks to the departing for their generous commitments of time, effort, and equanimity, and warmest welcome to the recruits.

Authors and publishers can assist us in assuring the thoroughness of *AmLS* coverage by directing offprints and review copies to me at the

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No editor is an island. I am grateful to Barbara Chen and the Office of Bibliographical Information Services, Modern Language Association, for providing a preprint of the annual MLA *Bibliography*; to Ann Bristow and the wizards of the Reference Department, Indiana University Library, for solving puzzles and finding journals; and to Mindy Conner for her patient and perceptive copyediting. And I reiterate my debt to Pam Morrison at Duke University Press, who makes it all happen promptly and smoothly but will not admit to doing so.

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