

Contents

PREFACE	VII
I.	
One Utterance	3
An Exact Ratio	6
The Truant Pen	14
The Dog Gets to Dover: William Maxwell as a Correspondent	18
Becoming a Reader, Becoming a Writer	31
State Flower, Poet Laureate, State Song	34
The Look of Things	39
A Final Antidote	43
Borges and His Precursors	64
II.	
A Familiar Gratuity	77
On Whitman's "To a Locomotive in Winter"	82
<i>In Radical Pursuit: A Brief Appreciation of the Essays of W. D. Snodgrass</i>	87
Introduction to Annie Dillard's <i>Tickets for a Prayer Wheel</i>	90
Widow's Choice: Randall Jarrell's Letters	93
The Wesleyan Tradition	103
III.	
An Interview by Matt Barry	129
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	159