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## Epilogue

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**Who's Who:** For this observance of Ben Ames Williams' vicennial his son provided this gracious retrospective on request. Ben, Jr., now executive vice-president of the First National Bank of Boston, briefly followed his father's large auctorial footprints. As a Senior Fellow at Dartmouth, Ben, Jr. created a stirring "autobiography" of Edwin M. Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War, which was published by Macmillan in 1940 and solemnly reviewed by Stephen Vincent Benet in the *Saturday Review of Literature* as another product of the elder Williams, complete with photograph. An intensifying irony rounds out the matter—the caption below the photo reads: "Can Ben Ames Williams prove it?"

This may possibly come as a revelation to Ben, Jr. In 1930 his father submitted one of his Fraternity Village stories, "The Wild Calf," to the *Saturday Evening Post*. One of the characters is an absorbed auditor, a young boy who interrupts Uncle Chet with impassioned questions. Accepting the story for publication, Williams' editor Thomas Costain wrote him: "Bud will probably be quite puffed up to find himself in print." To which Williams responded: "Bud often reads my stories in manuscript, but this time he didn't. I shall be amused to see his reaction when the thing appears."

When Ben, Jr. was going abroad in 1937 his father described him thusly for his literary agent's London correspondents. "For purpose of identification: He is blond, with very light hair; probably about 5 feet 11½; rather slender, weighing I suppose 155 to 160 pounds. To give an atmosphere of intrigue to the whole proceeding, they might, if they want to confirm his identification, ask him how many bathtubs his family uses. The answer is none, since all of us prefer showers!"

Samuel J. Rogal taught English at Waynesburg College and Iowa State University before joining the faculty of SUNY at Oswego, where he holds the rank of associate professor. He has published four volumes on writing better English and preparing research papers, as well as twoscore articles ranging from eighteenth-century literature and bibliography to the problems of high school and college composition in periodicals as varied as the *CEA Critic* and the *Princeton Seminary Bulletin*.