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Epilogue

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200 ◆ *Editor's Epilogue* ◆

Who's Who: The industrious British husband-and-wife team largely responsible for this issue holds master of arts degrees from Oxford University. Mrs. Ormond is a lecturer in English at King's College in the University of London; Mr. Ormond is assistant keeper at the National Portrait Gallery in London. She has published essays on Victorian subjects in *Apollo*, *Gazette des Beaux Arts*, and *Costume*; he, on 19th-century art in *Connoisseur*, *Burlington Magazine*, and others. Last year Routledge & Kegan Paul issued Mrs. Ormond's handsome, definitive biography of George DuMaurier; this year Mr. Ormond's full-length study of John Sargent will be available, and, in 1972, his two-volume catalogue of early Victorian portraits in the National Gallery. In collaboration the Ormonds have produced the booklet *Great Poets*.

Irene Cooper Willis, 1882-1970: Our benefactor of several decades had consented to write for this symposium a memory piece about Vernon Lee, with whom she consorted in the latter's last years. But "Death came with friendly care" and stilled Miss Willis' pen. Barrister at law by profession, she early fell to the lure of literary scholarship, publishing incisive biographies of the Brontes, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Montaigne, and Florence Nightingale, as well as anthologies and editions of writings by Vernon Lee.

As sole beneficiary and executrix of Vernon Lee, Miss Willis was charged with the disposition of her books, manuscripts, correspondence, and other pertinent memorabilia. Drawn to Colby College by its outstanding collection of Thomas Hardy (Miss Willis also served as his executrix), she bestowed upon us an incalculably rich residue of some 4,000 items — inscribed first editions, manuscripts published and unpublished, notebooks, diaries, copies of printed articles and reviews, photographs, and many hundreds of letters written by Vernon Lee or to her by such as Baring, Bourget, Gosse, Aldous Huxley, Henry and William James, Jewett, Pater, Sargent, Sharp, Symonds, Ward, Wells, and Wharton. By her last testament Miss Willis added another 350 items of this caliber. Among them are drafts of her impressions of Hardy and Lee, which will in due course appear in *CLQ*.

Goodbye, good friend. Sit tibi terra levis.