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Epilogue

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Oddments of Jewett Lore: A) The Jewett coat of arms consists of “Gules, on a cross argent, five fleur-de-lis of the first; crest, an eagle’s neck between two wings displayed argent.” The Jewett motto, “Toujours Le Même.”

B) The Jewett cognomen is a metronymic, that class of family names derived from the distaff side. The line of development stems from the feminized version of Julius, Julia. The diminutive, Juliet, succumbed to the telescoping process of everyday speech and emerged as Juet or Jewit, not uncommon on English birth and tax rolls in the centuries preceding migration to America. The Jewett forebears settled in Rowley, Mass., spread quickly through New England, outward to Michigan, and early to California.

C) In his 1962 novel about an academic mountebank, Learner’s Permit, Laurence Lafore adduces SOJ to flog the sacrosanctity of the doctoral dissertation. The nonhero has represented his nonexistent thesis as one of the best ever written. “It was all built around some letters of Sarah Orne Jewett’s that he’d found, which set forth a new and surprising theory about the art of the short story. And of course he’d never written a thesis at all, let alone found any letters of Sarah Orne Jewett’s” (p. 178). Particularly amusing to this Editor, who some years ago [actually] wrote an article — “Jewett on Writing Short Stories” — based on [actual] letters.

Who’s Who: Dr. C. Carroll Hollis is professor of English and chairman of department at the University of North Carolina. Widely known as Bibliographer for American Literature, he served as Specialist in American Cultural History at the Library of Congress in 1961-1963. A native Bay Stater, Hollis has published on various bedrock New England literary figures, and on Whitman, Twain, and Sinclair Lewis. His degrees are from the universities of Marquette, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

Robert D. Rhode was inevitably drawn to Sarah Orne Jewett during his doctoral study of the American short story of local color. He won his three degrees at the University of Texas, then climbed the academic ladder from instructor at the Oklahoma College for Women to a professorship in English at Texas A & I University, where he is now vice-president and dean.