March 1973

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Recommended Citation
Colby Library Quarterly, series 10, no.1, March 1973

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APPRECIATION OF SARAH ORNE JEWETT
29 INTERPRETIVE ESSAYS

Edited, with an Introduction,
By RICHARD CARY

In her own time Sarah Orne Jewett was hailed as the finest exemplar of local-color writing in New England and among the foremost of that genre in the entire nation. Her masterpiece, The Country of the Pointed Firs, has firmly vindicated the opinion of Willa Cather that it ranks with The Scarlet Letter and Huckleberry Finn as the three American books most likely to "confront time and change" with "a long, joyous future."

Miss Jewett's reputation ran aground during the Depression Thirties but has upgraded steeply since World War II. The expanding consciousness of the Fifties and Sixties, and the current hankering after a more instinctual, intimate, ecological past has raised her name to new heights of esteem.

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The topics include interpretations of the form, characterization, themes, myths, and language in her novels and short stories; her sense of the past; her handling of social history; her poetic realism; the meaning of country life in her fiction; her treatment of children and the aged; comparisons with Cather, Mary Wilkins Freeman, Mrs. Gaskell, and John Marin.

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