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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As the co-executor of the literary estate of Rebecca West, I would like to give profound thanks for help with compiling this collection, which involved an exciting adventure in literary archaeology. In the summer of 2007, Rebecca West scholars Bernard Schweizer, Ann Norton and Debra Rae Cohen came with me on a trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma to dig through the archives at the McFarlin Special Collections at the University of Tulsa. We wanted to plunder the vast archive of Rebecca's writings that had either never been published at all, or had been published only once, in a newspaper or magazine, decades ago—usually well outside the scope of any Web-based archive. There were two reasons for wanting to do this. First, there is the value of making good work by dead writers widely available—it keeps living authors on their toes, if nothing else, and feeds the scholar's hunger for more material. Second, and more importantly, we wanted there to be something to offer the reader who is merely curious about Rebecca, has heard her name mentioned and wants to know more, but is unsure where to start and is understandably daunted by the prospect of picking up a 500,000 word book about Yugoslavia in the 1930s. We weren't sure what we would find. As you will see, we made out like Indiana Jones.

Bernard, Ann and Debra Rae then worked tirelessly with me over many months to sift, type up, edit and finally choose the collection you now hold in your hands.

Long Island University donated money towards our stay in Tulsa, which helped make it possible, and we thank them, too.

Further, the staff at the McFarlin Special Collections were incredibly helpful and generally tolerant of the disruptive explosions of surprise, delight and laughter that marked our progress through this treasure trove of Rebecca's writings.

Lastly, I would like to thank Rebecca's biographer, Carl Rollyson, who has always been ready to lend a helping hand with information, comment and encouragement.

— *Helen Macleod Atkinson, May 2010*

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