

a brief foreword

"Brazilian literature and culture always fascinated me. I may be the only person in the midwestern United States with a complete collection of Chico Buarque's records." These words are in a letter to Ilha do Desterro written by Dr. Robert DiAntonio, from St. Louis, Missouri (see his article on Mário de Andrade). Although Dr. DiAntonio thinks he is one of the few people in the United States who is familiar with what is happening south of the equator, his words express an attitude similar to that of at least ten other people who have been in contact with our magazine - not to mention people like our former co-editor, Hugh Fox, who actually wrote a 300-page anthology on Brazilian poetry, or the poetess Ellen Watson who through Ilha do Desterro got to know the poetry of Adelia Prado, and who is presently translating Brazilian novels in the U.S. This is, therefore, to say why we are including one article on Brazilian literature and also a bilingual sample of Alcides Buss's poetry, together with the articles on literature in general. It is almost a demand from our colleagues from the north — a task which is not easy to undertake but which we intend to see continued. It is our intention to publish in each of the following issues a sample of the work of at least one contemporary Brazilian poet, who, like Alcides Buss has already defined a language of his own. We believe it will be an enriching cultural and literary exchange and a good way of sharing with people outside the country a little bit of what is being produced in Brazil in terms of poetry. Wait and you will see!

And a final revelation! Professor Arnold Gordenstein has agreed to publish part of his novel Comforted in God at West Chester. Read it and you will agree - it is a revelation! It seems that, after all, Gus will have to photograph the beginning and not the end of the world! For us, at least, Gordenstein is beginning to reveal the beginning — of an immense world of literary qualities.

The editors