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In Honor of
John Rohrkemper

PREFACE

On May 12, 2011, members of The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature gathered in East Lansing for its forty-first annual meeting. Highlights included panels on young adult Chicago literature, the Midwest Fantastic, the fiction of Gene Stratton-Porter, and the poetry of the late Rane Arroyo. Paul Stebleton received the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize, James Marlow won the Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose, and Andy Oler was the winner of the David Diamond Student Writing Prize.* The Mark Twain Award went to Louise Erdrich, and MidAmerica Award winner John Rohrkemper put on a staged reading of his play, *God Bless the Shadows*.

SSML is currently operating at a loss due to increased expenses in publishing its journals and convening its annual symposium. Major gifts from the late Jane S. Bakerman and David D. Anderson have enabled us to continue our work while we seek to establish a more stable financial footing for the work ahead. SSML is also grateful to the following members and friends who have made contributions in addition to their dues. As more such contributions are received, and earlier ones are discovered in searching the archives, we will add more names to this Honor Roll: Walter Adams, Robert Beasecker, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ray B. Browne, Mary Ellen Caldwell, Louis J. Cantoni, G.B. Crump, David Diamond, Bernard F. Engel, Kenneth B. Grant, Philip A. Greasley, Theodore Haddin, Donald Hassler, Janet Ruth Heller, Ted Kennedy, Jean Laming, Barbara Lindquist, Larry Lockridge, Loren Logsdon, Bud Narveson, Marcia Noe, Mary Obuchowski, Tom Page, E. Elizabeth Raymond, Herbert K. Russell, James Seaton, Guy Szuberla, Doug Wixson, Melody Zajdel, and the family and friends of Paul Somers.

*The 2009 winner of the David Diamond Prize was misidentified in *MidAmerica 2010*. He is Richmond B. Adams, for his essay, "'Holy Moses!': *The Pit*, Curtis Jadwin and the Documentary Hypothesis." We apologize for this error.

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