

Valedictory

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In his introduction to Friedrich Leo's *Ausgewählte kleine Schriften*, Eduard Fraenkel describes his first encounter with the man who would become his teacher. Leo had invited him to Sunday dinner, which was followed by a walk in the garden. There the conversation took an obvious turn. What was this new student reading? Aristophanes, and Fraenkel proceeded to run on at length about the magic and beauty of the plays. Leo listened impassively until the tide had ebbed, and then posed but a single question: in which edition exactly was he reading Aristophanes? Fraenkel was a bit put out. What had this to do with anything he had been saying? Had the professor really been listening? It was, however, the Teubner edition. "Ah," said Leo gently, "you are reading Aristophanes without a critical apparatus." The earth, Fraenkel reports, seemed to gape open before him, and the rest, as they say, is history. A great career began that summer afternoon in Leo's garden.

Each of us doubtless has a similar story of learning what scholarship means, a memory of how and when we made the commitment to ground our enthusiasms in a critical apparatus. The need to do so has always been both the burden and the strength of our calling. Yet each of us will define that responsibility a little differently, and one great pleasure of editing this journal has been in discovering the many ways this is successfully done. Whether the topic being pursued is a new one, or an old one pursued in a new way, or an old one pursued in an old way, the scholar's responsibility remains constant. Passion and discipline face each other with an honesty as uncompromising as it is productive. Truth may be an unrealistic goal in this post-modern age, but honesty of this kind is always in style.

It has been equally pleasant to discover how easy it is to maintain the requisite standard of intellectual honesty, for our profession insists upon it. The really hard work of producing this journal is done by its referees, who are as large and diverse a group as they are meticulous and unselfish. And the rigor and generosity of their reports are matched only by the openness with which authors respond to their recommendations. Whether the final product of their effort appears in these pages or elsewhere is a secondary issue. What matters most is the integrity of the process by which discoveries are explained and evaluated for our common benefit.

To watch this process unfold from ringside is as much a privilege as a pleasure, and a privilege must not be abused. It is time to vacate the editor's

seat. I will miss the view, and I almost envy my successor the pleasures in store as she too observes our profession at work in all its diversity. To those who contribute to *TAPA*'s success—its authors and referees, the organization that supports it, and the readers who use it—I offer thanks for the opportunity to serve and for what I have learned in the course of that service. Now it is back to the apparatus for me, and back to indulging the enthusiasm that demands it.