

Class of '53 Salutes Frost in Newsletter



ROBERT FROST IS A PERMANENT FIXTURE AT DARTMOUTH!

Thanks to eagle-eyed **Jack Zimmermann** I make this report for you. Yes, Robert Frost '96 in bronze statue form is here on the campus and he has been since 1996 when it was given to the college at the time of their 25th Reunion by the great class of 1961. The sculptor was George V. Lundeen who maintained a studio in Colorado at the time and maybe still does.

After Jack told me about it I immediately went to see the statue. It's up on the hill above the Bema and between the Bartlett Tower and the Observatory. Shamefully the college has let it be placed in the weeds and brush making it very hard to find. This bronze statue is one of the finest pieces of art Dartmouth possesses. It is celebrating arguably one of Dartmouth's most world famous and

adored Alums. To let it sit in an overgrown mess is really unforgivable!

The statue is very, very near life size. The great poet is sitting on a real granite rock ledge, huddling over his writing pad where he has just written, "Something there is that doesn't love a wall". The likeness is really wonderful.

I sat down on the rock immediately next to Mr. Frost and felt a remarkable energy emitting from him. It's hard to explain but I felt as though I was intruding, that there was something good and important between us, that he knew I was there and approved. There was a living connection! I felt it!

Lillian who remained standing said, "Don, I feel kind of weird...kind of out of place in his presence."

Neither of us spoke again for awhile. I was lost in my thoughts of remembering seeing Mr. Frost appear before us in Great Issues and emoting his poetry from memory with his eyes closed and his voice almost spiritual. A number of his poems rolled though my mind including as I sat there at dusk, "But no. I was out for stars etc.". That was true for me as dusk fell and I was sitting next to and in the presence of a star...one who never died and would ever see things as no one else ever has.

Lillian and I left in silence. I'm not sure about Lillian, but I know I will never be exactly the same again.

When you're in Hanover I strongly urge you to pay your respects to Mr. Frost. Perhaps you'll even hear him say, "I sha'n't be gone long. You come to."

PS: If I had my way that statue would be immediately removed, boulder and all, and replaced very prominently on the lawn of Sanborn Hall.