Ex Ante

READABLE LAW REVIEWS

Who says no one reads the law reviews? Appearing in the Wilson Quarterly's "In Essence" section — home of "reviews of articles from periodicals and specialized journals here and abroad" — is an honor, reflecting the editors' judgment about the relevance and accessibility of the work. For the summer 2006 issue of the WQ, articles from the Harvard Law Review, Stanford Law Review, and Yale Law Journal made the cut. But such an appearance in the company of the Antioch Review, Foreign Affairs, the New York Review of Books, and Science is also a rarity for an academic law journal. The Autumn 2006 issue of the WQ features none.

• In Essence, WILSON QUARTERLY, Summer 2006, at 74, 77, 83 (reviewing Adam Gordon, The Creation of Homeownership, 115 YALE L.J. 186 (2005); John J. Donohue & Justin Wolfers, The Uses and Abuses of Empirical Evidence in the Death Penalty Debate, 58 STAN. L. REV. 791 (2005); and Jonathan L. Zittrain, The Generative Internet, 119 HARV. L. REV. 1974 (2006)).

GRANDPA'S OLD BAG

Emily Dickinson's grandfather, Samuel Fowler Dickinson (1775-1838), was – like Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., Louis Brandeis, and many other lawyers of days gone by – burdened by a green bag:

After graduating from Dartmouth as Latin salutatorian in 1795, Samuel spent a year teaching school, an occupation he found too dependent on the "whims" of constituents. His lungs unwell, he underwent a conversion and began studying with the Reverend Nathanael Emmons, one of New England's most energetic and eminent Calvinists. Four months of Emmons convinced the young man he was not cut out for the ministry, but he continued to regard his instructor as a "great Divine." ...

Returning to Amherst, Samuel put himself under the tutelage of Judge Simeon Strong, the town's leading lawyer and the owner of much valuable land in its center. ...

But Squire Dickinson, as he came to be known (the title being honorary only), was an overreacher, with little sense