At a dinner for the Nobel Laureates at the White House in 1962 John F. Kennedy said, “This is the most extraordinary collection of talent, of knowledge that has ever been gathered at the White House—with the possible exception of when Thomas Jefferson dined alone.” In regard to Appalachian literature and culture, and with all due respect to contributors to texts and presenters at conferences, we may say the same of Cratis Williams. Here under one cover, for our enjoyment, understanding, and further research is part of the vast treasure he discovered in our own house. I hope, for the benefit of Appalachian and American Studies, that he continues to inspire others.

—Robert J. Higgs, ETSU, editor of Appalachia Inside Out and Voices from the Hills

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