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Farewell, Dear Stan

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Farewell, dear Stan*

Farewell, fare very well, dear Stan, though not
So well that memories planted here at Dordt
Will die in ecstasies of pomp and art
And we your country colleagues lie forgot.
Remember us, please, not as grain in shocks
Or steers confined within four campus walls
Or barrows nosing at each other's stalls
Or sheep now shorn of all our treasured locks,
But think of us as tulips from the soil
Of Christian fathers, milking now the richest vein
From our tradition, careful not to toil
Or spin, but bent to bloom as those who fain
Would honor and obey the Master royal
And by His grace, His heavenly kingdom gain.

Mike Vanden Bosch

**Dr. Stanley Wiersma of the English Department of Calvin College, spent the school year 1980-81 as a visiting professor at Dordt College. The above sonnet was written and spoken at the farewell dinner at which Dr. Wiersma was honored.*