

FOR RAY BRADBURY

Donald R. Burleson*
Professor of Mathematics (retired), Rivier University

For Ray Bradbury

Your prehistoric typewriter fell quiet,
Dropped to repose with grinning fossil teeth
And etched itself into the stones of time.
Yours was the magic hand that made it roar
And rend the sable night with sounds of thunder,
Vibrant with the wonder of the words.
The words have ceased; the echoes never will.
Dream-wanderer among the icy stars,
You died as Venus transited the sun,
Much as you carved your own elliptic path
Across the pumpkin visage of the world,
A ghostly smile traced on eternity.
You've journeyed to October Country now,
Where whispering shadows gather you to rest.

– Donald R. Burleson
8 June, 2012

* **Dr. DONALD R. BURLESON** served as Professor of Mathematics at Rivier College from 1981 to 1996 and also taught courses in fiction writing in the English Department and courses in applied statistics in the MBA program. In 1996 he and his wife Mollie moved to Roswell, New Mexico, where Dr. Burleson served as director of one of the computer labs at Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell and then transferred to the Mathematics Department before retiring in 2007. He is the author of twenty-two books, over a hundred short stories, and numerous journal articles.