

Conclusion: Farewell



A book of quotations can never be complete.

—Anonymous¹

A poem is never finished, it is only abandoned.

—W. H. Auden, 1967²

Fare thee well! and if forever,
Still forever, fare thee well.

—Lord Byron, 1816

¹I have seen this quote attributed to some Robert M. Hamilton, but could not find a reliable confirmation of this authorship.

²This is a succinct paraphrase of an earlier and much longer sentence by Paul Valéry. (Auden cited him as the author.) It was later repeated, about books, by Gene Fowler.