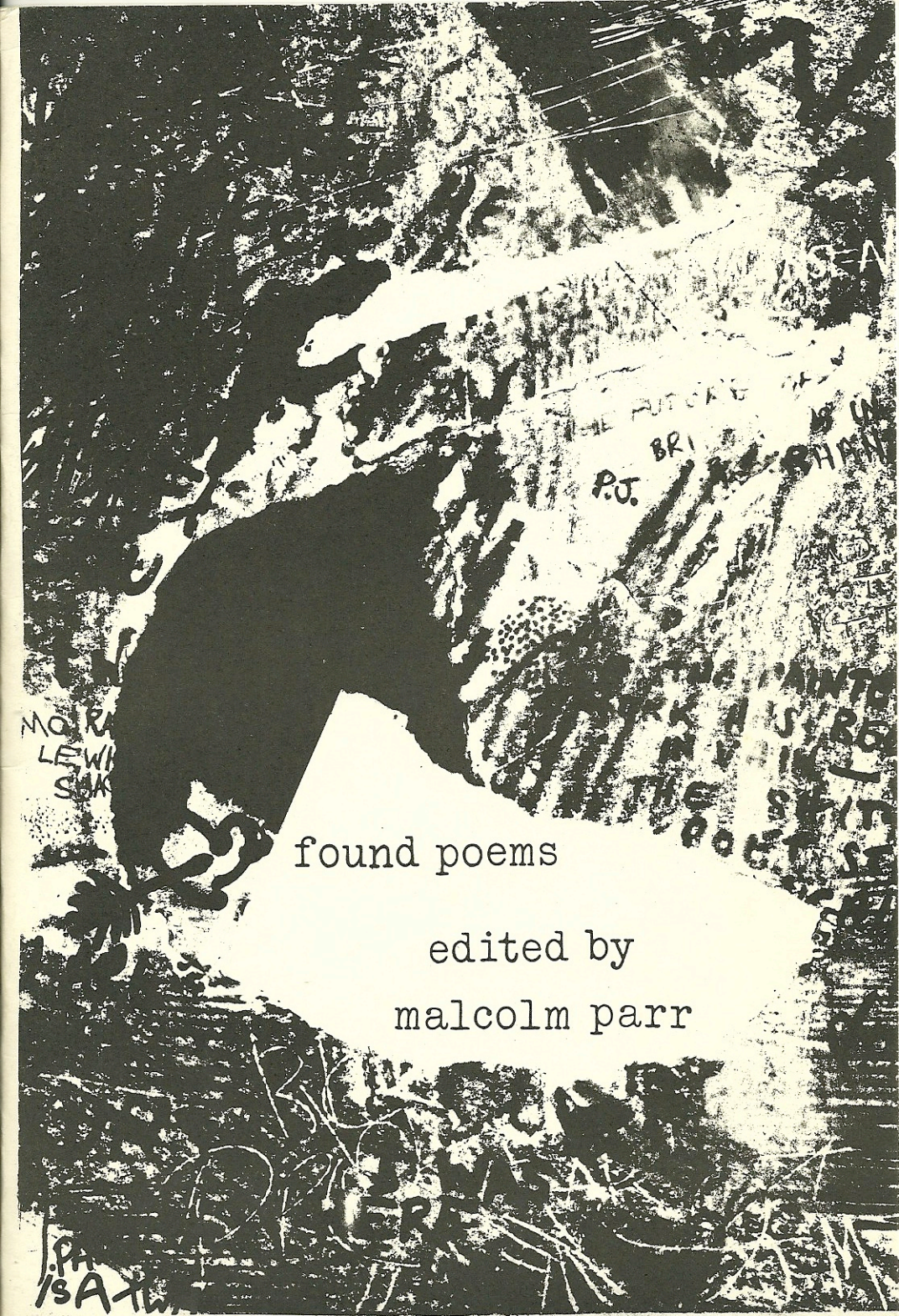


FOUND POEMS

MALCOLM PARR, ED.

Visual Writing
/ubu editions
2012

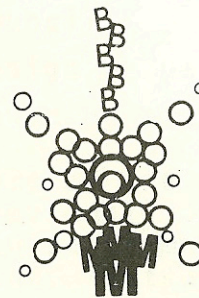


found poems

edited by
malcolm parr

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second aeon publications
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dave briers

the writer of found poems will require the following articles:

1. A hammer will be found most generally useful.
2. Stout and thin paper, and some of a soft kind, for wrapping up specimens.
3. String, sealing wax, and writing paper gummed on one side, for labels to affix to specimens on the spot.
4. A strong pair of gloves, and a pair of eye preservers.
5. A measuring tape, a pocket compass, and drawing materials will be required.
6. Blank memorandum books.

(from a fossil hunters manual)

Introduction

The source material for a found poem can be any piece of writing whatsoever.

After the initial act of selection may follow excision, trimming, re-arrangement or even, to a certain extent, re writing. Or it may be simply a question of selection.

So be it.

malcolm parr

this collection © 1972 second aeon publications
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council

design by peter finch

cover by alan perry

some of the poems in this collection have
previously appeared in the following:
new statesman (weekend competition 1967), second
aeon, tlatloc & konteksts.

philip pacey

three birdsongs

1

So many birds as wryneck quite
quwrrr twirl their rrr's:
and some lisp as the nightingale her s's
in sweet thweet thweet.

2

Oak in garden copse in flower.
song of the willow-wren.
Wickers nest, have you found?
giggling and wickering.

3

The nightingale has two songs.
He says sirrap, sirrap,
and then he says tweet.

(from richard jefferies' notebooks,
april 15 1878, april 15 1882, june 3 1879)

4.

ulli mccarthy

girl waves

i have today
washed my hands
got my hair cut
blown my nose
had a perm
even shaved

she claps her hands
she waves her head
she shrugs her thighs
she shrugs her thighs

girl/
his hair is
his hair is
short or long
curly curly
and so smooth
and thin

i have got up
she is crouching on the ground
slimming

girl waves
her thighs
at the sun

(from punjabi manual & grammar.
a guide to the colloquial
panjabi of the northern panjab)

5.



meic stephens

crossed lines

I'm so sorry to trouble you / Mr Rahamunstaka
 this is the Lamb speaking
 next time you see my brother-in-law/ tell him
 from me
 there's a fella with a terrier in Pontcanna
 our man says go ahead but you know how it is
 this weather's giving us all the willies
 we got to deliver to the door/ by next week
 Shirley will do and so will Nicola
 make sure she's flanged before starting
 no don't bother Idwal he's on nights this week
 you can always find one in Tongwynlais
 when you come to the hard bit we'll all clap
 the chairman's on our side/ remember
 talk to her nice and she'll be okay
 got to go now/ Arthur just woke up
 listen/ is that you breathing

(actual phone conversations october/december
 1970)

derek lowe

surrealist art

The Garden of Earthly Delights

The Rape of Amymone

The Apotheosis of Semele

The Market Gardener

The Cook

The Nightmare

Is there no one to untie us?

(from surrealist art by
sarane alexandrian, published
by thames & hudson, 1970)

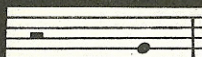
paul brown

tapestry

Ignorance;
blind old woman
Shaping the Formless;
potter making pots
Self-Awareness;
monkey
Distinction Between Self And Non-Self;
boatman and ferry
Sense Perception And Understanding
empty house
Contact;
embrassing couple
Feeling (Pain);
arrow piercing mans eye
Desire For Worldly Enjoyment;
drinking wine
Indulgence;
eating fruit
Continuity of Existence;
woman in bed
Birth;
woman in childbirth
Death;
man carrying bundle containing a corpse

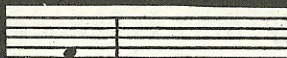
(from a buddhist tapestry, horniman museum,
london)

1 olive,
2 children
3 men.



to
and
and
and
both

aloud, loud, loud!
aloud, loud, loud!
is good!



you know my
you know it. O

Into
And

All
All
All

dom
sylvestre
houedard

adrian henri

NOTE

sealed in freshness
do not open until ready to use

INSTRUCTIONS

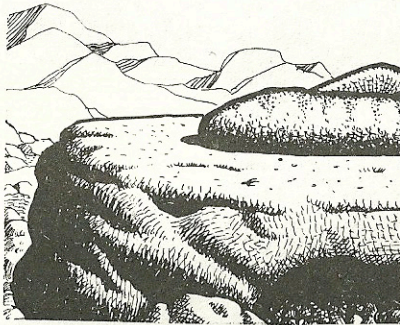
slide casing over stuffing horn
keep casing dry while stuffing
stuff to recommended size

(both items from various boxes
and packaging)

nick zurbrugg

cool water trouve

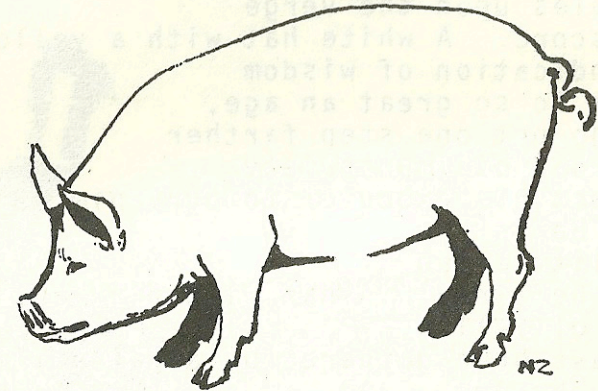
Then he spied a bottle of water
somehow it was very cool.



(from the plain truth)

found proverb

**feed your pig
and forget it!**



you learn something new every day

UN FAIT PAR JOUR
Illusion

(both from newspapers)

edwin morgan

my uncle

He trembles upon the verge
of fourscore. A white hat with a yellow lining.
is no indication of wisdom
suitable to so great an age.
He can go but one step farther
in the road of impropriety
and direct his executor to bury him
in it. He is
a very little man
and had he lined his hat with pink
instead of yellow,
might have been gathered by a natural mistake
for a mushroom
and sent off in a basket.

(from cowper's letters)

bob leighton



getaway twa

(from an advertizment)

yn o'l a blaen
i fyny ac i lawr
- digon o amser !

translation:

back & fore
up & down
- plenty of time!

haiku

(from a phrase book)

alan perry

matins and evensong

I is to me as they is
to I is to we as she is
to her is to him as she is
to I is to he as we is to
them is to us as they is to I...

overlord

I have drunk a drunken brawl
I have melted molten lead
I have rotted rotten beams
I have swelled a swollen limb
I have sheared a shorn lamb
I have shrunk shrunken cheeks

(from an english grammar book)

graham greene

snow is unknown

Seasons in Uruguay
are the opposite of ours.
Their summer is our winter
and vice versa...

It's exceedingly windy
in the spring,
and children go to the beaches
to fly kites.

The climate is bright, dry
and invigorating:

SNOW IS UNKNOWN

(from new horizons world guide
published by pan american airways)

alan riddell

epitaph for a cartoonist

Veni.
Vidi.
Vicky.

conjugal love

amo
amas
amat
amamus
amatis
a mantis

(both from a latin primer)

peter finch

HOW TO ASSEMBLE

Make sure the legs are
the right way round.
The small tongue must
face INWARDS.

The legs are an
intentional tight fit.
A light blow on each
corner will drive them
properly home.

One by one press each
corner of the bottom
behind the tongues on
the legs.

Lift the leg upright

Repeat the process

(from instructions on erection of office
filing baskets)

quasi-haiku

+
hot afternoon
silver-handled daggers
Persian Gulf

+
two opponents
their beards wagging
holding hands like schoolgirls

+
British imperial power
ancient, inimical
staging it well, with immaculate white men

+
pale-faced Syrian
sensuous and biblical
Rebecca herself

(from four guineas, a journey through west
africa by elspeth huxley)

will parfitt

the surface of the sky

WHAT IS LIFE? AN OPERA OR MUSICAL COMEDY

WHAT IS LOVE? SOMETHING INVISIBLE

WHAT DOES EVERY
SCHOOLBOY NEED? SOMETHING RARE

HOW SHOULD ONE
BEHAVE? A PART OF A TRAIN

WHAT DOES HE (SHE)
LOOK LIKE? SOMETHING A FARMER NEEDS

WHAT IS BLACK? AN ADVERTISING SLOGAN

WHAT DO YOU COLLECT? STAR OR CONSTELLATION OF
STARS

WHAT GIVES YOU
PLEASURE? A PUBLIC INSTITUTION

WHAT IS LACKING
WITH MOST PEOPLE? A FRUIT

(a series of sentences found on a set of cards
intended for a child's question & answer game;
the answers seem only too apparent. found in
cornwall september 1969)

malcolm parr

coming of christianity

The temple of Fortune
became a wine-shop
and Love was melted down
to make frying-pans.

(from tls 21st august 1970)

nobody's going to fight about berlin

Sur le green de Gleneagles
M. Harold Macmillan
en casquette et knickerbocker
s'appuyant sur son club
laissait tomber
nonchalamment
ce que le Sunday Pictorial appelait
'une brique'
(expression anglaise signifiant gaffe)

(from le figaro 1961)

malcolm parr

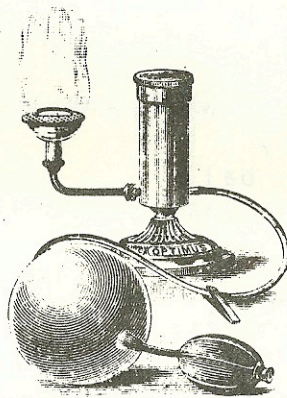
our finest hour

A player
whose stroke is
affected by
the simultaneous explosion
of a bomb
or shell
or by
machine gun fire
may play
another ball
from the same
place.
Penalty
one stroke.

(from supplementary rules issued
by Richmond Golf Club in 1940)

andrew lloyd

"OPTIMUS" DWARF OPERA.



RAPID LANDSCAPE

RACKWORK SOLDIERS' HEADS, changing to Donkeys' heads
SNOWSTORM EFFECT
CURTAIN to roll up, showing Painted Curtain or Drop Scene
DANCING SKELETON SLIDE, with lever motion taking off
Head
LIGHTNING EFFECT
RAINBOW EFFECT
LEVER MOON RISING EFFECT
MAN SWALLOWING RATS, rack mills, etc.
RACK WORK, best painted wave slides

**MOUNTED IN BRASS WITH REVOLVING
DIAPHRAGMS.**

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found poems

edited by malcolm parr

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typewriter poems edited by peter finch
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