



Sharks of Mary Shelley

Jeff Harrison

Argotist Ebooks

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Coconut, Eratio and Reconfigurations.

Sharks of Mary Shelley

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ROGER DODSWORTH: THE REANIMATED ENGLISHMAN

Sawsharks: 5 species
in a single family.

2 long barbels
before the nostrils.

locales: western Pacific
western North Atlantic
southeastern Atlantic
western Indian oceans

*

FRANKENSTEIN

Bramble Sharks
(Echinorhinidae) reach
a length of over 10 feet.
they eat bony fishes, illegible,
smaller sharks, octopuses,
squid, crabs & eggcases of
sharks y chimaeras - tangled
to lambs, to books' mopes

*

THE HEIR OF MONDOLFO

Dogfish Sharks, sunk, watchful,
guilty, und num'rous / when
they want to rise, they're oary then

*

PREFACE TO THE POETICAL WORKS
OF PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

Frilled Sharks look unto eels, with heads
as a snake (Herr Bibliothekarius has remarked
that these may be the "serpents" in "The
Snake Polisher's Shorter Paradise")

among the others ever
this claim may be ascertained personally:

they are the falcons of the gulf stream

*

MATHILDA

Finback Catsharks are similar to true
catsharks (Scyliorhinidae), but reveal
their fictitiousness via their first dorsal fins
positioned in front of the pelvic fins!!

*

A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMAN

Thresher Sharks (order Lamniformes)?
precaudal pits, yes. caudal keels, no.
20 feet long... caudal fins nearly as long
as the body... sunk 1,650 feet beneath
the watery floor... Parnassian... ..

*

THE FORTUNES OF PERKIN WARBECK

Longtailed Carpetsharks frequent contemporary
shipwreck. on land (where mountains turn, event-
ually, pleasant) they'd be more playful, mariners
request, but even thru Herr B's thickest care comes
the recall (gliding blithe as thru reefs) of L.C. indecorous

Roller Coasters of Phillis Wheatley

ON BEING BROUGHT FROM AFRICA TO AMERICA

The Kingda Ka at Six Flags Great Adventure (Jackson, New Jersey) is 464 feet & 3118 feet long, with a drop of 428 feet. a top speed of 128 miles per hour, Kingda Ka's passengers, handfast meadowlarks born for the sake of falling between fingers, are not black-thorn, nor oh awake they are from some indomitable hue

*

GOLIATH OF GATH

The Top Thrill Dragster goes from zero to 120 mph in 4 seconds. at zero mph it's a hand inactive and unwary next to a threat'ning maw -

a wounded, sick, or aging brown bat inches away from an attentive grey-striped cat

*

TO S.M. A YOUNG AFRICAN PAINTER, ON SEEING HIS WORKS FOR THE FIRST TIME

Thunder Dolphin passes thru the middle of a ferris wheel, and, like a poem, is within the horizon of universal apology with

pagoda abruptness; her (T.D.) money all workable, a second-best peep otherwise or, even, mosque

*

A HYMN TO THE MORNING

Steel Dragon 2000 is the tallest coaster to use a traditional chain lift (due to the lift hill's length 2 chains are used) & cost \$50 million, more than a Goya

do you know how Goya died?

mad in a dark wet house
he drew on the walls
every monkey on a tree
was his story

he began losing the brain
misanthrope suddenly
he refugee in his house

*

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GENERAL WASHINGTON

Gravity Pleasure Switchback Railway, built by
LaMarcus Adna Thompson, was the first roller
coaster in the United States (roller coasters
originated in Russia, then made their way to
France, stealing away under cover of darkness)

5 cents a ride

a nickel
could ne'er help unknot any loftier prize

*

ON IMAGINATION

The Russian Mountains opened in 1804.

The Russian Mountains was
the first roller coaster in Paris.

The Russian Mountains would
dump most its carriages as it
carried them to the bottom.

The Russian Mountains slew
many lovely courtesans.

*

NIOBE IN DISTRESS FOR HER CHILDREN
SLAIN BY APOLLO, FROM OVID'S METAMORPHOSIS,
BOOK VI. AND FROM A VIEW OF THE PAINTING
OF MRS. RICHARD WILSON

Millennium Force was the first roller coaster
to utilize a magnetic braking system. like

most roller coasters, it is taller than the statue
of liberty. golden the pace of Millennium Force --

golden the pace of all roller coasters,
silver speaks the water to their eyes

they move as a glass stream - the grass
has burned down & the water gets dry

in love they are with this short planet

sunwards you streams to what sunshine? I'm
fearful that my pace could be thus golden

Wasps of Zane Grey

WILD HORSE MESA

Cuckoo Wasps (aka Gold Wasps, Ruby Wasps, & Jewel Wasps) are parasites (have they 7 flowers?) that lay their eggs in the nests of other insects (they've, Cuckoo Wasps, 7 flowers, would you believe it's about the finish of the Process? see the Crowned King when Flamel had the stone for the Red).

*

RIDERS OF THE PURPLE SAGE

Gall Wasps paralyze plants, causing the plants to form galls that feed & shelter the wasps' larvae.

among the Pitjandjara such a transfer is made.

The first description of a gall wasp's life cycle was published in 1675 by Pope Innocent XII's personal doctor (Marcello Malpighi)

*

THE REDHEAD OUTFIT AND OTHER STORIES

The White-faced Hornet is (attention! implicated again --) about 1.2 inches long & is black w/ white markings on most of its segments & on its face. its grey nest is oft suspended from a tree limb

attention White-faced Hornet Implicated Again, underlying planets are making themselves known and making known injury rubric + mending alignment = nest preserved in part & tree limb preserved entire

*

THIRTY THOUSAND ON THE HOOF

Paper Wasps eat nectar & kill caterpillars
to feed the larvae. plant & wood fibers are
collected & chewed into papier-maché to make
nests under dense vegetation or eaves of buildings

the sound of their assembling is the hooves
of fauns that rattle in a drained fountain

*

RAIDERS OF SPANISH PEAKS

Organ Pipe Wasps make mud nests, resembling
organ pipes. potters follow them to rich clay
deposits. were you to break up their nests,
you'd find plenty of spiders incapacitated to
this world, they don't live for air anymore

Geological Time of Aphra Behn

THE FEIGN'D CURTIZANS

the Quaternary (which is further
divided into Pleistocene epoch
& Holocene epoch) was a period
(the 2nd of the Cenozoic era)

of successive ice ages, flat ice
outside to magnify the malady w/in
so's skies suspect calendar'd dead

those dead, those
seven, were ruined by lightning

lightning,
what of you that stuck around,
suffer my, the 8th?, sickly steps

*

A FARCE CALL'D THE FALSE COUNT

the Tertiary is termed the age of
mammals. flowering plants, grasslands,
& - deciduous trees widespread - &
aloud softly with harvest & remorse:
a proverb a day for their pains. tears
misted them on, onward, in general bowed.
ask never the day again, the Tertiary, oh

*

ORONOKO: OR, THE ROYAL SLAVE

Cretaceous: thunderous lizards ruled
the land, the skies, the seas;

thus, obedience. thus, writing
rescues theory, the skies, seas,

insects, crocodiles,
& tortoises
continued to evolve

*

POEMS UPON SEVERAL OCCASIONS

Jurassic with brambles anew, birds
first appeared. dominant: cycads,
conifers. more than a fair share
of ammonites, brachiopods, bivalves.

thus let the crown hold; pierced
is every fetter with Virginia's limbs

*

THE YOUNG KING: OR, THE MISTAKE

the Triassic is termed "Portrait:
Headless, with Mirror" when, as
in night, mammals & giant marine
reptiles are bent to black & grey,

hideous, forlorn.

*

THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON

1223 1443 5226
5446 7889 7449

108811 10121211
138814 13121214

15161617 15121217
18161619 18202019

{Palaeozoic} 21161622
{crimson,} {that channel}

*

THE CITY HEIRESS

quoth the Ordovician
("age of graptolites"

is analogue of "tempting")
period "Am Dust", was Foil'd, Was it

Go Down, Star (Ordovician; far), the day's
Up, Closer Sun: this lyric, graptolite else,
is another Good Samaritan of the Dawns

Poisons of Felicia Hemans

CASABIANCA

the fatal dose of arsenic
is 200 milligrams. It was
Albertus Magnus, waistcoat
unbuttoned, mouth gorged
with bread, who isolated
this element (1250).

yet another show
to strike earthly love,
it's found in fish &
crustaceans, in ores,
coal, & soil. it is toxic
by copying creature light

*

TALES, AND HISTORIC SCENES

Strychnine: the deathly qualities
of Nux vomica, a berry, was known
to the Arabs as early as the 5th century.

Strychnos nux vomica
undid Alexander the Great,
among others. like any labyrinth,
Strychnine, no cup of rain,
mangles its corners, & like a labyrinth's
beast, mangles its comers

*

THE VESPERS OF PALERMO

I.

Hemlock
doesn't affect
larks & quails

II.

Socrates,
will pity
ever summit triumph?

*

THE GRAVES OF A HOUSEHOLD

Cyanide is found in laurel leaves.

Livia Drusilla soaked
the figs of Augustus
(hitherto dusty, &
ordinary, hitherto)
in this poison.

Augustus,
is it true the spaces
disbursed between breaths
weigh memory as worthy this
unworthy this retention
for relocation's keeping?

*

A MONARCH'S DEATH-BED

Aconite, hailing from saliva hailing
from Cerberus, is hailed as Queen
of Poisons. also hailed as wolfsbane,
leopardsbane, devil's helmet, &
blue rocket. walking along that portico
to the double doors of wolfsbane, you
may see the green column
is "parch", the red column
is "flay", the blue column
is "deafness", the yellow column
is "convulse", the white column
is "the 1000th-most head of Cerberus"

Ducks of Cotton Mather

THE WONDERS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD

the Laysan Teal has
a dark head & neck,
fourteen plumes (&
seven are of gold),
a white ring around
the eye, a blurred blue
ring around the bill,

the same

blurred blue ring around
Cotton's incapable sleep

thievish is the Laysan Teal,
&, as such, surreptitious

seven of the plumes: hopeless
(the same that are of gold)

the Laysan Teal resembles
the female Mallard, but
more reddish-brown

*

BRONTOLOGIA SACRA

the female Mallard is
mottled
buffy-brown in color
a pale eye-brow
a dark stripe through the eye

she peruses darkness
her raptures are unprinted
(raptures imperfectly corrupted)

the male Mallard has
a metallic-green head
& neck separated from
a purplish-brown breast

by a white ring

the same

white ring around
the Laysan Teal's eye

their bodies generally go
unburied, male & female

*

HUMILIATIONS FOLLOW'D WITH DELIVERANCES

the Harlequin Duck (*Histrionicus histrionicus*)
is the sole representative of its genus. it's
marked like a harlequin & is also known as
the Rock Duck, the Mountain Duck, the Squealer,
& Lord and Lady. a mountain duck that frequents
swiftly running streams. hunters often hang rhymes
on their wings. always there's a line about rain-haunted
skies. "Come, barren Graces", while improbable, is
a traditional beginning to these rhymes.

*

NARRATIVES OF THE INDIAN WARS

the Ruddy (Spine-tailed, Heavy-tailed,
Quill-tail, Stiff-tail, Bristle-tail, Sleepy,
Fool, Deaf, Shot-pouch, Daub, Stubble,
Twist, Blather, Scoot, Hickory-head,
Paddy, Noddy, Dinky, Hard-tack) Duck is
equally fond of salt, brackish, & fresh water.
its flight is rapid, with a whirring sound,
occasioned by its wings' concave form.
they ease to whatever the dawn requires.

*

A VOICE FROM HEAVEN

tho web-footed, Mandarin Ducks
have the power of perching.

branches of trees overhanging ponds.

the tunefulness of iron clasps.

the Chinese, who use these ducks
in marriage ceremonies, are loathe
to part with them to visitors.

Herr Bibliothekarius, in April 1836, wrote
William Wormswort, "I could more easily
send you two live Mandarins
than a pair of Mandarin. Ducks."

they are the only ducks that prefer captivity,
"longing," in Herr B's words, "at the chains' clarion"

Comets of Edward Albee

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Comet Hyakutake was spotted by
Yuji Hyakutake (January 30, 1996).
its closest approach was 9.3 million
miles away. it wished to kiss the rust
off of Yuji's nose. but that nose, Comet
Hyakutake, is a scoundrel, outliving 1000s
of fires. crackle, sniff. their warmth was pale!

*

THE DEATH OF BESSIE SMITH

Comet Halley is from one of the cities
that ape the Earth's knowledge.

Gamaliel & Yehoshua were on a boat;
the former had prepared bread for food
the latter had prepared bread & flour for food

when Gamaliel's bread was consumed by him
he relied on Yehoshua's flour. to the question
of Gamaliel, were you aware of a delay
in the journey, that you took much food,
Yehoshua replied, there's a star once a 70 year
that makes the captains of ships err.

said Gamaliel, you possess so much wisdom & still
you're compelled to go on a ship to make your living.

*

THE AMERICAN DREAM

Comet Wild 2 is known as The Six-Year Worm
due to the number of years between sightings.

Comet Wild 2 is to the eye as a cat is to a grape.

Comet Wild 2 is a cruel take on a cat, on a grape;
Comet Wild 2 is a conte cruel to the literary eye.

*

BOX / QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO TSE-TUNG

before 1840 Comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko had an orbit that kept it far from our Sun (a cow during her milk).

In 1840 Comet C-G neared Jupiter, whose gravity moved Comet C-G closer to our Sun (a cow during her milk).

a close approach near Jupiter in 1959 moved Comet C-G even closer to our Sun (a cow during her milk). since

Comet Churyumov-Gerasimenko was distant from our Sun, a cow during her milk, until recent times, it hasn't

melted a lot: Comet C-G's looks are more anciently, maybe. what did our Sun (cow, milk) look like when she was young?

*

TINY ALICE

Comet Linear
September 27, 1999
Threatening the World
with Famine, Plague, & War:

To Princes, Death
To Kingdoms, many Crosses
To Woods, Cold the First things
To all Estates, inevitable Losses
To Aromas, a Surcease of gentleness
To Herdsmen, Rot
To Burning mysteries, the Coolest guess
To Plowmen, hapless Seasons
To Mathematicians, Arrayed letters
To Sailors, Storms
To Years, An hour Each Minute
To Cities, Civil Treasons

*

THE ZOO STORY

Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9
was snared by gravity &
plunged into Jupiter's atmosphere.
some of the debris had diameters
larger than that of the planet Earth.

guestless today
the path of Shoemaker-Levy 9

Seven Wonders of Max Beerbohm

THE PERVASION OF ROUGE

the Great Pyramid of Giza precedes
the maples, the oaks, some hold.
located at the necropolis of Memphis.
at the point of the Pyramid is the regard
of 42 centuries. heaviest shroud on earth.

*

GROUPS OF MYRMIDONS

overlook the full surroundings
& sink into Scheherazade's satchel
bubble up carefully & come forward
bare-handed as the brow of Amyitis

now each off-hand phrase
has at least some warmth
intermediate enough,
Nebuchadnezzar enough

yes! yes! send me any flounce
from any scene! the trifles open naturally,
now even the sharpest use
Observatory telescopes to see 'em,

though they still come to us stooped
& obsequious, bubbled up to come forward
THIRST - my first vicinity was a tolerably warm
boot upon a road lately removed, a cynical hold upon

the lurking tearfuls... N E B U C H A D N E Z Z A R
finding prey with his forefinger, just another snake shifting &
craning to come forward out from the full surroundings, this
perseverance is a centaur hueless beside remains of fair weather

anchor to swim blood-dyed in intonation, blood to vindicate a
dog short of hands, some day I'll lay a pair of gloves on her brow
until then, the whole story is vigorous as ever... the story is
the Hanging Gardens of Babylon (never existed outside fiction)

*

ZULEIKA DOBSON

his right hand alofts Victory ivory & gold
his left hand alofts, by sceptre, an eagle:
the statue of Zeus at Olympia, who Caligula
wished to carry to Rome. empty, this dawn,
the hands of Zeus, the hands of Caligula.

*

WHISTLER'S WRITING

"when I saw the sacred house of Artemis
that towers to the clouds, the other Wonders
were placed in its shade; the Sun has never
looked upon its equal outside Olympus."

- Antipater de Sidon

St. John Chrysostom tore down
the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.
the day still has her robins. Ephesus
too had its robins before & behind
Herostratus. Chrysostom's demise
likewise robbed no nests.

*

NO. 2 THE PINES

the monument at Halicarnassus was built
for King Mausolus by order of Artemisia,
his queen, who drank his ashes to become
Artemisia A Breathing Mausoleum. funerary
notions are red in the ear as green's in grass.

*

A CLOUD OF PINAFORES

the Colossus of Rhodes was 56 years whole.
an earthquake left it strewn a millennium, then
900 camels transported this Helios statue to Syria.

incompletion, that faithful zero,

sometimes waits long past your finishing touch.

*

ENOCH SOAMES

an earthquake also ruined the Alexandria lighthouse.
until then, it was a gathering-hall for spectres, 45 in
number, who, bold & bright as they were in their
ghostly prime, wouldn't, in the opinion of many,
make a sound if they all flew off at once, which
they did (depart), which they didn't (divulge)

Henry Green of U.S. Civil War Battles

CHICKAMAUGA

O, the jollity
pleasures mask!
the jollity masked,
also with a dustjacket
of "Pack My Bag"

*

GETTYSBURG

the waters of Nanterre
(translation of two passages
from Madame de Créquy's
Souvenirs), yes, but there's
turf 'neath your tent,
same as any camper

*

MURFREESBORO

"Caught" (1943) was designed
to put a lantern in your face -
ah, your face was already day!

*

why abhor surprise
when it's the sole chimera
Fate provides us?

~

is not forgetfulness a surprise?
could not oblivion be the pounce
on that monolithic exposed nerve?

~

all surprises should be filthy with dust

*

CHANCELLORSVILLE

falling stars never look for me,
though "Arcady or A Night Out"
would have them do so

*

VICKSBURG

before "Concluding" was
Nature's palmist, this 1948
novel was artifice's psalmist

*

BAYOU FORCHE

...besides, "Mr Jonas",
I silent away among names

Hummingbirds of Louisa May Alcott

ARIEL. THE LEGEND OF A LIGHTHOUSE

Calothorax lucifer, the Lucifer hummingbird, is 3.25 inches long, with a thin decurved bill & a white spot behind each eye. they excell in nothing, hence their name, as they cannot bear to chance a reward in words.

*

LITTLE WOMEN

the Calliope hummingbird prefers slothful mountains, & has been seen as high as 11,000 feet. miniscule green feathers cover a barbarous hide. it builds its nests over creeks, or over roads next to streams - to lakes. such waters cover barbarous hides. to write at length on feathers requires mention of birds, streams, lakes, bark, leaves, grass, hair, speech, financial transactions & a fl. fl.uttering & a fl. fl.apping

*

V.V.; OR, PLOTS AND COUNTERPLOTS

the Rufous hummingbird, having an ideal size to weight ratio, outflies all other hummingbirds. has the longest migration route of any U.S. hummingbird. "wanderings shall soften me," frets many a Rufous.

*

UNDER THE LILACS

the male
White-eared
hummingbird
has a purple crown

the female
White-eared
hummingbird
has a green crown

were there
a Green-eared
hummingbird
with a white crown,

she'd see the limits
of a Purple-eared
hummingbird
with a white crown

(were there)
as lace, as
a lace-edged
handkerchief

*

LITTLE MEN

the Wedge-tailed Sabrewing hummingbird
has a daylight-fine shade, she's a ribbon the
air surveys. such liberty! liberty, to exchange
unanxious play! despite humming wings.

*

SILVER PITCHERS, AND INDEPENDENCE

Reddish Hermit hummingbirds "Sarah!" have
a fondness "Sarah!" for Heliconia "Sarah!" plants.
iridescence "Sarah!" in the Reddish Hermit
is "Sarah!" rare & is limited "Sarah!" to the throat
or crown "Sarah!". they overstep the shade.

*

THREE PROVERB STORIES

the Bearded Mountaineer hummingbird
is subtler & more heartless than other
hummingbirds who

(ascend, arose, accord - "we accord,"
the Night Wit answered)

tell futures
by which wind the pines wear. most
resemblant to shepherds standing in snow.

Seahorses of M.R. James

CANON ALBERIC'S SCRAPBOOK

a Knysna seahorse, sudden & solitary

*

A NEIGHBOUR'S LANDMARK

the Réunion seahorse has no need for a name

*

A WARNING TO THE CURIOUS

the wafer-thin conjectures
of the Giraffe seahorse
know where they're going

*

AN EVENING'S ENTERTAINMENT

I'll sear your name with candles upon walls,
Atlantic Lined seahorse!

*

MR HUMPHREY AND HIS INHERITANCE

what's this? a sample of a Bullneck
seahorse's own flesh left to flower?

*

THE RESIDENCE AT WHITMINSTER

and where lives the Hedgehog seahorse,
queries Jeff Herisson, rhetorically.
a sea out in space some rumor's said to coat,
replies Jeff Herisson.

*

TWO DOCTORS

these chariots
you must behold, Threespot.
the Threespot seahorse is obliged
to face the lion-drawn audience

*

THE TRACTATE MIDDOTH

and you too must behold, Lichtenstein's seahorse,
there are thirty-two letters in the line below
and twelve syllables in the line above

*

THE WANDERINGS AND HOMES OF MANUSCRIPTS

submarinely, the Tiger tail seahorse
is the lamp of faraway overnights

Firearms of Matthew Arnold

A FRENCH CRITIC ON MILTON

she-she tomb

the Arquebus is fired by a matchlock mechanism
(a burning slow match in a clamp at the end of
a small curved lever - the serpentine. upon pulling
a 2nd lever - the trigger - the clamp lowers the match
onto the flash pan & ignites the priming powder)

she-she tomb

*

DOVER BEACH

Flintlock:

the / general term
for any firearm based / on

the flintlock mechanism

the flintlock mechanism

produces sparks
when a piece of flint
held in a spring-loaded hammer
strikes the frizzen, sending
the frizzen forward to uncover
a pan of gunpowder 'neath
the frizzen. the resulting spark
ignites the pan powder & this flame
leaps through a hole to ignite
the main powder charge inside
the barrel. thine, what devils.

*

MEROPE, A TRAGEDY

for each shot of a Pump Action Shotgun
the shooter cycles the handguard back & forward
(tho in some guns, such as the Russian RMB-93 or
the South African Neostead, it's forward then back).

this movement removes the used shell, cocks the action,
& chambers the new shell. the second shell storms
not into complaint, but is a song along for the Spring
*

ON TRANSLATING HOMER

most of the world's recent Assault Rifles
are designed in bull-pup configuration.
this means if a trigger is as a word, & that word
is as dew, & if dew's as a word then a paragraph, as
a gun if a trigger is as a word, is rain; this means
the buttplate is attached to the receiver & handle
w/ the trigger placed ahead of the magazine veil.

*

CULTURE AND ANARCHY

a Semi-Automatic Pistol
uses part of the energy
produced by burning
cartridge powder to
remove the used cartridge
from the chamber,
cock the hammer
(or striker), & load
a new cartridge,
which is usually
fed from a box
magazine located
in the Pistol's handle,
into the chamber, thus
a cut flower is laid
upon soft living grass

Stringed Instruments of Sheila Kaye-Smith

ROSE DEEPROSE

the Pipa is
a four-stringed lute
with 30 frets &
a pear-shaped body.

the instrumentalist
holds the Pipa upright
& plays with plectra on
each right-hand finger

to heal doom with details.

*

THE END OF THE HOUSE OF ALARD

the Aeolian Harp is typically a wooden box
with strings stretched lengthwise across
two bridges. it is played by the wind: the
play of the wind on a string forces the air
on the leading side to move faster than
the trailing side's air; then the pressure ahead
is slightly less than that behind, pushing
the string further to the side, until
the restoring force arising from deflection
halts & reverses the motion, a dodge, like
weltschmerz pursued by the weltschmerzounds,
breathless, panting, ready to drop, yet flying still
onwards (still flying onwards were perhaps better).

*

SHEPHERDS IN SACKCLOTH

the Violin: a bowed string instrument
with four strings tuned in perfect fifths.
built by Andrea Amati in 16th century
by order of the Medici family. the Medicis:
plenty who swear by wishes to their wishes,
that they may sleep off their curse if they lie.
who else were these strings meant for, but those

whose mouths would prove thought by mentions?

*

THE LARDNERS AND THE LAURELWOODS

the name "Guitarra" was introduced into Spanish
when Guitars were brought into Iberia by the Moors
after the 10th century. Guitars, yourselves an example
of Apollo's tangled donkey ears; please, Guitars, you
unbudded hearts soon blooded, haven't I more crimson?

*

JOANNA GODDEN

the Clavichord's strings run
transversely from the hitchpin rail
at the left-hand end to tuning pegs
on the right. towards the right end
they pass over a curved wooden bridge.
the keys are levers with a small brass
tangent at the far end. the strings,
of brass, or brass & iron, are arranged
in pairs. when the key is pressed,
the tangent hits the strings above,
as mountains resolve height with woods.

Knots of Hilda Doolittle

HERMETIC DEFINITION

to tie a Bowline Knot

Bowline is tied to:
swift thru dolorous lessers

form an eye

eye is tied to:
ships (schooners) affrighted

with the standing part
of the rope running underneath.

run the free end thru the
dolorous lessers swiftly, then
thru the eye (wide, affrighted
by schooners), making a loop
below said eye. take a turn
around
the standing part & feed
the free end back down
the eye & hold there.

pull standing part to tighten knot.

*

HIPPOLYTUS TEMPORIZES

the Double Fisherman's Knot
is made by looping a rope
into a figure-8 in order to tie
two ropes together. since beyond
rope, as in breath, is almost certainly
tyranny, it is recommended the
ropes be secured by their ends.
endless amounts of rope is desired.
practical is to tie two ropes into a loop.
the Double Fisherman will make another
knot secure when tied with the tag end
of the rope behind another knot, in other
words, when half of the Double Fisherman

is tied around the standing line of another knot.

*

HELEN IN EGYPT

to make a Clove Hitch, make a turn
around a post with the free end
running underneath the standing part,
not exactly artistically. was Virginia's idea.
take a second around in the same
direction and feed the free end thru
the eye of the second turn /. pull tight.

It was Virginia's idea to make a Clove Hitch, but Neaera was ready to fall
in with it. It was to be done thoroughly and lastingly but not exactly
artistically. Virginia and Neaera were war widows and had made a solemn
compact to remain widows forever. Ianthe had confessed... As for Appius, he
tied very few knots and very few people asked him to tie anything. O, he
felt to the full the lure of treading WHERE NO HUMAN FOOT HAD EVER TROD.
Ianthe had thrown her wedding-ring at him and flown out of the house. How
Virginia and Neaera would show him they were widows indeed!

easy to tie and untie, it holds firmly but is not totally secure.

*

THE HEDGEHOG

beware! the Square Knot will untie
itself under movement. do not trust
the Square Knot to join two ropes
together. the Square Knot will capsize
under a heavy load. when tying the Square
Knot, both parts of the rope must exit
together. whence the untrustworthiness
and trickiness of the Square Knot? gather
around: but no, I will breathe not a word,
not until the Double Fisherman runs out of
rope.

these are the words he was at last compelled to write.

*

HYMEN

to tie an Anchor Bend Knot,
make two turns around
the shackle, leaving turns
open. knots may evade us,
as our own features are
less familiar to us, to our.
take a half-turn around
the standing line and
feed the free end thru
the turns and pull tight.

the Anchor Bend Knot was a ruin awash in wilderness when I found it.

Cave Paintings of Cordwainer Smith

ALPHA RALPHA BOULEVARD

in 1879, the first Cave with Stone Age paintings was discovered at Altamira in northern Spain. they were declared to be fakes. today, the Cave is no longer open to the general public, who are declared to be fakes. name incoming:

*

THE DEAD LADY OF CLOWN TOWN

the Chauvet Cave, Ardèche valley, December 1994. on the floor reposes skulls of an ibex and two wolves, also bones of bears. the first part of the Cave has red images on the wall, the second, black. the dominant animals throughout the Cave are lions, mammoths, & rhinoceroses. red handprints. these pictures are constantly getting in one another's way. not invisible, but material. as a matter of fact, I believe they're much afraid of us. I quite agree with you, and they shall lose visibility when the time comes. I feel sorry for you, said a lioness; I am always sorry for strangers whom Fate misguides into the Chauvet-Pont-d'Arc Cave.

*

A PLANET NAMED SHAYOL

the Lascaux Cave has more than 1500 animal pictures, but the Lascaux Cave is incapable of re-arranging even one of these pictures, tho the sky may drop a star, may shift a cloud. thus, the mineral is distinct from the animal.

*

THINK BLUE, COUNT TWO

the paintings at Bédeilhac in the Pyrenees vanished completely within six months of the Cave's discovery. please, please come here on the land,

I had begged, knowing caves are
rickety as roofs. there are further
sights beneath the earth: rocks
and stones and trees are clouds of
yellow dust rolling behind the wagon.

*

THE COLONEL CAME BACK FROM NOTHING AT ALL

the Cave of Niaux is in a limestone deposit
at the entrance to a valley created by the Ariège river.
Niaux Cave! the clay is your moon, roots your sunshine.

Fencing Techniques of Daphne du Maurier

THE SCAPEGOAT

in the Contre Carte Parry, your point is on the left of your opponent's blade & pointed toward his/her flank. your defensive movement begins with the point moving directly forward shortly after the start of the opponent's thrust, but your point then moves in a tight counterclockwise semi-circle around opponent's blade. the object is to use just enough semicircular movement to get around opponent's blade during opponent's disengagement, which should mimic the tableau of atop the hayrack catching the hay you fork into the air. this Parry, the Contre Carte, aka Sitting Up With The Patient, is executed with minimal arm movement & a slight elbow bend.

*

REBECCA

the straight thrust is the simplest movement, & one of the hardest attacks to land successfully. it is a direct lunge in the opponent's unprotected line, but the attacker must cover a great distance without any feinting action. the opponent has only to make a cursory parry to avoid the thrust: the foil sits in the chair the air left empty.

*

THE INFERNAL WORLD OF BRANWELL BRONTE

in a One-Two Feint, the hand itself remains in place, stock-still straying not to nigh,

no lateral movement or dropping of the hand on the first feint. the direction is

a) forward; b) vertical - a feint above the hand & a hit below or vice-versa

*

THE BIRDS

the Ballestra increases velocity during attack.
jump while pushing off from your rear leg
(as the first foot begins its step, the rear leg
propels you forward). both feet land simultaneously,
with rear foot landing flat while ball of front foot
strikes the floor. lunge before weight settles.

the front foot is a field of foxes,
the rear foot the towered hounds.

*

MISS HILL AND THE SOLDIERS

what is reading aloud? the recovery back
to en guard... the recovery of speech
by reading writing aloud maybe... is
performed by pushing back with the front
leg while pulling back with the rear knee.
the forward recovery to en guard is done
by a lean forward & up to guard stance,
with the rear foot moving into position last.

an object flying, as a foil flies,
leaves no mark when unresisted,
were it to fly a thousand years.
walking leaves a furrow eventually.

Jeff Harrison has publications from Writers Forum, MAG Press, Persistencia Press and Furniture Press. He has two e-books at xPress(ed), and one at Blazevox. His poetry has appeared in *An Introduction to the Prose Poem* (Firewheel Editions), *The Hay(na)ku Anthology Vol. II* (Meritage Press), *Poets' Corner*, *EOAGH*, *The Argotist Online*, *Coconut*, *Eratio*, *Sentence: a Journal of Prose Poetics*, *Otoliths*, *Xerography*, *Moria*, *NOON: Journal of the Short Poem*, *Dusie*, *MiPOesias*, *Big Bridge*, *Reconfigurations* and elsewhere.