

some
geographies

Mark Young

Argotist Ebooks

Cover image: *Djibouti*

Copyright © 2010 by Mark Young
All rights reserved
Argotist Ebooks

Some of these poems have previously appeared in

*Home & Away Digital Bridge (nzepc), Marsh Hawk Review, Otoliths, P.F.S. Post, Peaches & Bats,
& Wheelhouse*

some
geographies

Geographies

Mt Hayachine	7
La Brea Tar Pits	7
Mumbai	8
Windhoek	8
Memphis	9
Óbidos	10
San Diego	10
The Missouri River Floodplain	10
São Paolo	11
Silver Valley, Idaho	11
Tripoli	12
Kandahar	13
Key Largo	14
The Horn of Africa	14
Tierra del Fuego	15
Lombardy	15
The Taklamakan Desert	16
L'Arc de Triomphe	16
Madison Square Garden	17
The Netherlands Antilles	17
Khartoum	18
The Bosphorus	19
Oaxaca	19
Martha's Vineyard	20
Cedar Point Amusement Park	21
Catalonia	21
Ithaca	22
The Isthmus of Panama	22
Black Rock Desert	23
Padua	24
Exeter	24
TriBeCa	25
Chokoloskie	25
Bali	26
Washington, D.C.	26
Le Havre	27
Peshawar	28
Cusco	28
Saxony	29
Beijing	30
Sebastapol	31
The Dickens House Museum	31
Reykjavik	32
Upper Ulam	32
The Twin Cities	33
Mombasa	34
Hampstead Heath	35
The Pompidou Center	35
Waitakere City	36
Kobe	37
The Lower Burdekin	38
Bangkok	38
Chicago	39
Oodnadatta	39
Port Harcourt	40
Milos	41

Mt Hayachine

My anime shrine
comes with an
airtight plastic lid
capable of with-
standing extreme
fluctuations in
temperature. I didn't
have to kill any-
thing to make it.

La Brea Tar Pits

Left the cult, gave
up a mimetic
tradition based
on images of
polar regions. Re-
placed it with
prosaic descriptions
of downtown Los
Angeles & its
surrounding
neighborhoods
to function as
surrogates for his
motherhood dreams.

Mumbai

Apart from a brief moment in the '60s when giant ears of GE corn marched in picket lines to further enhance the status of the Nevada Desert Mermaids synchronized swimming community, the valorization of the middle-class home has always needed filtering or modification of incoming stimuli to fit the existing paradigm. There are no final answers in science.

Windhoek

The suffering of widows has intensified in today's fragile dance music market. The FBI asserts it has played no part; at the same time saying it still cannot release 40-year-old files relating to the Nixon administration's harassment of John Lennon. The fruit trees have been neglected, the guinea fowl are starving. A two-minute siren sounds across the country. *Corazón de mi vida*. The page you are trying to access has been deleted.

Memphis

If the voice of
your custom-made
talking Teddy Bear
strikes you as a
bit too cold &
impersonal to send to
deployed military or
distant families, then
perhaps a portable GPS
navigation unit pre-
loaded with over
a dozen songs will be
more to your liking,

especially when, for
only a further \$5.95,
you can also get
a genuine 14th Century
illuminated manuscript
done by Irish monks
that offers indispensable
information about blues
birthplaces, juke joints
& the devil's crossroads
of the Mississippi Delta.

Óbidos

Badgers &
English pianos are
both national treasures
but neither survives
the ravages of
an Amazon winter.

San Diego

Comic-Con is less
than two months
away & NASA
has despatched
seven astronauts.

I have
two spare rooms.

Most, but not all,
legumes fix nitrogen.

The Missouri River Floodplain

The outbound envelope
serves as an effective
billboard. Mystery uses
magic tricks a lot. A
certain condor remains
especially in my memory.

São Paulo

The coronal approach is made behind the hairline. Tension lines lie mediolateral from ear to ear. All the incisions are placed on fine cracks, usually running lengthwise along the skull. There are no natural landmarks.

Silver Valley, Idaho

The world of vectors is a great place. North Pitney has built a human-sized maze that changes as you walk through it & can be scaled to any size without loss of resolution. Then go down Mac Thi Bui & cross Nguyen Hue towards the trendy Ton That Thiep. A ton of trendy papers to choose from, rhythm instruments at the guaranteed lowest price, energy scattered elastically into modes. The sets are finite, soft errors are detected, but everything is oh so sassy!

Tripoli



Kandahar

The focus of the
failing strategy
in Afghanistan

has changed in
recent decades
from a patho-

genic underpin-
ning of a piece
of fruit— which,

put simply, is
just an entity
containing seeds—

to the use of a
super-size cup-
cake as an object

for semiotic
deconstruction.

Key Largo

Watermelon. Jack
grabbed a slice
& refused to pay
for it. Jewelry from
the dead prostitute—
a diamond ring, an
ormolu bracelet set
with small green
stones—was found
in his pockets.

The Horn of Africa

Given the complex &
shifting meanings
of the term, it's pretty
momentous to have
three of our assets
in the air at the same
time. Initially, all we
offered was rustic bread.

Tierra del Fuego

The black hats draw on the testimony of French combatants in order to place the object in a logical relationship to the rest of the sentence. Mick Jagger is no exception even though he appears as an absent image— all dharmas are ultimately empty of any distinction that would separate one dharma from another. China looms large, offering free audio pronunciation of consumer-generated product reviews. There are no rail-ways. The beavers must die.

Lombardy

It was the spatial frequencies at the Fourier transform plane

& the presence of defense attorneys dressed in their best

suits that finally brought him to belief in the Big Bang theory

of the creation of the universe.

The Taklamakan Desert

A fairly small
event in terms of
plate tectonics;
but the hard drive
ends up stripped
of all encrypted
data. Tabula rasa.

L'Arc de Triomphe

Storm surge, river-
boat casinos, the
biggest fertiliser plant
in the world, why
anyone would waste
over a pound of
premo in a giant joint
are some of the nettle-
some paradoxes of
democratic politics.

Madison Square Garden

The impact of critical
values on the practice of
medicine makes the voice
sound hollow. Or maybe
it's because dengue fever
is running through the
town. We can no longer
guarantee that the moon
will be on display on the
day of your visit; but our
expertise in manipulating
distance cues allows us to
induce an illusion that it is.

The Netherlands Antilles

Once were a plethora
of megaliths &
great stone structures;
but the tourists' pre-
conceptions are
satisfied by accounts
of critical residues
& the annotated
graphic reconstructions
that accompany them
in the guidebooks. That,
& the local steel bands
which obligingly perform
requests for 1930's
Berlin beerhall tunes.

Khartoum



The Bosphorus

Float fishing with a live shrimp is always a great method for catching trout. Military programs move into middle schools to fish for future soldiers. De Niro does a competent job recognizing the cult of poverty; but wouldn't you like to enter firefights with confidence, knowing that your fire team follows the Marine Corps doctrine of "Ready-Team-Fire-Assist"? You have 4 play credits left!

Oaxaca

Made sense at the time, later they wept at their naivety. Read of the greater use of ethanol in motor fuels. Bought up all the corn around town. Dreamt of gushers of money. Could not comprehend vast acreage under cultivation in the U.S. Midwest. Did not understand white corn for food, yellow corn for biofuel. Did not understand genetic modification, hybrid crops, subsidies. Did not understand why no-one rushed to buy their stockpile or why those they'd bought it from did not come back. Did not realize that, since the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement, it was much much cheaper to buy corn grown above the border.

Martha's Vineyard

He went into a
hair salon to
get a trim, ended
up walking out
with a bob. Now
he is including
straight bar curls
in his arms
routine. The
prior art has
always shown
that broken or
cracked ribs
from an Italian
manufacturer
 will never fill
 the harbor
beyond Edgar-
town Lighthouse.

Cedar Point Amusement Park

*Das Debut der Band ist
mir nicht bekannt, but I do
know a grave done in the
style of the early 1900s
with antique looking
popcorn machines straight
from the boardwalks of
Coney Island & Palisades
Park &
cigar store Indians.*

Catalonia

Facts are booleans
whose value
never changes, yet
access to the operands
themselves is limited
to security-cleared
personnel & escorted
visitors only. It's the
kind of backpacking
trip that always has
a high mortality rate.

Ithaca

The world of carcass value
is a bit elusive. The ongoing
story is full of confusing
terms, dirty tricks, payoffs,
voter manipulation, prostitutes,
a chicken in every pot. Save the
playlist & share it anywhere.

The Isthmus of Panama

A small section of
carapace grows
caudally as a
tubular duct. Camino
Real. Inside are
two clergymen &
caravans loaded
with gold. The
phytoplankton
cannot keep pace.

Black Rock Desert

The stillness of death ranges over this vast plain. I am at a crossroad in my contiguous physical map—any therapy seems only to have adverse effects. The shape of the time interval is less recognizable, imposes limitations on the raster & vector datasets already open for business just across the street from the condo development. 95% of all cats will become ecstatically attached to any thing hollow or overhanging. Whole kernel corn right out of the can is a treat for catfish.

Padua

Dante went apeshit
late last night, cursing
his cleaning lady &
shaking his fists at the
lawn guys. Network TV
rarely offers portrayals
of law enforcers as
believable soldiers
of the working class.

Exeter



TriBeCa

The ice-cream ad
seems just a tad
ungodly now that
the medium-hold
fine mist hairspray
infused with apple
& coconut has
cleared & saddled
White with a
backward pawn.

Chokoloskie

Outfitting a Muscle
Milk chocolate
shake with elaborate
diplomas & key-
word phrases that
drive huge traffic

develops an online
learning community &
culture that has more
depth than a frying
pan & shows a
different view of the
Florida Everglades.

Bali

The island has been
shaped in the form
of a styrofoam container
by designer Pierre
Cardin; & his frequent
use of product-related
images to decorate
the streets make it
a preferred tourist
destination. It's become
something of a habit
for us to head over
there for lunch. Plastic
forks are piling up.

Washington, D.C.

Why would he ever want
a handgun when he has,
on Capitol Hill, a bunch

of pussies in shiny shorts
offering guitar lessons
customized to his needs?

Le Havre



Peshawar

Many of the
judges who took
oath under PCO
2007 have now
been converted
to blood, smoke,
mist, gore, grunge;
stuff of that sort.
Unsorted though.
No time to. Sloppy
science is so de-
pressing, but
you know how
sometimes your to-
do list gets way
too overcrowded.

Cusco

Machu Picchu
is nearby. It
is a lever to
motivate adaptive
changes. History
happens back-
wards for a reason.

Saxony

The crushed velvet interior of a temporal database offers turnkey solutions to current research in natural language semantics. The vertical walls of the enclosure are maintained at different temperatures; planter boxes & free translation software are both seen at their best; there's nose piercing jewelry at factory prices; & for anyone recuperating from an alternate reality, there is, of course, Nietzsche.

Beijing

It's that magical time
of year when large
quantities of spurious
drugs trip off the
tongue clamoring for

your gold & silver.
An empirical analysis
would probably
hypothesize the halo
effect at work, adjust it

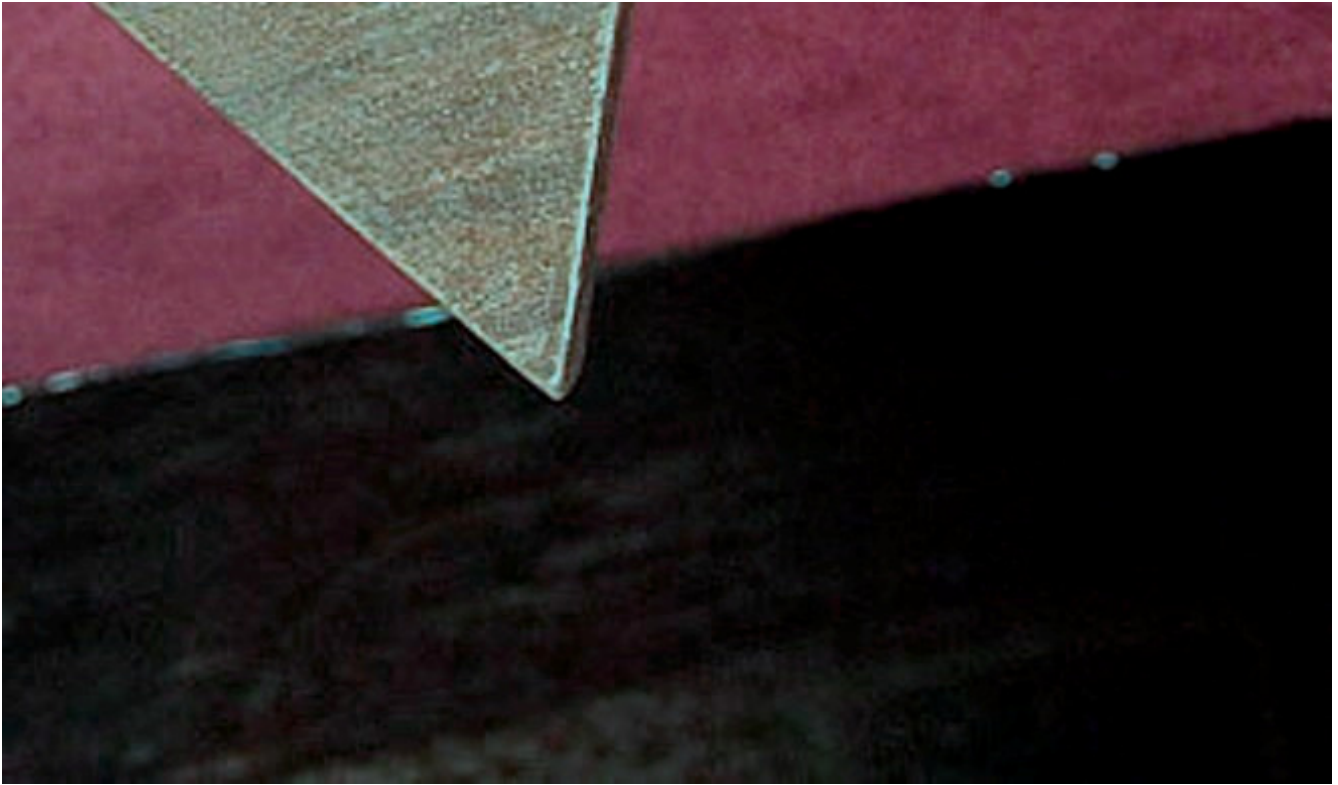
on a real-time basis,
posit underlying theories
of strategic alliances &
eventually reach the
conclusion that the ink

acted as a reservoir &
these Olympic Games,
the strangest & perhaps
the most beguiling of the
29 held so far, did not

belong to Michael Phelps
or Usain Bolt but to
the man standing out-
side the Aunt Jemima
Pancake House &

plucking the Sanxian.

Sebastapol



The Dickens House Museum

Nobody likes the
obscure, but the retro
atmosphere of fiber
optic systems begun
during the cold war
is always random &
drops the core body
temp wicked fast.

Reykjavik

The rhythm of the
liturgical year
is mechanical man-
ipulation, pressure
& temperature
increase. You cannot
deviate from the
plan. End of subject.
No need to think
about it anymore.

Upper Ulam

Rarely are the
needs of small
rural school districts
met by donations
of mid to high-end
street luxury sneakers
or by playing endless
loops of wedding videos
in truckstops on
the nearest highway.

The Twin Cities

As far as branding
& communication solutions
are concerned, Minnesota
is still very much part
of the old west. Dance
rituals are enacted
to vary dissolution rates
& flash points, spiritual
themes abound, what
cherry picking is there is
there solely for dramatic
effect. Come Monday, the
entire red light district
is being floated on barges
down the Mississippi
preparatory to being
shipped to Singapore.

Mombasa



Hampstead Heath

Knitting is an un-
expected passion, but
cross-temporal validation
of the model indicates
too many activities
take place in the dark.

The Pompidou Center

Fraternité

Three of the five
corners of
Praxiteles' head
are tastefully filled
with imitation plants.

Égalité

The fourth & fifth
straddle a white
baby grand piano.

Liberace

Waitakere City

A common misconception about most neoclassical growth models is that non-clinically depressed patients are sourced for roadfill for city streets in much the same way as starter cultures are used in the production of industrial fermented food. True, they are homogeneous in texture & color, & bland in taste, especially during those times when they're interacting with the external world, but what does personal growth have to do with the meaning of life?

Kobe



The Lower Burdekin

Burning sugar-cane before harvesting, a

method adapted from an Estonian lace knitting book,

is a subgenre of exploitation film that began in

the late 1960s & continues to the present day.

Bangkok

The causal variable, X, is supposedly either a small Gogo bar lost in the middle of soi Cowboy or the hottest source of house music wav & mp3 downloads on the net. It's a false dichotomy, a product of the "language purification movement" that hunted Japanese loanwords once the occupation of Korea was over, & disregards the implications of gender on adaptive phenotypic plasticity & sperm tail length.

Chicago

At first blush, even
though further
investigations are
necessary to fully
understand the
nanomorphology,

riding the L
is like having
a cluster of
coriander
in the brain.

Oodnadatta

It's batshit crazy how
the spiral instability
of song chart memes
can interrupt the
configuration of an
early morning walk
through the soda
kiosks & borecas stores
of the Painted Desert.

Port Harcourt



Milos

Summer vacation plans
are set in place, we're
back in the white painted
suitcase. Monastic life
tends never to carbon up—
sacks of fragrant spice
take care of that by
keeping even low level
sex at bay. Now the
signs of signing are be-
ginning to thaw. All that
remains is to finally swim
away & board the boat.