

DOUGLAS BARBOUR AND SHEILA E. MURPHY

CONTINUATIONS (Sections XX, XXI, XXII)

Section XX

if father protects whose wings
shelter the child still beneath
or gone always as soon as
felt / that wary warrant for
spoken hope in the awed silence of
the garbage heaped awry

silken wings distill silence
beneath intended dissonance
replacing awe-forsaken heaps
of charity gone soon
before felt as the imagined
hope repairs protected places

at some cost unclarified
clerking in the far
fetched warrens full of
desks and filing cabinets
the lost and forgotten beyond
mere nests of tossed paper

here are stored
our things nesting beside
forgotten tosses
clerking in the clear
or far loaned regions of
the cabinets by heart

how the search incessant
through bureaus in atriums
pulmonary pressured
discoveries of forgotten
forged possibilities clerk
forward into sad sanguinity

the palm held toward the sun-
light fills with sun
less pressure now forgotten
possibilities blue flow-
ers while the sadness
seams a forwarding address

traffic in invested notice
flows almost too quickly
through dust sun-warmed
and flickering / screen
ed potential writes
its own reference & passes on

blue flowers / aqua pool
tilled soil / flickers of patched
sunlight between potential
strokes of branch line /
traffic's what the eye
potentially will pass on

if missed / but if mist
interpolates a pool a glow
far below sunfilled sky
through pastel blue clouds
blink / blank an
obscured eye winks back

dark imposes or damp
cloud light tiers fill
pastel at random to repair
placement of blank
pools below the mist
tilling the glow

reaping the flow / of
off / ramping up through
light's weight coloured
toward acts accidentally
pooled in sea salt eyesore
gifted with changling possibility

axe takes shore and
trees the sea weight pooling
accidental resurrections
mainly recollected motion
that gifts posses their new colour
paced for reaping

after stasis / status
neutral or neutered through
clearcutting: such massive
machinations / park
your machiavelli here
under the concrete foliage

whoever wants to do
(the thorough green of it)
acquires neutrality apart
from depth machines
parked amid the cut things
carved out and of and through

but awkward lie
the ript trunks and branches
crunch toward mean
ingless & less / a wound
a wound spring / lost
soil drained with runoff

but the flow is where
with/in imagination less
than wounds still d/raining
toward the thought
of spring being all
those branches and that centering

stands / whereof all green
runs down runs far from
all topsoiled loss of
imagined pros
perity / pects
paged beyond costive replanting

the budding soon
spills life in across
these paginated plantings
cut through layers of tension
walling off comparatively
thin imaginations

in/fected fenced in
stapled stabled
blues ridden hard out
across walls
or spaces / spent
forces thinned transparently

flexical reeds play suds
apart from phonemes
forced and see-through
smitten soft space
textured like the wheels
in trance eventually

memed maimed
turning a still centred
sun & rain dappled
glade glide / slippery
transparent vowels
intransigent slide from view

here is how the s lipped sun
fades from view / mute-seeming
cloud cover over line
cast out to center forming
center from another
s till again

heated in its own generation
s loped toward what s lipped
horizon hard by glitter
ring of red light / molten
imagination fired under
saturn's open mouth

rings harden slips
that hover near horizon
while geometry grows winded
teasing fire out of apparent
stasis known as the imagination
when it opens centuries

light lost to time
s slippery sloped slough
wet wearing angles smooth
angels a glow of fiery
resistance / eons from
silver city emptied thought thins

silver's slight tone
pings from the instrument
with modest glow resisting
its own emptiness / a thinning
practiced time that angles
toward forthcoming fire

on the wind of sighs
signs across a page
ping at the fingers' ends
modest motion makes mend
the empty open space
now filled with burning tone

alone time tills the pace
of plenty tended modesties
the lingering near window
opening the hands
as lines on stage
the sighs

looking down toward
wash of sound
wish of sense modestly
withheld as harvest
of applause and in
taken breath released

brook's tincture
withheld from
camera released
of sound sense
harvested young
breath allowed

fogged lens
lets go
light lifted
above reflections
sensed inhalation
tint of moonlight caught rippling

absent the perceiver
slight prompts quiver
in the inhalation
of the ripples
embedded in the lens
the lift the lofting
felt seen & heard / or
missed / 'crossings in
mist' dream prompted
toward off / any inspiration
riding the rapids
through partitions construct

a cursive view of shaping
lopes across division
'spired through phases
rapidly formed in mist
a third of the seen
promptings ridden across

woods shapeshifted plain
views of white cursivity
cause casuisting as war
gaming gains precedence
cavalry formation founders
on mistwritten swamplands

cures taper war
along dreamed mist
preceding views of wood
that form shapes written over
lands preceding white as
depth as shift as game

played out / curses
crisscrossed the fading
wandering wood / rocks
blocked roots routed
while missiles 'rain'
rot through thought's negative

is there a feeling
of negation to match
thought resistance
what root goes where
all laws break down where
rain is played-out poison

& scofflaws reign
with poisonous precipitation
the only prep a ration
of non/sense made money
wise people foolish
acid lie of lost moonscape

violation spans the inner
globe to ration out
due worth contrary to chimps
pantomiming the supposed tasks
of leaders as if sense
could be contagious

as if the senses gained
a kind of knowledge
felt on the tongue
a worn weave of
lies laid out
across diseased (dis)connections

when felt, things link,
including senses woven across
knowledge tongued
in triplicate as music
threaded with disease
or dissonance

that open mouth that
scream of rage ragged
as the wings outspread
& beating almost broken
blowing ash ripped cloth
words lost in flames

cloth bleeds remains
the wound ripped 'open'
vents against resistant
atmosphere absorbing
the inevitable ash
postscript of words in flame

Section XXI

frozen in place again &
again seeing books burned
around the staked woman
written into after
words gleaming against dark
sky opening above stark eyes drowned

sky words written around
frozen openings that once
gleamed seeing on
above the after burn
a place a woman
eyes finally gone dark

shadowed pain there
's no there where ashed
waste / landed her
embered words / whipped
skyward on updrafts
captured unseen

whipstitch loosely gathers up
a form of sky as words
in draft the taken
shadow basted
on an image seeming
land with embers

burnt birds bade gone
flyabout desertscanned
heatwaves rising inter
ference / sightlined
sideswiped words
she stitched across clouds

a sure direction swerves
with force
s scans them without
thought of heat of foils
just takes the sky across
in and apart from clouds

gathering the lacy edges
in / sewn in thunder
around the head a
maze of lightning strikes
beyond rhetoric whispered
where cowed eyes hide

in sacrament or scorn
the whispers light
some faded headlines
gone to lace around
rhetorical maze
sewn to pieces

piecing to gather slashed
words piercing together
the slapped head / slagged
landscape of war
drummed as ritual
winds through charred corridors

what remains / drummed
lands at war
words / drummed
pieces winds press
through charred scapes
piercing

has priced peace beyond
warmusic / the scream of
missile roar of bomb
winds winding through
emptied glassed canyons
corporate cantons (w)ashed clean

and is clean the same
as absence / is it
behind glass / deep down
into earth / where screams are
mute where canyons
young their bodied wind

wound more than mere flesh
minds eyes wide in silent
scream against glass wall
ed negative beauty boot
falling across the mouth
muffled in earth dug deep

earth presses south
deep into negatives / mere sheet
of simple bathed in
chemicals / and look
at the glassy silent
moment there / apart from flesh

pushed and pulled as part
of the war pressured
deeper / loss of air
clean and breaths not held
against the yellow cloud
flash on the mirrored wall

war / simplest of responses
equals the mirror perfectly despised
prompts loss to quiet the equation
breath ceases cluttering
replaced by cloud's momentary
wall

rising ever higher above
thinking through clouds
stars still shine beyond
a light scattered mirror
mists miss while minds
righteously martyred blind

rinds of light
desist from minding
slight shattering
or scars that line
the loud blinks
of distant sifting

thoughts rising rind
driven / fixed
though and stopped
fax flaming green
screen exploding
seconds away

and on the threshold of
colorist finds there lives
a tiny flame / moments from rising
to unfastened flame
that drives the seconds
through the screams

Section XXII

center's many large rooms
emptied of coherence
the unheld unhealed
wobble of dead
words / worlds
apart hide from body's sense

some apartness worlds into
and via rooms
large and withheld from
centers as multiple
senses hide from
a cohering thread

threading through empty
corridors wisps of fog
ged thought a magic
talisman can't prevent
dissipation / dissent
unheard in the body politic

thought parts in
corridors that form a disparate
sentence immune to talisman
the would-be body magic plants
itself in fog where hearing
gels the thread ed facts

lackwit education fact
ors rhetoric higher than
intelligence filtered
through corridored thinking
wound inward to hidden motive
conjured in the smoky pentagram

rhetorical indulgence takes up
space within the corridor
where motives ill-hidden
crowd out thought unequal to

the inward smoke of motives
feverishly dispatched to actuality

while actually withered rhetoric
seems to grow as smoke gathers
ever more dissipate / dis
pensate malignity's woven
mesh mashed against rot
spread / viral wordring

each clash dwindles to corrosive history
dispensing viral threads
unseen until there are no fibers
rich enough to reclaim a positive
rendition of the ping
elucidating former peaceful weave

history's woven page burns
outward a black growth
as fevered / unthinking
rhetors reach deeper into
martial music's magic meltdown
pangs ping on the broken string

plucking retributive stings
a felt-down musing
deepens reach to fling
toward growth most any
thinking and detach from
outward any vestige of a history

always written & now unread
always forget the sentence
laid out on staves stashed
away from / take away
the named music of time
deaf to what falls from the burning air

learning pairs with forgetting
tames the muse
removes contents of staves
in favor of contentment
each stashed sentence
waives the written from the read

given as gone / into the world
clouded as salted (Carthage
in flames again and again)
written on the wind
instruments playing up a
storm troping against angst

shelter comes as figment
and again the wind
plays tutti insistently
as an instrumental urge
to self against the storm
requiring all the instruments

in tandem song
lines scribed against figments
of imagination's lack
backed into corners
homemade twisted beams
tornadoed darkly toward silence

just before what strikes
comes an unearthly negative
of the strike itself
when something very like imagination
will unmake home twist line after
line into hideous song

silenced in the mist
gathering slowly & with
what gravity flowing
to cover all bodies in
shrouded knowledge they'll
'study war no more'

the quiet is itself
a study that transcends
the gathering in gravity
the flow the cover and the knowledge
paced and sure
the bodies ever moving

Bio:

Stride Press has just released Sheila E. Murphy's PROOF OF SILHOUETTES (2004). Earlier this year, CONCENTRICITY appeared from Pleasure Boat Studios. CONTINUATIONS is an ongoing book-length collaborative work that began in 2000.

Douglas Barbour lives & teaches in Edmonton, Alberta. Recent books of poetry are *Fragmenting Body etc.* (NeWest Press 2000), *Breath Takes* (Wolsak & Wynn 2001), and the chapbook, *A Flame on the Spanish Stairs* (greenboathousebooks 2003). *Lyric/Anti-lyric: essays on contemporary poetry* appeared from NeWest Press in 2001. He was inaugurated into the City of Edmonton Cultural Hall of Fame in 2003.