



## ROMANTIC ERA

I hold in my hand a phone white and fair—Shelley we hardly knew ye so this is the best I can do compare you to a day without sun indeed poetry is a Wonder Bra for the world (how many pushups should a man do anyway Shelley managed a thousand a day on Devil's Island not enough to stave off the heavy barrel morning still steamrollered him where he lay) NOW flower of British womanhood Percy you gave and gave when your unit shipped out Keats found a bar drank pink squirrels till his pale high forehead leapt o'er the dales and hills chasing anything rhyming with orange but alas he passed out in the grass caught cold and slipped into something more comfortable—it seems objects in history are closer than you think but everything then was small like a doll house Henry the 8<sup>th</sup> was just 5  $\frac{3}{4}$  and to visit your house Perce I duck and get troubled I thought you were taller—but the gift shop girl says there's a sale and nothing on earth is better than a bargain

## HAMTRAMCK

*fantasia*

your majesty *de jure* spare parts for Cuba

Rudys foot the bill at every reckoning because

they are there like Everest—

what is all this? Genuine Nazi dinnerware or not? I see the Pope

slide into second and the ballet shifty in an alley naked

for every four corners there are five times the pain relief you get

with child

a mandrake the magician in every *bodega* like a bay of pigs and Belarus now

is aground off Miami anxious

as limpet mines in the museum of lost time

like ten minutes you waste every day

to pray

for another arm or two a long neck

a leg blah blah capitalism etc. and the other inconvenient viruses

a bad case

of cracked DNA

mean cars won't turn over their saucy pipes to the air

wives hunker down when transmission's in reverse

it hurts

word gets out that it doesn't start and next thing you know it's slow

slow slow then stop giving up the body in a corner going for broke

instead of fixed

it is a disease these trees see every Kokomo hangdog pitchfork season

out of gas closed for space shuttle docking see you in spring yeah right

between the eyes votes

the city – it is official

