

THE FIORETTI

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THE STAFF

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Man Time— Richard Gardner, '69 Photograph— Richard Gardner, '69

CONTENTS

PROSE

The Mermaid	4	Sigrun Biro
The Eyes of Eyes	6	Sheila Fillion
The Gift	8	Kathleen Beckman
The Inner Circle	12	Sheila Kelley
To Be Alone	16	Susan Smith
The Break	19	Coleen Sharer

POETRY

Aluminum Is a Mortal Word	7	Carole Williams
Sand Castles	9	Richard Gardner
Refinement	11	Chris Sylvester
Untitled Poem	11	David White
Untitled Poem	11	John Kirchner
To Bacchus in Absentia	12	Carole Williams
Untitled Poems	13	Richard Gardner
Sharper Than a Serpent's Tooth	18	Fay Faivre
Untitled Poem	20	John Kirchner
Aftermath	21	Kevin Farrell
Love	22	Richard Gardner
It Had Been Pretty Much Arranged	23	Tess Eichenberger
A Need	24	Dot Mettel
You Scraped the Bottom	25	Fay Faivre
Untitled Poem	26	Kent Overholser
Untitled Poem	27	Bill Devine

THE MERMAID

Floating effortlessly upon the waves of the sea as the reflections of light frame images in the sky for my eyes alone, I sense the peace of my new existence. After several weeks with my limited sense, I've accepted this world where there are neither questions nor responses—a silent, speechless world. Here within the sea the only significant sensation is that of the wind, playing with the waves above us, weaving their tips into a white row of disappearing foam. Ultimately perhaps fatally the wind penetrates my existence, leaving behind the only fascinating sensation of my new probational life. This sensation takes the form of a rebellious fury as once was inside me and perhaps the seeds of which still remain within me. This yields itself as the only temptation of my new life.

Isolated in my sensitivity to my uncompassionate brothers, I realize the only existent and conscious bond here in the depths, that one between the sea and myself, rivaled only by the wind. None of the others can escape the temptation of the wind nor do they have to. I *can* escape because one of the things that remains of my human life is the power of choice. Therefore I must struggle with the wind as he challenges the sea like a jealous lover.

But, the sea, like a fiery mare, throws its rider and then in our union beckons to me to define it and unite with it. The sea now manifests itself as calm and merciful. I can see that it is much more powerful than the wind in his relentless temptation, and I realize that herein lies my salvation.

II

The mermaid thinks back now as she watches the wind and feels the tempting stimulus he leaves. She hears no sound but recalls one of the last incidents before her transformation, relating to the sound the wind had once upon a time . . .

December 15, 1967

"I hope no one is there in my special room. Not many people seem to be over here today. The library doesn't draw crowds before vacations. Everyone just eagerly counts the minutes that pass. I count them too but I count them miserably because each passing moment, every word, syllable, new truth threatens my existence, pushes me on to an unidentifiable summit and when I reach it . . .

"Oh, how lucky, my room is empty. It's good to look down to the trembling lake and watch the chilled, groping branches all seeking warmth, much like myself. Yet in here it's always so terribly warm, so deathly warm, as if some being were smothering me by its lie of comfort.

"The wind howls. The sounds of other existences are muted, and dim. Slowly they reshape themselves into an army of thought that tramples within my brain, seeking new paths, leaving my being in chaos, tempting it with a search. Then, the howling of the wind outside captivates me once again, furiously blending the chaos in my mind. All my attention is on its cry. The cry embodies the words, the syllables, the particles of truth of every man with the exception of one. I have not given to it my sacrifice; I have refused to enter into this universal pact— I have chosen isolation from the collective ejaculations of man."

 \mathbf{III}

It is the fourth of July. Two people are standing by a grave on which the earth is now dry.

- Mother: "She chose this, she wanted it—I can't understand why. Why?!! Why did she do this and bring shame to us all?"
- Father: "She was always by herself lately, always thinking and angry."
- Mother: "Yes, angry. But that's how she always was, so alone and so angry. I should have talked to her. I should never have shut her out those last days before, before . . . Maybe, if I would have only spoken to her—but I didn't, I just shut her out . . ."
- Father: "Don't—don't say anymore. It wasn't our fault. We didn't do anything. We should know if we did do anything to provoke this!"
- Mother: "But, that's just it. we do know . . . I know . . . We both really know! And we can't hide it. At nights I lie awake and I can hear her condemning us. I see her pointing at us and screaming, screaming, and laughing,

as she jumps into that icy lake. Then I see her in the water and she's screaming but then I can't hear any sound. She's just screaming, screaming! . . ."

Father :

"Stop it! She's dead. It's over. This talk won't help us now. At least she'll have the peace she always wanted."

Mother: (hysterically) "She'll have no peace. She's in hell. She'll have eternal hell. But I will too because I failed her. I killed her...I..."

Father: "Sh

"Shut up! You're a fool! I don't want to hear anymore. You're just like her—a fool. You make everything so damned hard. Your mind's all confused, all confused!" (Calming down)

"You see hate when there's love and vengeance when there's mercy. Let's get away from here and leave this grave in peace."

IV

The water is warm. Everything is quiet, so simple. I have until winter to prepare and all I must make ready is my mind, my thoughts.

Unencumbered, my mind will soon be as clear as the sea is today, the sea upon which I glide, through which I swim and in which I must renounce the temptation of the wind, where I make ready my defense. And then I too will offer my libation only this time to the sea with the wind as my servant, and not as my master.

SIGRUN BIRO, '69

THE EYES OF EYES

It is morning. And all the things that connotate a glorious environment have chosen to leave with the night.

I am left alone. My heart is crying for something that doesn't exist, except in the fantasies reincarnated by one.

And what pains me most is the barrenness of a chair—the one she used to pensively gaze at the passing of a world beyond our window. When we were together, this world melted to the city where it was transformed in the blinking lights and silhouettes kissing among the littered night streets.

Do I mean this to be a tribute of a passing soul, an exposé of life under her? What is my purpose? What purpose will a fish spawn or a human reproduce? Nothing but a recreation of likeness —a likeness that in the itinerary of Time will ebb.

And so in the memory banks of my eyes I perceive her image calling me. She is floating in sorrow and I come. We touch; our lips meet; our hands grasp; we see the hope glistening in our eyes. No, I do not cry out in an emerging reflection. No, images will not flitter away in the kaleidoscope motion. None but the weak could think in terms of "She's gone, never to return."

I am hopeful to the last. The phone echoes its greeting; my pulse quickens; the sweat is streaming from my sinewy hands. My eyes, my perceiving eyes wet the picture I hold. It is she! My beautiful woman has come; she's here; she has not left. She's here! We touch; our lips meet; I see; I see.

I see the blood dripping from my arm; I see the floor; I see death.

SHEILA FILLION, '70

ALUMINUM IS A MORTAL WORD

I like empty beer cans

I had a blue and gold one which was bent in the middle.

It hovered on the edge of my desk,

doubled up like an arthritic caterpillar.

The desk tried to shudder my gaudy beer can

to the floor, and that deformed metal masterpiece

rocked and quivered-

and balanced.

My senile electric clock offered no objections,

and it rattled the indifferent hours

to my silent beer can.

This morning, someone corrected a squashed metallic mistake.

The desk is its tastful self again.

Trash cans like empty beer cans.

CAROLE WILLIAMS, '70

THE GIFT

Michael ran as fast as he could for a six year old boy. Grasped tightly in his chubby palm was something very special. The summer school class had spent all Friday afternoon working on the drawings. They had to be done most carefully because Sunday was Father's Day. Michael thought about how happy his father would be and how he would praise him for the lines he had sketched after many erasures. Maybe to show his appreciation, his father would even go with him to see his secret Indian grave. For a long time, he had promised Michael he'd come to see it. Michael remembered the day he had found the huge stack of rocks back in the woods. It was only two days after he had found the arrowhead while playing an exploring game. Although it was a bit broken up, he was convinced an Indian had used it to kill a buffalo many years ago. When he went back to search for more, he made the discovery. There were big heavy rocks, at least thirty of them, all piled close together. Michael tried to peek between them but all he could see was blackness. He ran home to get Dad. Surely he'd know if it was really an Indian grave. Excitedly, Michael raced into the den and blurted out his story. Yes, he'd come someday, Dad had said. But now he was working on sales reports and they had to be turned in by the end of next week. Michael would have to be understanding.

On Sunday morning Michael almost tumbled down the steps in his excitement to show Dad the gift. Carefully he handed it to him. Dad looked at it and slowly laughed, then laughed harder. "Mother, come see this funny man Michael drew. See the crooked nose and big ears. It says 'Dad' but that's not me. No sir, the legs are much too long." The tears were rolling down his cheeks now as his laughter continued. Tears were on Michael's cheeks too but he walked away so they wouldn't be noticed.

By the time he got into the living room, he had decided it probably wasn't a real Indian grave anyway.

KATHLEEN BECKMAN, '68

SAND CASTLES

a child walks along a beach wondering where all the sand came from and where the waves go when they go out to sea where the birds hide when it rains and why the days are so very long when you're alone

walking along kicking stones and shells running from foam when the waves roll in building dreams out of sand

for sea gulls to nest in until they crumble

now and then checking the horizon for a sail on a ship that isn't there and a sun that never sets wishing dreams on whitecaps that rise and fall at sea and a face called me

and now and then a footprint scars a naked shore or soft the sand turned under by a yesterday party ashes still warm

a hill rises up on the right breaking the smooth line of sand rocks protruding bulging pointing out to sea forming a valley caught between rock and sea rock castles that don't crumble waves crashing in from sea birds that build a thousand nests and me

from a lookout peak that doesn't move safely watching rainbows as they quickly pass away cherishing only what promises to stay walls of grey today

fine shadows sliding over slippery stone thoughts of things to say words to use on seaweed chasing sea-gulls down to sea free

crowds of people who weren't there setting places for a party that will never be

insects and rainbows crawling both across the sky empty cans that once held beer headstones for the sea to be instead of just to see flotsam floating out to sea

thoughts of things that never were but deep within my mind dead watchfires on a rainy eve that flickered many times before they died coals still warm enough to singe the feather of a phoenix thoughts of things i should have said and things i should have thought before i said and if I sit here long enough perhaps i'll remember the pathway i once thought i knew the pathway to a door god let there be a door

castles made of sand afraid of drifting out to sea to rise and fall and foam and crash upon a rocky shore much like this one i now call home

RICHARD GARDNER, '69

REFINEMENT

Relish the cracked cement. Devour the congealing air. But yield the right of way. Civilization is with us.

CHRIS SYLVESTER

half a tree is no tree why do the roots sigh when the branches flutter with the warmth of a robin or wren? branches without roots are sticks

DAVID WHITE

Days and nights were spent crossing the face of a clock.

The journey of the past crossing a desert of jeweled synchronization.

It was a long journey made under a blazing tick-tock.

Every step was danger as bandits disguised as hands attacked hourly.

JOHN KIRCHNER, '69

TO BACCHUS IN ABSENTIA

I don't like to drink alone. Last night I had a screwdriver— I had to drink it alone. It made me sleepy. I sometimes get sleepy when I'm by myself. Yes, I do like solitude, but how can I drink your eyes if they're not fizzing at me over the rim of a glass? I think I'll have instant coffee tonight. I can always read the label on the jar. But it's not anything like reading your eyes over the rim of a chipped cup.

CAROLE WILLIAMS, '70

THE INNER CIRCLE

Man appears capable of existing according to the state of his mind. It then appears plausible for man to completely abolish reality and accept the wonders of fantasy. Man could exist without stress, without tension and without the burden of social opinion. Existence could take on a glow of love and complete human happiness.

From the moment of conception, each new life would be cared for by those specifically trained in the field of physical development. Those new lives that appeared to develop with flaws would immediately be extinguished and society would ultimately blossom forth with flawless creations. The state would take on the responsibility of rearing the child, providing the necessary care for each. This would have the affect of abolishing marriage and the family, leaving men and women an opportunity to live for themselves, to develop their own mind to the fullest degree and to enrich their experiences. Man and woman would be given the opportunity to experience all the drives which are innate to man without the taboos of society lurking over their actions.

In order to avoid over-population the state would designate a specific age for extinction. When man approached this particular phase of life he would freely admit himself to the confines of a "termination hall." This hall would have the job of altering the mind to accept total termination of life. Man would ultimately see the benefits of self-annihilation.

This process is only the beginning of a new and fulfilling life among the most intelligible creations of God. The process would eliminate social injustice as well as social discrimination and prejudice, ultimately leading to social unity and "Utopia." The unity man has spent history seeking. Once accepted, the process is simple and uncomplicated. If you can show me the importance of a realistic life unencompassed by hate, mistrust and an insane preoccupation for power, you are undoubtedly suffering from an incurable disease known as selfishness. And this unforgivable need of man today leads only to self-delusion and self-destruction. Therefore, man cannot logically accept the reality of the twentieth century and must continually search and find the meaning of self; free and uninhibited.

SHEILA KELLEY, '69

premeditated answers wander through my doubts committing intellectual murders

they're giving a lecture on war tonight laying ground rules for christian soldiers

RICHARD GARDNER, '69

13





TO BE ALONE

If he had just been able to spend five extra minutes in the shower or over a second cup of coffee, Thomas knew the whole day would have been different. He would have had a few minutes to himself to relax and to gather the strength he needed to deal with the trivialities of the day. As it was, he barely had time to make the 6:45 train into the city. Once on the train, he tried to collect his thoughts and to begin the day again, this time a little more calmly. But sitting next to him were two middle-aged ladies who refused to let him retreat into his thoughts. They were talking as loudly as they could about the ugliest subject they could think; one of the ladies' ulcer operation. The more Thomas tried not to listen, the more he heard. As his breakfast turned over in his stomach, he wished for a place where the world's ugliness couldn't touch him.

For once in his life he was glad to see the men's underwear department. The white, striped, and colored mounds looked peaceful and friendly.

"There is nothing here that will talk back or intrude on my privacy," he thought.

At this moment two other salesmen came over to welcome him to work. The first slapped him on the back, "How're you doing today, Tommie? You don't look too sporting."

"You wouldn't be feeling so glum if you had come with us last night Tommie, old man. After dinner we went to this bar where we met two of the ..."

"Excuse me, I have a customer," Thomas broke in. He hurried off, thankful that he didn't have to listen to a complete description of "the good times."

The rest of his morning was busy and nerve racking. All of his customers were of two types. One was the woman whose husband had a waist "about the size of that man over there." The other type was the woman who knew more about his job than he did. All morning he waited on twenty people and only sold ten pairs of shorts and one pair of pajamas. When lunch came, all he wanted was to go somewhere and be alone.

He ate by himself in the back of the cafeteria but he wasn't

alone. Usually he brought a magazine or newspaper to read. Today he had forgotten and couldn't hide from the world. There seemed to be a hundred extra people in the room, talking, laughing, and generally causing confusion. The waitresses seemed nervous and on edge. They clattered and dropped dishes until Thomas was sure that there wasn't a whole dish left in the cafeteria. He sat stirring his cold soup and staring into space. All he wanted was to be alone.

The afternoon was going much better than he expected until Mrs. Fowler came in. Each month she came to the store to buy a pair of pajamas for one of her five sons or her eight grandsons. It was always Thomas's job to spend a half hour or more helping her decide if "the blue striped ones really look like Arnold." She was such a perfect lady that Thomas thoroughly enjoyed helping her and listening to the gossip about her family. But today was different. It had been a hard day for him and he showed it. She told him two or three times that she was worried about him.

"You just don't smile as much as you used to. Aren't you happy, Thomas?"

The first time she asked it, he was surprised and didn't know how to react. But the second and third times he began to withdraw and respond bitterly within himself. He was glad when she left. He didn't like people telling him he wasn't happy. If he was unhappy, that was his business. He couldn't understand why people wouldn't leave him alone.

The day was over. As he opened the door to his apartment, he began to let himself relax. He was home now. Safe and alone. No people could come in unless he let them. Thomas didn't bother to turn on the lights. He took off his coat and laid it on the sofa. Sitting down in a chair, he let himself feel the coolness and darkness of the apartment enfold him. He could feel them reaching out and stretching him until he was no longer himself. He was part of the night. All of the tensions of the day faded into the night. Slowly a faint glow of light appeared before him. As he watched, it grew in size until he could see Mrs. Fowler and all her boys inside. They were sitting around a gaily decorated table. She saw him and smiled. She waved and motioned for him to come in. He tried to move but couldn't. The coldness and darkness held him. He couldn't even feel himself. She waved again. He pulled, fighting to break away.

He sat up suddenly in his chair and looked around the room. Nothing had changed. Slowly he began to feel himself awake. Crossing the room, he turned on the lights and stood staring at the chair for several minutes. Twice he started to move. Twice he stopped. Then slowly he walked to the desk, picked up the phone and dialed. All the tensions of the day had disappeared from his face. He seemed to know what he wanted. The number he dialed was busy but it didn't seem to matter. He hung up the phone and sat down in the desk chair. Ten minutes later he tried again. It was busy. Twenty minutes later he had still been unable to get through. His relaxed look of a half hour ago was slowly disappearing. A different tension was now in his face. Thomas picked up the phone and dialed resolutely. The phone rang.

"Im sorry the number you have dialed is not in service at this time. Dial 113 for assistance. This has been a recording."

He hung up the phone. Outside cars went by. A truck honked its horn. A few blocks away a clock struck the hour. In the distance a train blew its whistle. Thomas put his head on the desk.

"My God, isn't there anyone ...?"

SUSAN SMITH, '68

SHARPER THAN A SERPENT'S TOOTH

Please, please, listen!

I want to tell you (choose one)

who

what why

Lam

ButI'll have to use my (underline the best completion)

(words, language, culture) to do this.

(Your language isn't so bad, it just isn't big enough, see?)

I grew up after the world wars

In a time of anxious peace (which is no peace at all)

In an age of super-clean deodorants, I became anti-cavity toothpaste I lived at home but spent days with my peers, nights with my books and records (You would say I had unlimited choices, and so, I guess, I had) I formed myself through choosing, rarely being told (and so you can't tell me now) So listen, please, and try to hear my words (I'll use yours whenever possible, OK?) As I tell vou childish wisdom: Peace is more than anxious absence of war; Dreams are real, the transition concurrent : Decisions are immediate due to lack of time : Knowledge is for use, not for storing up in memories Idealist? Pragmatist? Fanatic? (Answer silently or skip the choice) I wish you had grown up with me (I really do like you, you know,

and that's different from love) But you stopped at adulthood too soon And therein, Hamlet, lies our to be.

FAY FAIVRE, '68

THE BREAK

The sky was blue-black and racing clouds told of an approaching storm. Withered leaves blew before me on the path. My pace quickened as rain drops began to speckle the dusty road at my feet. The road narrowed to a foot path and I knew that I was approaching the bridge. The wind was whipping my hair wildly and the rain began to beat against my face. I saw ahead of me the suspension bridge rocking from side to side like a small boat riding out the storm. Its wet planks glistened and the ropes swaying in the wind felt alive in my hands.

Grasping the ropes, hesitant to initiate the crossing, I turned to the village behind me. The windows of every house were lit and in the house I had known a silhouette stood peering into the dark storm, searching for a glimpse of the departed brethren. The bridge groaned as I mounted it and a violent blast of the storm threw me to my knees. Keeping close to the narrow planks, I inched further across. My eyes stared into the black chasm where the darkness of the night kept the secret of what was below. As the bridge whined in the wind I prayed never to learn that secret.

For an eternity I crept foreward seeing only the blackness between the planks. Then as I raised my eyes the bridge ended and the grassy edge of solid ground was only a few feet away. I scrambled from that thread that connected the sides of the chasm and fell exhausted to the ground. At the same instance the bridge snapped an angry retort and its support ropes gave way plunging it into the blackness below. Lying there I focused my eyes on the village secure on the other edge. Many dark silhouettes drawn by the crashing of the bridge crowded into the yellow frames of light. I could almost hear the clicking of their beads as they prayed for the departed brethren. In the church spire that rose high above the town a bell tolled and my separation was official.

The silhouettes left the yellow patches one by one, indifferent so quickly to my departure. One remained there in the house I had shared and her beads rattled for me. I rose and turned for the final time from the town and attempted to pick up the path again. No path had been made here; the grass was high and no way was indicated. I looked into the night before me. The storm had ceased but the darkness persisted.

COLEEN SHARER, '69

Yeah, I like you rain the way you drop from the sky and beat down on me with a million love taps. The way you sneak through my clothes and surround me in wetness. The way you make everyone run and hide All but me, for I'm your friend,

Aren't I rain?

JOHN KIRCHNER, '69

AFTERMATH

There used to be a lake here, I remember. There were ducks, and fish. And there were children, lots of children. I'm sure of that.

There used to be a lake here, I remember, There were trees, and flowers. And there was nature, lots of nature, I'm sure of that.

There used to be a lake here, I remember. There was beauty, and quiet. And there was love, lots of love. I'm sure of that.

There used to be a lake here, but now there's a highway. Four-lanes divided, and ramps, and lights, and signs, lots of signs. I'm sure of that.

But no trees, no flowers, no love. Just a faster way to get from here to there. Like I wanted to go fast or something. I don't want to go anywhere, I used to like it here. There used to be a lake here, I'm sure of that. There was a lake, wasn't there?

KEVIN FARRELL, '69

LOVE

messages of love tattooed on armpits and underground walls stretching up and down endless halls and superficial minds echoing across official statements and department of state hate mimeographed and mailed en masse at Christmas time describing all the transcendental values that strikes a meaningful praise of of LOVE showered upon us all from the divine above LOVE conquers all so look out here it comes LOVELOVELOVELOVELOVE smashing down hard upon us all till it makes us go crawling back to our minds

wiping dust from our behinds making us crawl inside out of our minds realizing that somewhere out there beyond us all is the great divine LOVE and we're glad to have it there and try to keep it there lookout here it comes again visiting unlike grandmother it will leave not because it wants to but has to LOVE

RICHARD GARDNER, '69

IT HAD BEEN PRETTY MUCH ARRANGED

It had been pretty much arranged I mean the chairs And what should be said And could not For awhile they all took Their places I forget who moved first Just that I ended up on the floor Against the wall, beside the stereo that Cried, whispered, screamed Me And I talked to myself about myself for a change While those in Their places Discussed important matters Hey I really loved

Being egotistic Down there on the floor I met this other Person And damn it just when I was going to ask him An important question If he liked yellow balloons The music stopped. I heard the others calling And got lost On a chair.

TESS EICHENBERGER, '72

A NEED

It seems sometimes that life's an endless nothing. That you live and breathe and cry despair, laugh hiccup and sob endlessly fruitlessly stupidly

> What we need is a knight in armor a sun-brilliant leader —that makes of nothing —that takes what is —that's so powerful, so god-almighty that crowds cower and mobs quiet—movement ceases and the river of peace flows gently on . . .

What a myth for a world that disappointed myths long ago.

So here we are

groveling and pushing living and breathing— (well, breathing anyway) but looking for something anything to grasp, to hold, to live for and simply something to die for.

And we today are so intertwined with inner-mobility so mixed and tangled that we fail to grasp the simplicity and purpose of --LOVE---

DOT METTEL, '69

YOU SCRAPED THE BOTTOM

And on the sixth day, he was hard up And so he found a barrel, empty of sweet wine, And scraped the dregs clean, making man. Or was it—he found a barrel, empty of sweet wine, and scraping it breathed life into it, Making man, the empty wooden barrel? Anyway, here we are, dregs or barrels, And he saw it was not good for man to be alone, And taking a stave—or was it a grape skin he made woman.

Maybe that was how it was

-man the barrel, woman the skin-

Or man the skin, woman the barrel more logically.

Anyway, they lived and sinned and left

and that's how it all started.

Later on, another barrel/skin came along

And he was different. He was both a barrel and a skin.

Nobody understood this guy

and he ended up hanging on a tree.

(That's why I think it might be man the barrel,

wood on wood.)

And so here we are, a bunch of barrels and a bunch of skins Running around, trying to fill ourselves again

with sweet wine.

Anyway we try to make it sweet,

skins and barrels nowithstanding,

And dregs and splinters, bitterness and wood taste interfere And we keep on trying, stomping grapes,

rolling barrels, waiting.

And in the meantime, Lord, can we offer you the dregs? FAY FAIVRE, '68

> There was a time when we ran together, all alone, both of us. But why was I there? I understood you, but not me. The circles rolled, the lights gleamed but after I lost myself completely *All* ceased to be.

I know you would have stayed but some intangible circle, and many unknown lights forced me to realize my being. And finally to judge myself, for . . . There was a time when we ran together. KENT OVERHOLSER, '69 And quenched eyes in quest of a king Men who sought the source of knowledge With candles lit from the force of a Father Simple dreams and simple doubts of thunder dread And all about the host of clouds in a finishing fire And I thought of the plastic Christ and wooden Cross And your screams from a sound that heaven you'd secure So I smothered my mind 'neath His human blood To find the Psychic Power-your Prince of Peace I looked in science and spatial ground The mystic face in a foggy maze His magic robe spread round my soul A toothless truth from a troubled tongue But the empty valleys of my mind of God Were filled and capped when first I learned To bow my head at the sound of His name





