

*Smoke Rising*

Also by John Seed

Poetry

- Spaces In* (Pig Press, Newcastle-upon Tyne 1977)  
*History Labour Night* (Pig Press, Durham 1984)  
*Interior in the Open Air* (Reality Studios, London 1993)  
*Divided into One* (Poetical Histories, Cambridge 2003)  
*New and Collected Poems* (Shearsman Books, Exeter 2005)  
*Pictures from Mayhew* (Shearsman Books, Exeter 2005)  
*That Barrikins* (Shearsman Books, Exeter 2007)  
*Manchester: August 16th & 17th 1819* (Intercapillary Editions, London 2013)  
*Some Poems, 2006-12* (Gratton Street Irregulars, Cheltenham, 2014)

Other Books

- The Culture of Capital. Art, power and the nineteenth-century middle class* [co-edited with Janet Wolff]  
(Manchester: Manchester University Press 1988, paperback 1990)  
*Cultural Revolution. The Challenge of the Arts in the 1960s* [co-edited with Bart Moore-Gilbert]  
(London: Routledge, 1992)  
*Dissenting Histories: religious division and the politics of memory in eighteenth-century England*  
(Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2008)  
*Marx: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London: Continuum, paperback, 2010)  
*The Gordon Riots* [coedited with Ian Haywood] (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, 2014).

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*Smoke Rising*

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Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

*Book of Daniel, 3: 14-18*



Wind a maximum 12 miles per hour  
8/10ths cloud earlier on but clearing fast  
forecasters predict calm and fine with slight mists

12,000 feet  
flying a steady 180 m.p.h.  
the French coast in forty minutes  
another eighteen minutes to the English coast  
then sixteen minutes to London

radio guide beams  
southwest-to-northeast axis  
intersecting  
main "X" beam over West Ham  
a steady regular pulsing  
in each wireless operator's ears

from other stations along the French coast  
decoy beams crisscrossing  
other sectors of the capital

---

Best nights  
moonlit

nights  
after rain

shadows of  
buildings and

moonlight  
reflect from

wet streets  
and squares

London  
below

clear and readable  
as a map

---

The bomber will always get through

Wherever an object can be seen from the air

man in the street there is no

power on earth

---

Room logged the  
crash found even  
Deptford Warden  
Albert at Fighter  
Command the  
engines never ceased  
were left frequency  
other bomber gone  
bombers in bright

but how every radar  
station reported  
bombers every fifteen  
minutes a No. 1 Raid  
meant a wave that at  
12.45 a.m. nobody  
knew too high for  
visual checks even  
moonlight

---

ten plus planes  
tonight was a wave  
and the planes flew  
centres used gallows  
whining cadence of  
midnight had fallen  
down the high-  
pitched noise of  
minutes

tonight's siren after black-out

hearts once more tighten and sink you  
keep that date with fear  
sleepless into the small hours”

---

Summer evenings watching the sun  
after the long weekend  
setting on a bedroom wall might be  
gone before dawn

---

Almost any room will serve as a refuge-room if it  
is soundly constructed and smoke if it is easy  
to reach and to get out of don't light fires  
so that no light is visible from outside smother them  
with earth or sand preferably facing a building or blank  
wall or a narrow street or salt listening to the  
wireless or gramophone take care when coming out of your  
refuge-room sit or preferably lie down and keep still  
fires cause currents of air which may draw in gas don't

from outside skylights fanlights glazed doors a tempest dropping fire  
so that no light is visible from outside extinguish all  
fires in grates don't let the children romp about unless  
the room is damaged don't smoke unless you have to  
go out do not put out these fires where lights  
are used with water must be completely screened after dusk  
unless keeping warm with blankets you actually smell gas don't  
until you hear the "Raiders Passed" signal a continuous signal  
lasting two minutes don't go out at a steady pitch

---

Countering the Air Raid Menace the Protection of Home

Where two children were killed this was the nursery with toys around the bed

The redhill sand container the stirrup water pump

Long-handled shovel and rake for fighting incendiary bombs

There has been a great demand in London for deck chairs and camp beds

Coat all woodwork in the roof space with lime-wash apply two coats

See that flues are sealed against gas

It took one ton of bombs to kill three-quarters of a person

Brick partition walls are better than lath and plaster

Do not put on your respirator unless

Sand bags in front of the refuge room sealed windows floor and flue its door hung with a wet  
protecting blanket

'I used to live in London but London is all bombed and gone and  
all the houses have fallen down'.

---

I've just discovered  
we've been getting the sirens mixed

darting in at the continuous blast  
coming out again at the warbling note

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*IF YOU THROW A BUCKET OF WATER ON A BURNING INCENDIARY BOMB IT  
WILL EXPLODE AND THROW BURNING FRAGMENTS IN ALL DIRECTIONS.*

So stand it up by a brick wall  
Lay on it  
Leave it to a Warden  
Flop a coat over it or throw it into a sewer or anywhere there is water  
Pick it up and run it in water  
Sit back and hold tight  
Leave it where it is and run  
Keep the thin places of your house patched up  
Put on your gas-mask

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You can tell how many  
people live in every house  
by the number of packed  
suitcases in the hall ready

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