

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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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

*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

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