

SAMPLER

*Trees Before
Abstinent
Ground*

ALSO BY PETER LARKIN

Enclosures

Prose Woods

Pastoral Advert

Terrain Seed Scarcity

Slights Agreeing Trees

Sprout Near Severing Close

Rings Resting The Circuit

What the Surfaces Enclave of Wang Wei

Leaves of Field *

Lessways Least Scarce Among *

Imparkments (The Surrogate Has Settled)

Give Forest Its Next Portent *

City Trappings (Housing Heath or Wood)

Introgession Latewood *

Wordsworth and Coleridge: Promising Losses

SAMPLER

** Titles from Shearsman Books*

PETER LARKIN

Trees Before
Abstinent
Ground

SAMPLE

Shearsman Books

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SAMPLER

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POSSIBLE
WILD STICKS

(Origin Log)

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Thus, the tree branch was a possible stick before I think about it, will remain a stick when I no longer think about it, *ie*, there is an order of the in-itself in which the tree branch is by means of itself an elongated solid whose proper use is to obtain a goal. The reorganisation offers itself as the discovery of a pre-existing, true, objective property, which will never wear out.

Maurice Merleau-Ponty

How deceptive the size of a large pine! As you approach it, it looks only like a reasonable stick fit for the sill or the beams of an old-fashioned house. You apply your measures. The foot rule seems suddenly shrunk. Your umbrella is but half as long as it was.

Henry David Thoreau

It might have been a tree or pole; I think it is merely a way.

Gary Snyder

I

Begin what has arisen
in trees
by picking up
sticks

some trees are not known for their own good
but from their broods of stick

sticks snap until they float off
tree current: keep damping sticks
towards a stream of tree
but these webs are weirs

stick stillage pre-dates a branch's current wave,
both open verticals with no debt to height

thin brittle instructibles of forest:
where you see dormancy in the stick
it hurdles outruns of horizon,
legging it awake
across symbolic peg

a stick's invention anticipates
(antequates) the already generated

blown branches sweep the stickground,
pitting trees against their
own prime derivatives

adept nature on all excrescences,
the reifications give off
vertically able conductors

no oak ever grew
except to be concrete in stick,
concerted in the distended quick of it

sturdy uplift of a branch broken straight,
a stick out of tree has its own stab
at branch arborial stacks
stain an instrumental body
only at its verticality

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rings in swirl where a branch was,
lever its way through
harsh currents of vertical hunger
where there is to be this
premonition of clemency in stick

underwood does stay for
cracklings of forest whichever
snap into lift was the more vertical,
extraction is from sticks of it stood

what rests on uprights can dismember
but not disarm

lattice that lessens toward vertical task,
sticks of provision solely their
uprights' any spiritual increment
grateful
along stems gone rigid

the distortion will diagonally thrive,
tooled to the ask

already condenses a prior disjoining
not a borrowing of tree canals
but the tenor of their hardened ducts

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the object tree gives mere sheaf
to tautnesses, all its localisation
untethered but marking out in sticks,
to be non-shelf with all the strength
of a tree's long single caution

tapestry of arrested twigs
at each stitch into stick both
leap to growth but one
is steeped in the death
of its pliable lift

no fresh dendritic nervure
along its otherwise entire
anticipation

a forest shape sheds stick
direct on burdens of horizon,
lets swat at formatives to be offered:
thinning into stick by the same token
as pinning onto rise

every tree works out of huge mansions
stored in its growth but apparent stick
sets the first green joist

sticks for a skirt of heartwood,
their own brittle whirl is
direct unavoids of pre-perished core,
the lure of every tree's before

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if among smuts and starts
there has been no felling,
through outpaced long exception
all the slights
of its non-extinction

an erect leap at horizon,
snip off crest and have
tree stalking whatever is
behind with whatever
is beyond it

praised off ground but vouching
for land, lately in the stick of it

II

Dried wood
the tool
kindled by stick

transformer active wicket,
skinny brackets foretell
the full girth of tree stump

posit sticks at soft adhesive surface
mediated by slow fruition friction,
soft spells pre-circuit hard branches:
if this is structure extract, it is a saliency map
on surface normals

that sticks were covered in leaves
that branches will be levered away
(intact bruteness of sharepoint):
we no longer know which
of the two frequents a
fuller arbour, either request
is out of sequence

whose boughs accelerate until
prolonged by the interval stealth
of stick-reach: conventional
isolations of stick wealth

what ascends the tree-site
is a sense of branch: what ascended
branch was a sense of trunk: what incenses
trunk will be vertical
concussion (in rays of stick)

premature, disentire stiffness
strikes a flash off horizon,
sands a telos way down its staff,
smoothing (it smote) its yield
of vertical gravitation

separable ballast (picked
from uprights apart) speared
through an absolute beginning

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prescript tree flux: it worked
every one of its instants to stick,
showered forest onto the tenses of its materials

resumes snappy furtherances of future
sticks on the point of its edge sediment

without these delayings of tree
barrier (full tree barrage) no
sticks could be a prime carrier

tree verticals on the divergence,
as uprights any plural is sole tree reference:
any upright assumption of tree isn't the normal
state of stick which space out
their deadwood arisen
horizontal livings

vertical peak amid full horizontal gear,
did share out what blunts to summit
but had always recrowned a
graded acuteness in sticks

given that woods belt against
land-slack to sound
a reach through an
overblown stick

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what is cut short by stick? the bare
stroke of a tree, or fully ripened grace
of these non-renewables?

as stick by storm comes to walk
the ravaged spot tree is a sword
to tree, a hilt for the stick-blade: once drawn,
any splitting cries for its mark

sticks offer variable speed
expenditures darts of tree-flesh
imprint (award) at bespoke horizon

no straightening is possible
beyond primaries of stick, they do
press what had attributed
capture to a negotiating
origin

gives up to the very origin
of unpredictable confirmation, authentic
stems of arousal fit their
transmissible burdens of instrument

if sticks were a harness they are
free of root-drag but baulk their own
height to weight: a meandering source
celebrates its co-solids sticks frozen
into source, outlying the indicator

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flat of the way there are no sticks
to it, a tree living on verticals
lunges at once, may a shift in sticks
embody its height of commission:
fields its smoothest suture to have
fallen into providing again

how tree is a woody implant jump-parted
by its own arrows of attire surrogated
elsewhere, so set off in sticks,
the transitions of oak stalking ash

impossible to strip trees
once dense in stick, despite all
the instrumental legacies: the longer
a stick takes for polarity
(relays the dividers), the less
it was ever treeless

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III

Original trajectory
moves a consecutive
in sticks, re-
verticals present
how it proves

always choose the smaller
possible stick to forsake
(intend) a midmost

the stick possible not as tooling it
oftener than whole trees themselves
but their stability readily transportable

not yet posts from a credal trunk
nor its unfolding leaf beliefs
but darts of straight transfer

parallel sticks upright
off a wounded bough on the diagonal,
affirms (abbreviates, indurates)
its vertical cordon in a curtain afloat

across sticks the truss of an advent:
it might be made into select prior cut,
the grace token offers its before-seed
to plead-rods of a time

virtual staffing come to after-uses,
invites a tree's history into minor masks,
its deepest rootal graft

the stick is linear incompleteness
with slender co-remunerants, an
after-combination in time
with its pre-fuse within the core of tree

only half-removal of what slipped
where it grew, except in the complete
givenness of stick to its travelling ledge

flat on the ground in full
symbolic plight, separate sticks
joint-hungry in structural reserve

such importability of tree is put in reserve,
not to be brought to but will walk again

not a free scene but over and above
sticks spending vertical re/lay,
lean exact trees walking into genesis

there is no stick-shift (pull-apart)
other than unstrafable tree which
accords stick no spoiler tag

symbolics of tapering stick, such
a meta-instrument flickers tree,
the haven offer is core immensity
of micro-drift, macro-lift

stick-heavy finals trembling
off verticals, cleaving ahead of
any beyond-branching

fetching a stick off a wrist of tree
whittled to what it imparts:
this one shift-ache is
what it offers to origin

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sticks not as a tree sector
(however primordially pre-cut) but
liables hanging off a core:
plentitude for the use of
poor regularities, a
leaned-on aspiracy
of origin

blunting of finalities what goes
with what mounts a vertical on acute
replay finals so resemble how
sticks snapped over (enjoined)
their without definition

skeleton to periphery but
not before its own
vertical trial

what are tree uprights going
to mean (as gift) without
travelling their sense
of sticks? until
symbol admission re-
cycles a sediment's
latest intention

stick material once in companion
role asks for no further
rematerialisation of its straightness:
emergence is only taller
to take on burdens, proffer
a directionality of the pre-use

passive separation offers its frontal
elation, sticks of a poverty for use,
a prop to incessant horizon leans
on the leave-ins of prayer

finger these sticks strong origins
no longer repletely (too far longer)
within the envelope of arboreal terracing

the pressure-cone off sticks runs
on a natural risk of origin,
tooled proto-shifters of gift