

Gone to Marzipan

Also by Ralph Hawkins:

English Literature

Well, You Could Do

The Word from the One

Soft in the Brains

Tell Me No More And Tell Me

Birds, Cattle, Fish & Flies

At Last Away

Within & Without

Writ

Routes & Abrasions

Flecks

Pelt

Part One Puškin

The Coiling Dragon / The Scarlet Bird / The White Tiger /
A Blue & Misted Shroud

Pool

The Primeval Atom

The MOON, The Chief Hairdresser (highlights)

Quaoar (with Kelvin Corcoran and Alan Halsey)

(with Bob Cobbing)

G Curled Ribbon

a split

A Quonk

Signatures or the Wasp Under Custard

Gloria

The Next Morning

Everyday Pursuits

Gone to Marzipan

RALPH HAWKINS

Shearsman Books
Exeter

First published in the United Kingdom in 2009 by
Shearsman Books Ltd
58 Velwell Road
Exeter EX4 4LD

www.shearsman.com

ISBN 978-1-84861-021-7

Copyright © Ralph Hawkins, 2009.

The right of Ralph Hawkins to be identified as the author of this work
has been asserted by him in accordance with the Copyrights, Designs
and Patents Act of 1988. All rights reserved.

Acknowledgements

Some of these poems have previously been published in
Angel Exhaust, Poetry Review, Skald, Shearsman,
The Gig and The North.

CONTENTS

Poetics	9
she left a note	10
<i>they had lovely hair in the cinema of the 50's and 60's</i>	11
<i>today's fish swim deeper in dark pressure</i>	12
<i>it's free Tibet day</i>	13
Bewarewolf Poem	14
The Alphabet (A Cognitive Map of Civilization)	16
Wolves (a diptych, two sides of the same coin))	18
Photographs	19
<i>I take pictures</i>	20
<i>the keyboard has a voice</i>	21
<i>this is here – soft wet snow against glass</i>	22
<i>she wrote animals and lived with them</i>	23
Iceberg	25
The Hudson River School Motif	26
Maxter Gold	27
Porkies	28
The Quiet American	29
Saturday Morning Pictures	30
Gaslight	31
Pull My Daisy	32
Dr Zhivago	33
The Searcher	34
The life of Georges Simenon (Extracts)	35
In The Ruins	37
The Man who Fought With Rats	38
The Insane One (Men of Power)	39
Corned Beef	40
Rem Koolhaas	41
<i>it will not run out for millions of</i>	42
<i>nightingales at the feeder</i>	43
<i>list the members of a family sheltered by one roof</i>	44
<i>115 million copies of the Ikea catalogue printed world wide</i>	45
Human Development	46
Descriptions of Huts (Orders of Survival)	47

<i>blows of wind and rain buffeted them</i>	48
<i>there are huts in the North of Europe</i>	49
<i>apparently swallows, rooks, bees and storks</i>	50
<i>shelter from severities with reed and cane</i>	51
<i>In Monomotapa all the dwellings are of wood</i>	52
<i>the name of the inventor of perfume is not known</i>	53
<i>Shepherds</i>	54
Some Questions Concerning Civilization	55
<i>the road festooned</i>	56
<i>the waterfront is lined with mansions</i>	57
The View From Space (Sub-Orbital)	58
Themes For Developing A Treaty	59
The Age of Warring	60
Dirk Brocade	61
Heidegger	62
Chaise Longue	64
The Greenhouse Effect	66
Che Guevara's Cigar	68
Casino	69
The Good Shepherd	70
Anthropology	74
Natural Material	75
The Making of Mong	76
The Citadel of Love	77
Moon Rush (for Yuri Gargarin)	78
A Bright New Thing Has Dawned	80
Three Hudson River School Poems	81
Viagra From Goat Island	82
Coincidence	83
Frans Van Meris: The Soldier And The Prostitute	84
Mount Ida Zeus	85
African Inquisition	86
Sierra Leone	87
Contradictions	88
L'homme du train	89
Transport	90

THE QUEEN OF PUDDINGS

she will not	93
the sentence	94
I look	95
Leading	96
Nineteen	97
Consumer Choice	98
we should never	99
what a day	100
what now	101
I wondered	102
more	103
gulf	104
white rush	105
the queen of puddings	106
melts	107
sky-diver	108
nip and tuck	109
shades	110
health care	111
tantalize	112
dance lessons	113
volvic	114
plain facts	115
something to look forward to	116
wishful thinking	117
future plans	118
my blood ran	119

POETICS

1. We understand the factors governing present day poetic distribution
2. These affinities have not changed through time
3. Present and past distributions are and were not in equilibrium
4. Modern analogues pre-exist
5. The taphonomy of a poetic assemblage can be established
6. This assemblage is biased by contamination of source material
7. Poems can be identified to a meaningful level of taxonomic resolution

the wind blah blahs
up to 20,000 generations of beetles
munching on wood

dark pollen rains into pools
ambered scent fills the air
glistens at your neck

she left a note

Gone to Marzipan

I looked it up in a dictionary

The fallen nuts make a dog paste in the sand

They list the ingredients in the hotel

The young girl in 127

It produces millions of dollars

At Christmas they charge treble for a double

Did she mean Mozambique

Resin wafting from pine

The almond of her thighs

they had lovely hair in the cinema of the 50's and 60's

technicolor cinemascope

but was it real

Catherine Deneuve had a headscarf★

Victor Mature a pout

you also had lovely hair

I wrote *I Love Lucy* for Andrew

Donald Duck as Natty Bumppo

★well after *Belle de Jour*

there was Biblical rain

when only true lovers kissed

today's fish swim deeper in dark pressure

death by lethal injection

another city bursts into flame urb by urb by urb

sweeping the globe in cycles

this we know from the Venusians (based in Virginia in 1606)

held dreams of world domination★

prone to smallpox, malnutrition

swamp fever

at war with Spain or

★terra incognito

it's free Tibet day

the air shimmers and the trappings of state produce varied menus

there are many offers at hand in trading relations

oil leaving gaps in consciousness

there are still good deals to be had

in changing body-count rules

there is happiness in recycling old dogmas

the myth of perfectibility

today I read

I will meet the man of my dreams

provider of breakfast cuddles

the Dalai Lama worries about his last breath

that it may *not* be his last breath

BEWAREWOLF POEM

*you know I'm the wolf baby
you know I stays in the wood
well when you get in trouble
you call the wolf out of the wood
Howlin' Wolf*

Olf Larson stepped out of his Finnish dacha
or was it a Volvo
pine trees in blue

running in front of him an encircling figuration of paw prints
leading off into
Cat People like moments

Man With Dog 1953 by Francis Bacon

Joe Stalin in his dacha

Absolut Vodka

Olf changing his name to Gunter
changing his erstwhile car to a Golf Automatic

wolves out to get you
switching from one thing to another
trading piss mark signs as stigmata

what is there for a male wolf—career, mortgage, she-wolves—
wolf cubs

St. Stephen Suckled by a Doe

St. Nicholas of Tolentino Calms a Storm

St. Francis and The Wolf of Gubbio

Gunter worked out at a Health Spa
ice-cold skies
splendid mountain views
a cold star with a *sickle* moon
the Siberian wastes full of timber, oil and gold
enough to make a killing

money ascribed with blood
Sassetta's *Madonna of the Snow*
the halo of St. Francis embossed **PATRICIA PAUPERUM**
Olf's cousin the Siberian Tiger
stocking the freezer with shark steak and swordfish
alpine plants in superstores
on the urbs outskirts and byways of leisure
passed *Swimmies* the Vietnamese Fighting Fish
what the English call hobbies
Gunter discovers *Pet World* is a brothel

THE ALPHABET
(A COGNITIVE MAP OF CIVILIZATION)

King Ape followed by King Bee
(or is that Queen B?)
What of Aristotle (a different line)
follow the bouncing ball
King Crab Stick
That's Ari Aristotle the ship magnate
(Where did the Minoans come from?)
the descent into poetic Anarchy

Should I take up gardening instead
The ABC of Gardening
a trellis

solitude

Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*

and happiness, what is that

Bush Fire
Texas expansion
To wear cowboy boots

The gun lobby
Even the actor who played Moses in Moses and Monotheism
realizes the quest for oil

The Black Dahlia
The Petrified Forest

The Blast Shelter
(shadows of the dead)

ah Leslie Howard

are we now on W

King Wang?

Waylon Jennings or Hank Wangford

Don't I dare

WOLVES (A DIPTYCH, TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN)

Recently I've been thinking
Of making a late marriage to the daughter
Of a wolf butcher
We'd escape from it all to an island under an endless star-lit sky
There'd be a big welcome kiss on the harbourmaster's wall
You'd have kiss-curled hair (early Doris Day) and rose lipstick
You'd wear a snow-white dress sequinned with star-gems
I'd hold the diskette of the world sun-bolt bright in my hand
We'd begin a circus
I'd become a wolf tamer
Finally abandoning my fascination with market economies

I'd marry the harbourmaster under perfectly normal conditions
I'd be the profligate blonde
There'd be a big wet kiss on his lips
He'd have kiss-curled hair (Rick Nelson)
I'd wear my white dress encrusted with star-gems
We'd go to Nacogdoches
I'd hold the reins of the world in my hand
(or was it Kansas?)
I'd embrace the market economy
I'd run off with the Mexican circus owner
I'd marry a Medicine Man
and feed our children to the wolves