

*Maelstrom Origami*

Also by Steve Spence

*A Curious Shipwreck*, Shearsman Books, 2010

*Limits of Control*, Penned in the Margins, 2011

#### Anthologies

*In the Presence of Sharks*, Phlebas, 2006

*Orphans of Albion*, Survivors Press/The Sixties Press, 2008

*The Forward Book of Poetry*, Forward Press, 2011

*Smartarse*, Knives, Forks and Spoons Press, 2011

*Adventures in Form*, Penned in the Margins, 2012

*The Robin Hood Book*, Caparison, 2012

Steve Spence

*Maelstrom  
Origami*

Shearsman Books

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Contents page (to be created)



I

A Point of Entry





Let us imagine someone who has encountered  
the word 'chair' and does not know what it means.  
Tonight there will be a magic lantern show.

Even in exile he was no longer safe yet there is  
no simple correlation between colour and language.  
Even basic typographical questions remain unsolved.

Beardless again, he looked even younger. For those  
with a neurotic predisposition, the fear of dependency  
may evolve into terror. Here too, we have a sentence.

A power balance is always delicate and can easily  
be disrupted yet a man lying down is a man disarmed.  
Are we semi-detached from the flow of time?

When the initial sounds had been achieved she started  
to bring in the musicians. Are we semi-detached from  
the flow of time? Later we may provoke a storm.

He lay with his head in the grass, staring at the parting  
clouds. Speech perception is a highly active process.  
After darkness came, the capital remained tense and edgy.

Have you ever roared with laughter in an empty room?  
First there will be a greeting, followed by an interrogation.  
They may be ungainly on land but puffins are superb divers.

As the months turn to years forgetting a fact can be seen  
as disbelieving it. Once again I felt a lurch of fear. Condors  
were found foaming at the beak and crashing into rocks.

What about a pink oyster mushroom?  
Once again I felt a lurch of fear.

When does a stream become a river or a hill a mountain? You may need to have your feet on the ground and your head in the clouds at the same time.

Are you struggling to see the main stage? In the final session, two experimenters were involved. Communication is evidently a complex affair.

The police truck stopped and we were ordered to get out. During reading, the eyes do not follow lines of print in a smooth, linear manner.

“The important thing is that the painting’s there, nailed to the wall,” she said. Are you using nuanced language to underline your subliminal message?

We were aided by the fact that it was a very windy day. Yet there are other ways of talking to the past and life inside the compound is relatively pleasant.

Do we compete or do we collaborate? Yet it’s important to keep the momentum going and the longer they pretend to pay us the longer we’ll pretend to work.

“There is likely to be a zigzag pattern,” he said. Here the chief anxiety relates to the use of language to convey the truth. To enter you must accept our rules.

Are you fascinated by conversation? Yet no interaction is deemed to have happened unless somebody has taken a picture of it.

Why can’t we confine our mistakes to paint and canvas? Silence is one way of shutting down a sensitive subject.

You could sense dampness in the air but no water.  
When we reached the rocks I found several mackerel  
hanging from the hooks.

Do you have any knowledge of anatomy? As the wind  
changes the bats turn south and a network of associations  
are built up between sounds.

Some sea slugs ooze poison yet there is a complex crossover  
between eating and hunting. Grammatical handicaps are  
shown by a restrictive range of sentence construction.

It's a long, hot afternoon and we're stuck in the traffic.  
A child is sitting opposite the experimenter. Elephants,  
like cattle and deer, are often involved in road accidents.

She had drifted into his radar and he had locked on.  
Of special note are the thimble jellyfish. A struggle  
ensued with several people coming to her aid.

Most food-swap events last about two hours yet so much  
of what we do is 'virtual' these days and none of these  
birds have been trained. Hot-desking is not on our agenda.

Another surprising aquatic danger is the snapping turtle  
and the context of an attack is always important. The only  
downside seems to be a lack of humour in her work.

When there is temptation someone will always succumb,  
yet these skills are not necessarily transferable, and we now  
have a listener telling us about his life as a mystery shopper.

In flight, the nightjar is almost as big as the  
kestrel yet victims often disappear without a noise.

When will the work begin? He immediately set about adding his full range of talents to the song. I'd like to tell you about the story that never was.

“We need a one-off amnesty with stronger border controls,” she said. This is a young country where the pace of change can be very fast.

These skills are not necessarily transferable yet beckoning can be carried out with the palm of the hand. The patience of a crocodile can last for weeks.

Is it true that you hate being touched? Yet some research focuses on the problem of feedback and different plants demand different methods of collection.

Most people in the west will eat shrimps but not insects. At the same time there are groups of riot police who are relaxing, leaning on their shields.

“I absolutely insist that we use live musicians”, she said. She is intrigued by everything about their behaviour. After his victory he glistened with sweat.

These cuts are just the next phase in an ongoing process yet another big problem arises out of the use of abbreviation. This is a predominantly poor community.

Often, with these things, there's a dynamic of bloodshed yet this whole area acts as a filter for what is coming off the land. “As a student of language, it has to be the OED” he said.

She is intrigued by everything about their behaviour, from the clothes they wear to their social-networking habits.

Let's start with some statistics. Everyone thinks they are under attack in cyberspace yet humans have increasingly knocked down traditional barriers between land and sea.

As I remembered this unusual set of facts, a wasp crawled into my ear. The colours warmed and deepened as he watched. "We've decided to let you go," she said.

Attribution can be very hard yet these attacks have become consistently ingenious, seeking flaws in the supply chain. Pollinators are on the decrease.

Are we making marine life ill with human diseases? Above all, it's the look that he catches in the faces of his women. Welcome to the maelstrom.

If these images are widely shared we don't know in whose hands they might end up. Yet the real price of an object is not what it costs to buy but what it costs to make.

Not all desire is greed but are we now indifferent to the notion of justice for all? Some birds defend themselves not by fighting but by stinking.

What we have here are fermenting carrots. There is something a bit retro about a foot spa but that is no reason not to have one. On the other shelf is an array of vinegars.

We passed high fences, tipped with razorwire. Surely we could draw borders that would make more sense. Naked, she took his breath away.

Captivity changes things. Now people cross over the street to avoid me. Are you anxiously attached?

“I like the action of a real piano” she said.  
How much information were you given by the director?  
Yet the song of the blackbird has a seductive quality.

There may be no simple choice between economy and ecology yet cooking is still done over an open fire. As he was adjusting his camera, the beast revived and charged.

“If we’ve got to go out let’s go out with a bang,” he said.  
Small species are always collected in larger quantities from a single locality. It’s important to get independent advice.

She is more the anthropologist looking in from a distance than she is the gossip columnist. The roofs of their mouths are lined with short teeth and curve back towards the throat.

His testimony effectively put an end to the trial yet the forces of law and order were equally complicit and partisan.  
Throughout history, shipwrecks have turned people into prey.

In a nutshell, what pleased you most about this recent win?  
There is a seedy glamour about absinthe yet one glass per session is a sensible option. You’re never alone with a radio.

In changing our behaviour, do we change what we are?  
This new type of surface coating is so slick that it can make molasses slide like olive oil. “It rankles still.”

It was not nausea that hit me so much as indignation.  
What we’re getting now is a row over numbers yet fossil evidence suggests otherwise. Cheaper drinks could be to blame.

Can great-feeling skin change your body language?  
How do we keep sane under such a deluge of information?

Nobody chooses the cacophony of different channels, do they?  
Micro-organisms remain the basis of the main food system yet  
this outward process mirrors the inward process of going to sleep.

What happens when you start to talk about nature in an economic  
context? At the heart of this campaign is the catchiest song you'll  
hear in a long time. During my spell on the tills I witnessed all of life.

Sometimes the impulse to surrender can be contaminated with the  
need for self-punishment. Here, lava flows have constructed a city of  
monstrous arches. Two chunks of the fish's beak remained in his neck.

A name synonymous with showmanship and extravagance, he was  
a performer with flair. Here we have a dazzling kaleidoscope of colour.  
A few men had life rafts but these were no guarantee of safety.

One approach is 'bottom-up', directed self-assembly yet we also focus  
on the most important thing, which is taste. The Humboldt squid grows  
to six feet and weighs more than twenty five pounds.

You should keep a low profile or your approach could flush the birds.  
I'm sorry but I can't tell you exactly where I've been today. Then he  
was off, ignoring us for long stretches, as if to keep us guessing.

"When I was a young man, I was a fan of permanent revolution,"  
he said. Cognition is complex and whether it looks like a Swiss army  
knife or a giant amoeba may depend on what aspect we are studying.

Even fish and shellfish established as edible sometimes prove  
poisonous yet here we have an economy in freefall. Absinthe is  
also said to be a short-term stimulant to memory.

When I was a young man I played the amusement halls.  
Are these growing pains or are we in a state of stagnation?

For the vast majority of people, gambling is a leisure pursuit. Are you or have you ever been a member of a proscribed organisation? “We did wonder, when you ordered so much food.”

There’s no excuse not to hear the music. Even so, the omens for long-term success don’t look good. In certain cases, some plants require special treatment before drying.

Statements about a lack of provocation are always problematic. Yet it’s best to avoid collecting specimens during hot weather. We need to be extensively engaged with gathering information.

It often feels to me as if things get lost in translation. If anything, these welfare reforms will only push people deeper into poverty. Welcome to the Azores where even the fish look extra-terrestrial.

Whether it happens or not, the temptation for intelligence services to exploit mismatches in national laws is beyond doubt. These aggressive predators possess folding claws like jack-knives.

How do you balance scientific discourse with character development? At this time of year the mind begins to wander. Once again it was a mouse that was bugging him. Where you get nutrients you get plankton.

It’s always difficult to select suitable candidates for public office but these are carnivores, licking the flesh from their prey with their toothed tongues. We were hoping for a different kind of storm.

Have you ever drunk the syrup of beech trees? There is also a short film, in which the couple are shown getting dressed. Finally, everything is secured by straps and placed in a warm, dry place.

He broke down in tears before answering the question for the first time in his career.



Here, under the warmth of the sun, vineyards blanket a hilly landscape. Are you feeling threatened by the underclass? A drab appearance may hide a colourful life.

“We’re losing eye-to-eye contact”, he said. As for the ethics of killing one species to protect another, the professor is unapologetic. It’s fairly difficult to get bitten by a rattlesnake.

This may prove to be the most spectacular wildlife experience of your life. At which point we saw a rise in products and a consequent rise in consumer society.

Have you ever experienced conger eel soup? Everything comes down to how we cope with change. “Yes but why do we have to listen to Steve Wright in the afternoon”, asked Luke.

There are threats and then there are opportunities. Are you a cultural entrepreneur or a taste-shaper? “I was unaware I was being recorded”, she said.

Many are spider specialists and lure their prey by mimicking the movement of trapped insects. There is, for example, the hairy alpine rose.

Let’s deal with economic espionage first. Yes, but it’s usually violence that makes people concentrate on why politics is the best form of government.

A large, undefined frame of red seems to hover in front of a maroon background. “We may be able to help you think about thinking”, she said. The bite of a crocodile is rich with bacteria.

We must break down your text and subject it to vigorous analysis.