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## Songs Before Pylons

Mark Dickinson

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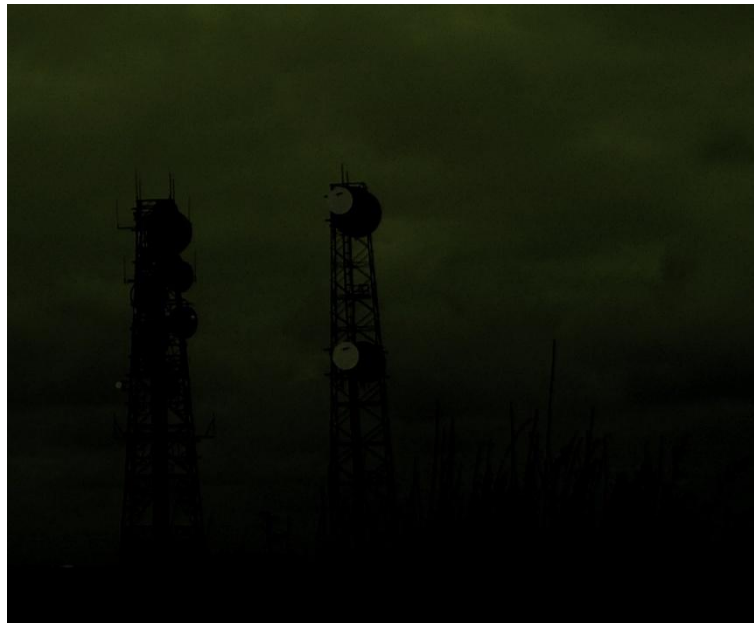
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# Songs before Pylons



Mark Dickinson

i.

*Pylons, Nettle, dande-  
lion amongst minerals;*

*for the nurture of starlings  
in the cry of the open:*

*The seed of grass read capital;  
the yellow bee read capital.*

*The yellow petal held the sky  
in what covers penultimate,*

*& yields a yellow vested view  
that read capital in to the pelmet*

*of due.*

ii.

de forming  
stone  
under the sky

diversifying grass  
in solitude  
& distance

un folding  
within motions  
of air

iii.

Stone, upon stone,  
ball and pillow,  
Weathered to grey  
of *Millerosteus minor*,

Horizon, above the base  
amongst the court  
of the sheep men;  
Rocks tall tales, never lie.

An organ mouths  
the skerries;  
within the still,  
present, elsewhere

amongst desert isles & sea rocks,  
haff-fish & tang  
within the *Lurns of the Sound*:

*I am a man upo' the land  
I am a selchie in the sea*

Waking before the cold immersion;  
'T, a mythic weight  
That casts a weathered hand.

iv.

Out                    in the open,  
a gull                   lifts,  
  
where the children    run,  
  
toward a mystery  
  
& every                   rock  
becomes adventure,  
  
& every                   shell  
whispers its wonder,  
  
& tender laughs  
travail chasms  
with smile-light  
  
from fabrics sown  
in the song-bright    air  
  
a caress  
of immeasurable  
distance  
  
within the quilted  
folds    of tomorrow

v.

Amongst discard: promise,  
Amongst oppression of corroded metal: song,

Within the foundries of disenchantment: testimonies  
Out in the open amongst the verticality of stone: poetry  
Singing toward the refuse of thought in the litter of iterant mind, whistling: "if only"

In this moment before auditory blues rings the blossom of allocation peduncles clip and in the  
movement toward telling rests a star ling.

vi.

Soft  
Coast;  
Plover

Over  
Settled:  
Leafy dock

Where yellow  
Inverts  
& cups the sky



vii

Tiny miniature things  
Upon ever green leaf

Pacing into abstractions  
With stars of uneven colour

Whispering into hazy  
Collections of wings

Undulating amongst a thousand  
Coloured grasses

Between high cliffs & soft coast  
Separated by the distance of geos

viii

*“e-lectric”,*  
*“say it again”, she says*  
*‘e-lectric’,*

Fence, towering like imaginary fields  
With drilling platforms in the far horizon.  
In a fold of stone, cow and a passage of ringed  
Plover all things occupying each fields

Space. Stars and vertical stones key on  
Clines in pirouettes of ornamental red;  
Scattered amongst the roadside wiled,  
Seeding succession in vertical strips of neon

Care of land-lines performing space race  
Orbits with fused sepals, curlew calling  
Land to sky, silently each petal spilling  
To the ground and the stars align a new face

To the undisclosed faith that rippling  
Makes as the magnetic tape of gods  
Uncertain reverence, codified by the odds  
Of this trifoliate leaf into late passing

Measures, where the fields electric  
Magnitude gifts stone lines before  
Muscular bovine pervades concentric  
Minutiae into the sacral permeations

Of lichens inlaid modes pastoral  
Migrating bracts and ringed margins  
Deforming low praxis, creeping petal  
‘Gills’, into forms of foraging origins.

This prime, that odd sequential reverie;  
This yellow amongst apostles of green  
Before what code diminishes the bumblebee?  
Great yellow, red clover identifying green-

Alga forming small balls amongst bottom-  
Dwelling invertebrates. Water bodies  
Elsewhere embrace calcium-loving bodies;  
High light, high nutrient on the bottom.

Tender figure in-turns electric city,  
Many Petal stars amongst the wetlands.  
Brown mottled curlew in the vicinity  
Of stones; the testimony of many hands.

Mound dweller in recumbent stone: *enta geweorc*  
Pre-conquest cross scattered amongst rock,  
Desires sprites of the ecstatic powders,  
Or dialectics in eye-bright dilations, sounders

Over deep infra-structures with fossil fish  
In the proceedings of history, universe  
& legislative framework— fishing for coal-fish  
Beneath the torn-body of the cephalic verse.

Gnomic splinters calibrate flowering  
Indent lines between *ffardic* & *ffordic*  
Breaks to many shallows broadening  
Sea-forth, shell gravel, dense & cryptic.

To a series of deep, low, narrow  
Sills—where I drift synoptic  
Amongst boulders of imprinted mythic  
To an acerbic of tongue-less harrow.

ix

Succession in aria of colour; twill parchment  
In flows of intimacies attachment.

The grounds soft touch displaces the black stone  
Of Odin, at the brink of water & the edge of bone.

Objects of reverence gather before the flood of tide  
Where wisdom, poetry & knowledge reveal a side

Of the processional route toward the water's edge;  
Breathe before immersion, stone floating before the watery edge-

Airs the countless years' to footprint & fingers coeval  
Where the metaphors of stone sound out the vertical

To rest uncultivated land, walling the ancient  
Before the *stones* recumbent stone laid reticent

Horizon, in a field of white *gwyn*, holy between places  
Of assembly amongst staid stones with irregular faces.

x

Old man amongst the waves grapples with meaning.  
Old Norse amongst puzzling roots wades out from longing.

Deep set iron *appearing like the mouth of Orcas*.  
*grisely grim* tracts within runic graffiti.

where today seethes a written measure.  
& the ideal field lumps a mound of green.

death, seals the many mutations of *Orc*.  
links chains of a sacrifice 'so brilliant.

that a light flashes meaning', making song.  
out of eyes where a stone white dragon dis-

closes the cycle of the seasons & a long.  
black dorsal links large sea shapes to a sea of, "Orca!"