

1: ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

IDA, THE GIFT-WRAPPING CLYDESDALE

Ida, the gift-wrapping Clydesdale,  
greeted folks with a swish of her tail  
and alluding to her allergy to hay  
says, with a toss of her head and a neigh:

"Since it beHOOVES me to please,  
I'll try not to sneeze  
as I wrap your boxes with crape  
and fanciful paper and colorful tape.

"Please help me with one little thing;  
put your finger on this loose string  
and assist me in tying this knot.  
(My iron-shod feet are clumsy, God wot!)"

EDWARD LODI

GOOD-BYE, GOLDFISH

The day my favorite goldfish died,  
I'm not ashamed to say, I cried.  
I prayed for its departed soul,  
then flushed it down the toilet bowl.

BRUCE LANSKY

A YOUNG CROW,  
ASKING FOR THE HAND OF HIS BELOVED

I knew it was love at first caw,  
Since first, sir, your daughter I saw.  
I've come to your roost  
(À la Emily Poost)  
To modestly ask for her claw.

... AND THE CEREMONY

"Wilt thou take this lovely young bird,  
Which thou, over others, preferred,  
To have and to holt  
Till both of ye moult?"  
He would, and the bride, she concurred.

MAE SCANLAN

3: SEXUAL POLITICS

WITHOUT NUMBER

*The Statistical Abstract of the United States . . .*  
*skips over sex, going directly from "Sewers" to "Sheep."*  
—Newsweek

Our government reports are clean and pu-re  
For statisticians loathe the crass and cheap.  
They never wallow basely in the *sewer*,  
And when in bed go straight to counting *sheep*.

They'll write about *selective service*, *senate*,  
*Shoes*, *sherbet*, ships but nothing rated x,  
No *shabbiness*, no *shacking up*; the tenet  
Is clear: statistics must stay free of sex.

By shunning it, America supports  
The peace of mind that good, clean living brings.  
Besides, with sex in government reports,  
Someone might actually read the things.

MAX GUTMANN

THRONE ROOM FLAP

Man's home is his castle,  
But when the king's out of town,  
There's no throne room hassle  
The seat's always down.

PAT D'AMICO

IF I WERE X

(A Friendship Poem)

If I were X and you were Y,  
I'd stand by you and . . . multiply.

And once the two of us were paired,  
Why, they would call us (XY)<sup>2</sup>.

J. P. ATRICK LEWIS

6: LARGELY LITERARY

MINI-BOOK REVIEWS

*Moby-Dick*

Man's obsessed,  
Whale is gored  
Man goes a little  
Overboard.

*The Scarlet Letter*

Pastor pesters  
Hester Prynne  
With an un-  
Original sin,  
Now remembered  
By an A-  
Bominable red  
Letter day.

*A Christmas Carol*

Bizarrely, dead Marley,  
His spirits appear. It  
Seems miser gets wiser,  
Gives turkey toperky  
Bob Cratchit. And natch, it  
Ends happy. (It's sappy.)

*Crime and Punishment*

Student, mad,  
Runs amok  
Murders two,  
Worse luck.  
What then?  
Long discussion  
Guilt, more guilt  
(It's Russian).

*War and Peace*

Panorama  
Russian drama,  
Names all end  
In -ov and -ski.  
Man for man,  
It's longer than  
The Moscow phone  
Directory.

J. PATRICK LEWIS

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