

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)².

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

Subscribe to Light Quarterly

If you wish to connect with a vital tradition, subscribe to the magazine USA TODAY described as “. . . much like The New Yorker without the annoying hubris.” Subscriptions are \$18 (four issues), \$30 (eight issues), \$28 International. Single copies \$5. Sample/back issues \$4 (Please indicate issue #, \$2 additional for each if mailed first class).

Send checks (drawn on a U.S. bank) to:

LIGHT
Box 7500
Chicago, Illinois 60680

Or call toll-free (VISA or MASTERCARD): 1-800-285-4448.

Note

LIGHT's street address is:

Light Quarterly
907 Ridge Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091.

If you're not completely satisfied for any reason, we'll be happy to give you a full refund.