

## HAND

Agony gambling:  
it is with unglued thumbs we  
track won hands, a blue tally.

Poker chit skin tags,  
knucklebone dice. Come  
blow--roll 'em--get organ-spliced.

Modular body  
parts are what this game's played for:  
the pot's a basket fingers'

intricate clasp weaves  
a cauldron abrim with salt  
dripped from the kidneys squeezing.

Plays hinges on interpreting bent knuckles,  
cast-off phalanges. In loss, you have to pop  
a valuable piece off, deep or surface,  
argue its worth, and plunge it in. The trick's

which bit gets bartered away:  
those that aren't careful to keep  
spare organs all end up sprawled

out limbless where their last bid  
meant a bad transplant, they part  
ways with the wrong artery

and hemorrhage. And not a drop  
of threat's left on the tongue. Straight  
flushed of bluff and blood, no pair