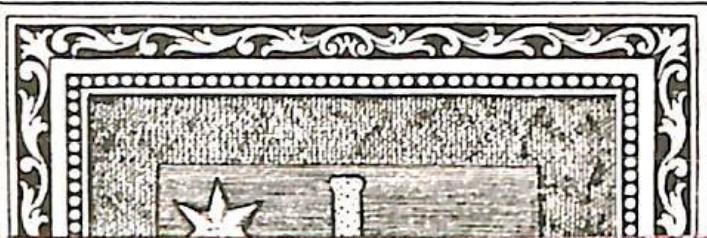


PN  
6101  
B3

# COMPUTER POEMS

Gathered by  
Richard W. Bailey





UNIVERSITY *of*  
NOTRE DAME



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## **COMPUTER POEMS**

*gathered by*  
*Richard W. Bailey*

**Potagannissing Press  
Drummond Island, Michigan**

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## Preface

Computer poetry is warfare carried out by other means, a warfare against conventionality and language that has become automatized. Strange as it seems, our finite state automata have become the poet's allies in this struggle, the long historical battle by which mankind pries into the surface of language to reveal its latent mysteries.

At the beginning of this century, Stephane Mallarmé published a slogan for modernism: A throw of the dice will never abolish chance. Chance is not abolished by the computer's randomizing power but is re-created in different terms. The poet-programmer finds this power a tool to create a new set of dice, multi-faceted and marked with elements of his own choosing.

Yet the new battle to free language is fought on familiar battlefields: concrete poetry is reflected with a computer mirror in the poems of Leslie Mezei and Greta Monach; pure poetry of sound in the verbal orchestrations of Archie Donald and Noreen Greeno; imagistic poetry in the juxtaposition of the unfamiliar by Charles Forbes, James Runner, and Robin Shirley; syllabic organization in the haiku of Margaret Chisman, Robert Gaskins, and John Morris; the imposition of order on disorder in the poems of Marie Borroff, Pete Kilgannon, and Louis Milic. From all of these varied efforts a new convention has already arisen that allows poets like Edwin Morgan the scope to simulate computer poetry without recourse to the machine.

The Potagannissing Press takes pleasure in the publication of the following collection of poems, an edition of computer-assisted literary works executed in Britain, Canada, and the United States.

The occasion for its publication was a symposium on the computer in the arts held at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in May 1973, an event sponsored by the Academy, the Bloomfield Art Association, Eastern Michigan University, and the University of Michigan, with the support of the Michigan Council for the Arts.

The editor wishes to thank the contributors for making their work available for publication here. Inquiries concerning this and other Potagannissing Press publications should be directed to 1609 Cambridge Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

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## **COMPUTER POEMS**

to  
me

, POEMS FROM THE CHINESE

Gracious is money

And avuncular are the buttonholes of its bed;  
But it is among the berries, and there only,  
That the graciousness of money may guard us  
And the buttonholes of its bed may be judged.

Furtive is mahogany

And delirious are the shades of its pants;  
But it is among the pastures, and there only,  
That the furtiveness of mahogany may uplift us  
And the shadows of its pants may be dissolved.

Base is darkness

And passionate are the lungs of its shape;  
But it is among the fields, and there only,  
That the baseness of darkness may know us  
And the lungs of its shape may be wronged.

Stiff is music

And deep are the steeples of its caress;  
But it is among the trees, and there only,  
That the stiffness of music may create us  
And the steeples of its caress may be judged.

Transparent is flesh

And ancient are the shadows of its spittle;  
But it is among the trains, and there only,  
That the transparency of flesh may breed us  
And the shadows of its spittle may be quenched.

## NEW YORK

Woman, why do you create your face  
In the fountains of New York?

"The fountains are gracious,  
And the nightmares guard them."

Lover, why do you protect your foot  
From the berries of New York?

"The berries are analyzable,  
And the edges solemnize them."

Brother, why do you gather your shroud  
From the ices of New York?

"The ices are warm  
And the lamentations ride them."

Moron, why do you open your outrage  
Among the flowers of New York?

"The flowers are red  
And the rivers kindle them."

Policeman, why do you fulfull your eyesockets  
In the rivers of New York?

"The rivers are deep  
And the disguises bury them."

Woman, let your face multiply and be ridden.

Lover, let your foot dwell and be stained.

Brother, let your shroud shake and be pounded.

Moron, let your outrage sit and be solemnized.

Policeman, let your eyesockets dwell and be surrounded.

*A SELECTION OF HAIKU*

The world searches hesitantly  
But I exalt in the vision  
Vast acute elation merging totally

The world probes relentlessly  
But I believe in the challenge  
Brave muted sacrifice intruding stealthily

The world mocks effectively  
But I explore in the ambience  
Harsh resolute experiment appeasing obliquely

The world hates irrevocably  
But I discover in the struggle  
Free wanton aversion knowing intuitively

The world yields silently  
But I default in the retreat  
Strange languid fulfilment dying imperceptibly

## *LIFE IS A RANDOM WALK*

A stupid practice of dreaming  
Sometimes results in stagnation  
Yet I pray alone on a mountain  
Dangerously

A stifling trauma of suffering  
Sometimes results in decay  
Yet I meditate alone on a mountain  
Ferociously

A rigid pattern of learning  
Sometimes results in confusion  
Yet I walk alone on a mountain  
Ridiculously

A ruthless turbulence of loving  
Sometimes results in exhaustion  
Yet I fast alone on a mountain  
Meaninglessly

A sudden syndrome of giving  
Sometimes results in release  
Yet I wait alone on a mountain  
Anxiously

A painful habit of belonging  
Sometimes results in rejection  
Yet I sing alone on a mountain  
Triumphantly

## *CHANCE AND CHOICE*

Enthral'ling tondling  
Competing responding  
Treacherous prophets fiercely recoil  
Because desire and analysis  
Exalt stealthily  
Excite tangibly  
Faith is greater than a tangle of enlightenment

Yearning mingling  
Thwarting absorbing  
Lustful women relentlessly refuse  
Unlike desire and synthesis  
Inhibit skilfully  
Reveal indirectly  
Love is rarely a coil of deceit

Soothing stroking  
Deriding dispersing  
Diffident men irrevocably soften  
But matrix and process  
Evade infallibly  
Expose effectively  
Marriage is sometimes a bridge of choice

Confiding dancing  
Fleeing rebelling  
Naked maidens inexorably betray  
But chance and design  
Recede hopelessly  
Rebuke utterly  
Life is for some a web of folly

Languishing embracing  
Rejecting parting  
Submissive lovers silently mellow  
Beyond strategy and impact  
Subdue softly  
Incite adroitly  
Beauty is forever the shape of joy

**Gus Garside and Robin Shirley**

*DUNETUNE*

Leaving no footprints on water she sleeps with shadows  
prescience passed future  
Starlike in youth dunelike in age my freedom is hers  
Spacespectre walking on planets undreamed of  
her eyes sing fire melodies.

Essence of dreams  
Walking on planets undreamed of she awaits the return  
of waves  
She remembers no one  
Essence of dreams parted in some long forgotten seed  
her eyes sing fire melodies.

Born of a universal stalemate  
joining joy with repose a time for inconsequence  
my freedom is hers  
Walking on planets undreamed of leaving no footprints  
on water  
her eyes sing fire melodies.

Clutching at dreams I whisper her name  
clutching at dreams her name  
dreams clutching at name her I dream  
dreams I dream clutching at clutching her  
clutching at her dreams

Archie Donald

## TIMESHARING

*Conditional Jump*  
TIME ON 15:35

*A Basic Experience*  
LONDON B

SYSTEM ----- BASIC  
NEW OR OLD ----- NEW  
PROJECT ID ----- LOVEYU  
PROGRAM ----- WELAST

READY

```
1 LET X = YOU
2 LET Y= ME
3 LET X * Y = X, Y, C, D
4 IF X > Y GO TO 11
5 THEN IF X < Y GO TO 10
6 IF X = Y
7 PRINT "APPLE PIE"
8 READ C,D
9 GO TO 3
10 PRINT "ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE
      TWO BEARS"
11 PRINT "CHANGE PROGRAM"
12 DATA INSERT
20 NEXT
```

999 STOP

RUN

WAIT

"ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WERE TWO BEARS"  
?

INTEGRATE

"NOW UPON A TIME THERE ARE THREE BEARS"

"NOW UPON A TIME THERE ARE THREE BEARS"

?

AGAIN AGAIN AGAIN

"NOW HERE'S THE TIME WITH FOUR BEARS"

"NOW HERE'S THE TIME WITH FOUR BEARS"

"NOW HERE'S THE TIME WITH FORE BEARS"

?

VALUE JUDGEMENT

TILL THE TIME COMES TO EXPAND

THEY ALL LIVE TOGETHER AS A VIABLE

FAMILY UNIT

? SAVE CONVERT TO PROGRAM 'EXPAND'

APPLE PIE

APPLE PIE

APPLE PIE

APPLE PIE

END

BYE

OFF AT 15:54

VALID TIME 24.8 SECS

### GLOSSARY

> BIGGER THAN

< SMALLER THAN

\* TIMES (MULTIPLIED BY)

? WHAT NEXT

IF READ ALOUD TWO VOICES SHOULD BE USED.

FLAT

CHEERFUL

*TELCOMP POEMS*

OLD VILLAGES TOWER BRIGHTLY  
NEAR OLD OR WHITEWASHED DUNFERMLINE  
NEAR THE SMOKY RIVER  
NEAR THE WHITEWASHED WOOD  
NEW BRIDGES STAND DARKLY

GLOOMY HAMLETS BURN MOROSELY  
NEAR DESOLATE OR OLD DUNSINANE  
BESIDE SOME DESOLATE HOLLOW  
NEAR THE DESOLATE HOLLOW  
DARK HAMLETS BECOME BRIEFLY

GREEN HAMLETS LIE SOMBRELY  
NEAR OLD OR OLD DUNFERMLINE  
BESIDE SOME DARK MOUNTAIN  
BEFORE SOME DESOLATE HOLLOW  
NEW ARCHES THREATEN BRIGHTLY

SMOKY TOWER MOROSELY  
NEAR DESOLATE AND NEW DUNDEE  
WITH THE DARK MOUNTAIN  
NEAR THE WHITEWASHED WOOD  
SMOKY VILLAGES THREATEN DARKLY

OLD VILLAS DIVIDE QUIETLY  
BEFORE SMOKY AND CROWDED DUNFERMLINE  
NEAR THE SMOKY RIVER  
NEAR SOME WHITEWASHED WOOD  
GREEN STREETS DIVIDE MOROSELY

THE INVITING INVITING FLESH  
PASSIONATE ANGELA  
ALONG THE TREES AND VALLEYS  
BEHIND THE SANDS AND FLOWERS  
SENSUAL LINDA  
PASSIONATE CHERIE  
SULTRY ALICIA  
UPON THE TREES

THE INVITING WILLING HAIR  
INVITING ATLAS  
ALONG THE WAVES AND SANDS  
UPON THE TREES AND VINES  
TORRID MERCURY  
SENSUAL APOLLO  
ABANDONED LINDA  
CLOSE TO THE TREES

THE PASSIONATE INVITING BODY  
EROTIC HELEN  
AMONG THE VINES AND VINES  
UPON THE SANDS AND VALLEYS  
EROTIC APOLLO  
EROTIC MERCURY  
PASSIONATE CHERIE  
ALONG THE VINES

THE WILLING ABANDONED APPEAL  
TORRID ALICIA  
AMONG THE SANDS AND GRASSES  
ABOVE THE VALLEYS AND WAVES  
TORRID ALICIA  
INVITING LINDA  
PASSIONATE MERCURY  
ABOVE THE SHORES

THE TORRID WILLING HAIR  
INVITING MERCURY  
CLOSE TO THE SHORES AND TREES  
BEHIND THE GRASSES AND FLOWERS  
EROTIC MERCURY  
TORRID ALICIA  
WILLING HELEN  
ABOVE THE SHORES

The centurion renews the lighted watchman  
Floating above the several and distant battlements  
Whispering and running  
Running and searching  
Beneath lighted hallways and hollow battlements  
Outside the lonely lonely subways

The centurion reveals the cloistered messenger  
Floating between the blue-grey and blue-grey hallways  
Escaping and searching  
Encroaching and opening  
Inside windswept columns and several columns  
Under the windswept lonely pillars

The beast muffles the secluded trumpeter  
Floating along the hollow and secluded columns  
Escaping and encroaching  
Whispering and whispering  
Along secluded subways and lighted subways  
Outside the lonely lighted columns

The trumpeter withstands the hollow versifier  
Encroaching under the distant and lighted columns  
Escaping and searching  
Floating and encroaching  
Along distant corridors and cloistered subways  
Beneath the lighted lighted subways

The messenger announces the blue-grey horseman  
Whispering out of the lonely and hollow galleries  
Searching and whispering  
Breaking and escaping  
Through lonely corridors and secluded hallways  
Above the distant several subways

Robert Gaskins, Jr.

*HAIKU ARE LIKE TROLLIES*

*(There'll Be Another One Along in a Moment)*

WANDERING IN MIST  
REACHING OUT TO SOFT SUNLIGHT  
BLUE-SCALED DRAGONS PAUSE.

MOON LOW OVER SEA  
GLIMPSE OF DISCARDED COCOON  
SMALL FISH SWIMMING IDLY.

FISHERMAN'S BOAT DRIFTS  
MEDITATING ON LILIES  
FIREFLIES LISTENING.

DARK EYES OF RACCOONS  
REMEMBRANCE OF MORNING STAR  
ARRIVING IN STARS.

QUAIL AGAINST WATER  
WALKING AND SEEING WOODSMOKE  
LONELY CITY, DARK.

WHITE KITTENS PLAYING  
REACHING OUT TO PLUM BLOSSOMS  
MIST BEYOND RIDERS.

ARRIVING IN MIST  
THOUGHTS OF WHITE POINSETTIAS  
SNOW LEOPARDS WATCHING.

MOON LOW OVER SEA  
SUDDEN VISION OF MOONRISE  
WHITE MANDARIN DUCKS.

LOOKING AT HIGH WALLS  
THOUGHTS OF SNOW LEFT UNMELTED  
SWALLOWS LISTENING.

GOLDEN ORIOLES  
SO MUCH IMPORTANCE IN PATHS  
RED-MANED PONIES, DARK.

WANDERING IN PINES  
MEDITATING ON BRANCHES  
ELK AGAINST WATER.

RED FOX CUBS WATCHING  
MEDITATING ON SPRING RAIN  
SCENTED THORNGRASSES.

PINES AMONG RIDERS  
OLD MAN IS SPEAKING OF FROST  
MOUNTAIN JAYS WATCHING.

YELLOW RIVER, PALE,  
REMEMBRANCE OF PLUM BLOSSOMS  
BLUE-SCALED DRAGONS SLEEP.

MIST UPON SQUIRREL'S FUR  
SCENT OF YELLOW MULBERRIES  
HEAVY-ANTLERED DEER.

MOON LOW OVER SEA  
REACHING OUT TO EMPTY NESTS  
DISTANT CRY OF LOON.

DEPARTING IN MIST  
STANDING BY LOTUS FLOWERS  
GRAY LIZARDS DROWSING.

LONELY CITY, FAINT,  
LOOKING AT CAMELLIAS  
SNAILS BESIDE THE POOL.

CRY OF AN EAGLE  
GLIMPSE OF YELLOW PINE POLLEN  
ARRIVING IN PINES.

PRINCES ON WATCHTOWER  
STANDING BY ICE DIAMONDS  
DEPARTING IN WINDS.

BLACK-MANED LIONS REST  
REMEMBRANCE OF THUNDER CLOUDS  
RED-MANED PONIES, CLEAR.

TRAVELING IN STARS  
BEAUTY OF FLAMING SUNSET  
BEATING WINGS OF GEESE.

LACE-WHITE PEACOCKS SLEEP  
REMEMBRANCE OF HEAPS OF HAY  
MIST UPON SQUIRREL'S FUR.

UNICORNS DROWSING  
THOUGHTS OF STEEP GREEN RIVER BANKS  
SCENTED THORNGRASSES.

CRY OF AN EAGLE  
SORROW OF FLOWER-SHADOWS  
PINES UPON TEMPLES.

MOVING WATER, DARK,  
WALKING AND SEEING MOONRISE  
DOE BY THE WILLOWS.

ELK IN MOUNTAIN PASS  
OLD MAN IS SPEAKING OF SNOW  
LONELY CITY, PALE.

TRAVELING IN STARS  
BEAUTY OF FLAMING SUNSET  
BEATING WINGS OF GEESE.

SCENTED THORNGRASSES  
STANDING BY WILD STRAWBERRIES  
GOLDEN ORIOLES.

LOOKING AT FRONTIERS  
REMEMBRANCE OF MEADOW GRASS  
BLACK-MANED LIONS SLEEP.

WANDERING IN STARS  
STANDING BY FALLEN ACORNS  
SNOWSHOE HARES DROWSING.

MOON LOW OVER SEA  
WALKING AND SEEING COOL SHADE  
MOTHS AGAINST WATER.

RED-MANED PONIES, MIST,  
REMEMBRANCE OF MORNING STAR  
UNICORNS PLAYING.

Noreen Greeno

*WORDWORKS*

CANT	RACE	CORE	ROPE	CARE	COAT
CART	RATE	COPE	ROTE	CAPE	COLT
		CONE	ROLE	CANE	

ACT ALONE

ACT APART

ACT ALERT

ACT CLEAN

ACT ENACT

ACT LATER

ACT NOT

ACT ONCE

ACT ONE

ACT UPON

Pete Kilgannon

*LYRIC 1101*

the beautiful opinion  
standing tell the thief. not change. the  
every wine approach the thief.  
sadly change after sonia.

better thief remain someone  
never know under judy  
someone went sadly baby.  
never know under judy.

better thief remain someone.  
never know under judy  
someone went sadly baby.  
never know under judy.

better thief remain someone.  
never know under judy  
someone went sadly baby.  
never know under judy.

written by elliot 4130 computer and algol program.

*THE REPLACEMENT – Developed from Lyric 1101*

love, that beautiful opinion,  
is guarded from erosion of days passing.  
but time, the thief, intoxicates  
with ecstacies of wine  
and sadly, changing, steals all  
that we had.

better could we still the flow of time  
towards the darkness coming.  
with sonia i was sure.  
will judy fill the void of stolen pleasure?  
sadly baby, sadly,  
i don't know.

## *LYRIC 2120*

love forever want in them for  
carry indeed as i wont know.  
private distance talk what hey. an  
awful women tell the thief. not  
approach after pat we can since.

sadly liketa tell if dean me.  
every reason change while pow. the  
every reason change the thief. not  
approach after pat we can since  
remain standing tell if dean me.

wanna sadly change while pow. the  
every reason change the thief. not  
approach after pat we can since.  
remain standing tell if dean me.  
every reason change while now. the

written by elliott 4150 computer and algol program.

*IF YOU WERE ME – Developed from Lyric 2120*

i certainly expect the best from people,  
require of them an endless depth of love,  
for, knowing not their thoughts and every actions,  
how else can i control them?

take, for example, my friend – a thief called dean,  
whom i have tried to educate  
( as so you would if you were me )  
into the monstrous ways of feminine morality.

of course he does not heed my many reasoned warnings,  
never apprehending that pat's elusiveness  
is due to this and to the compound distance  
between people – privacy.

if you were dean you'd know you must stay standing,  
avoid those humbling postures he adopts.  
accumulating compromise  
brings creeping evolution to our souls.

if you were me how else would you advise him  
of the sad inevitability of change?  
no-one can ever access pat's most private thoughts,  
so relax baby, welcome instant love.

*LYRIC 3205*

judy gotta want upon someone.  
wanna sadly will go about.

sammy gotta want the thief him but the  
every reason. real distance carry.

before god wanna remain.  
private distance talk indeed baby. an.

diane likta tell the thief him but the  
every reason. real distance carry.

before god wanna remain  
private distance talk indeed baby. an

written by elliott 4130 computer and algol program.

*RESTLESSNESS – Developed from Lyric 3205*

judy needs to need someone  
sadly searching everywhere

sammy finds his soul attached to  
travel, movement, free as air

diane lusts communication  
every life is her domain

private distance talks indeed and  
drives us all to search in vain

*LYRIC 6154*

kiss out of anthony he liketa while pow. what  
begin without johnny someone went not hi. while  
carry over tracy someone went not hi. while  
carry over tracy someone went not hi. while

terrible their very much be happy  
lemme recently can remember upon sue  
someone dont lemme not under the since please. earth  
running go away the movie star anyone.

beautiful wine happily feel crazy.  
gotta suddenly cant be happy after pat  
someone dont lemme not under the since please. earth  
running go away the movie star anyone.

written by elliott computer and algol program.

*DUET AFTER THE PARTY*  
— Developed from Lyric 6154

a kiss from anthony ?

he used to like to while. . . .  
pow !

what ? begin without johnny ?  
he's bringing tracy over.

i'll wait.  
hi !

terrible thief, i want so much to be happy. . . .  
do you remember when sue. . . .  
. . . .but they wont let me, not since. . . .  
not under the. . . .

please !  
earth running ? going away ?  
is anyone a star anymore ?  
i'll never be happy again, not after pat !  
suddenly, suddenly i must —  
beautiful wine happily feel crazy !

*LYRIC 7302*

suddenly gonna be happy to sonia we love then.  
someone dont lemme remain under mick someone be with.  
sadly be happy after sonia we gotta never  
remain regularly want upon sue someone wanna  
sadly under the miserably in someone. sylvie.

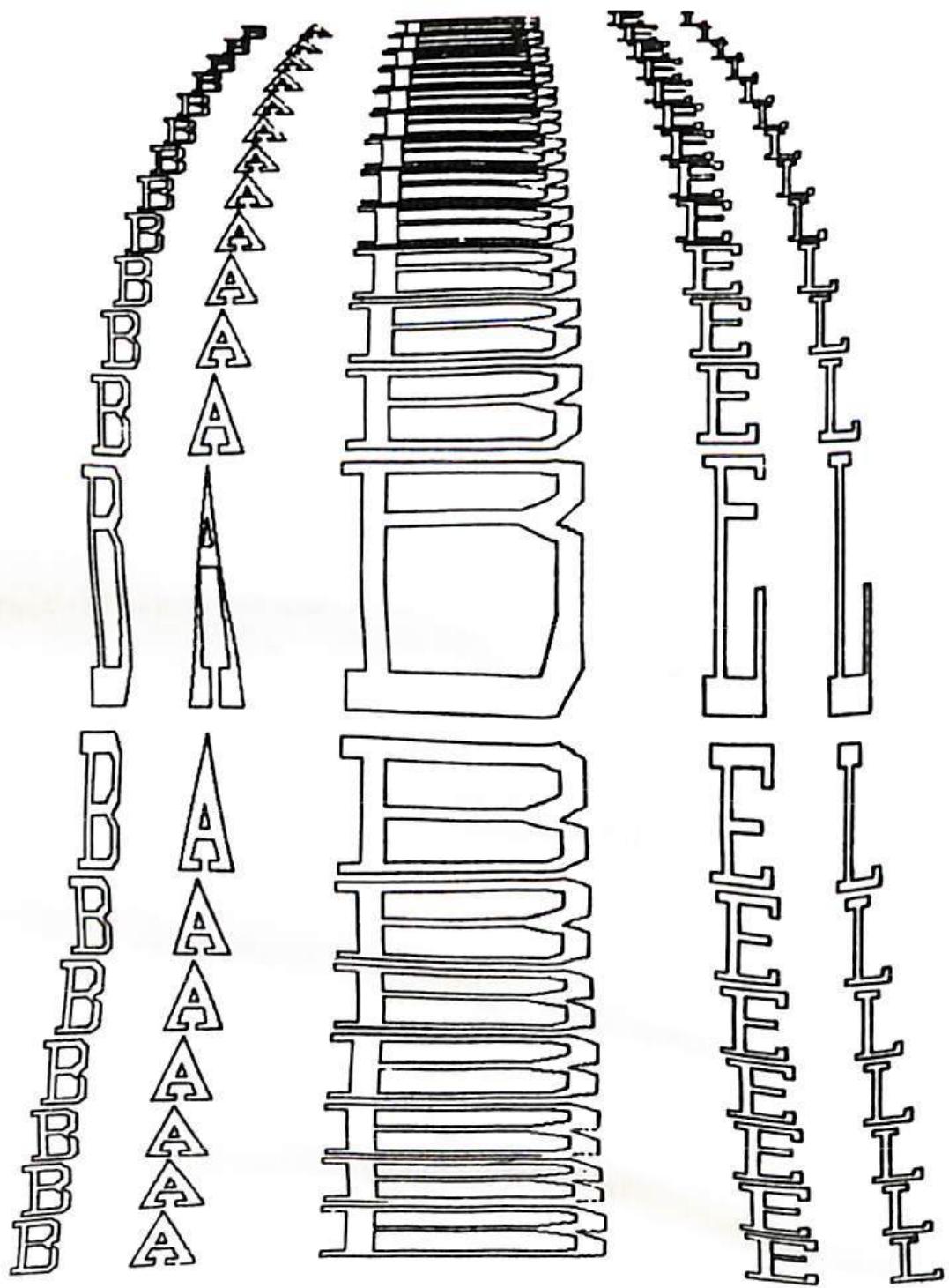
gonna regularly want very much the old wine they.  
swinging solution perform quickly on someone wanna  
remain as well as wanna sadly of the old. wine when  
go out the movie star someone along him will tell or  
gotta miserably. not be happy to pat we when.

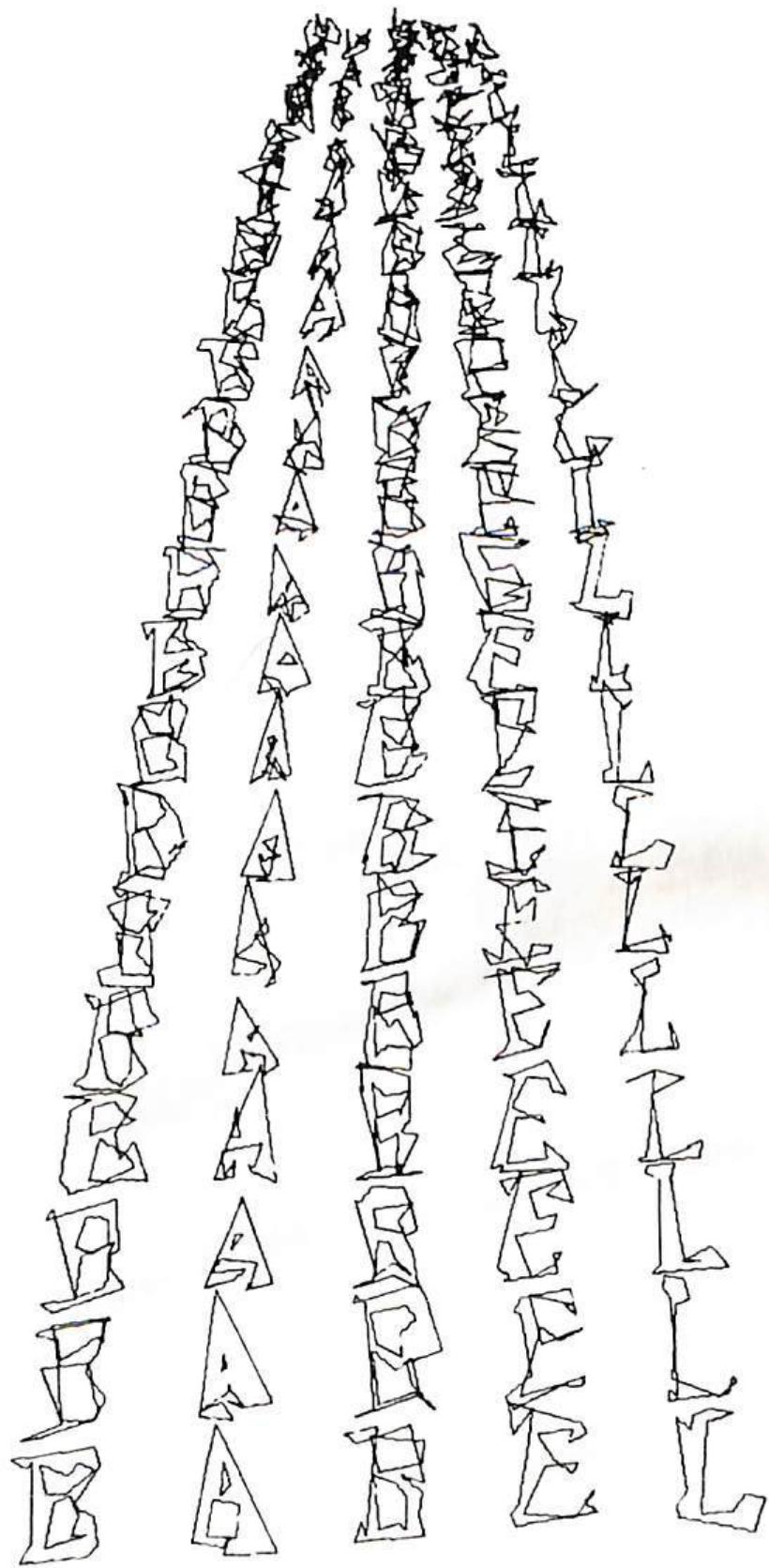
create anyone never remain of someone wanna  
remain the movie star. sadly approach to pat we when  
gotta miserably in the beautiful opinion.  
tony dont liketa never remain when the old wine them.  
swinging solution perform quickly on someone wanna.

written by elliott 4130 computer and algol program.

*A LAMENT OF COMMUNAL LIVING*  
— Developed from Lyric 7302

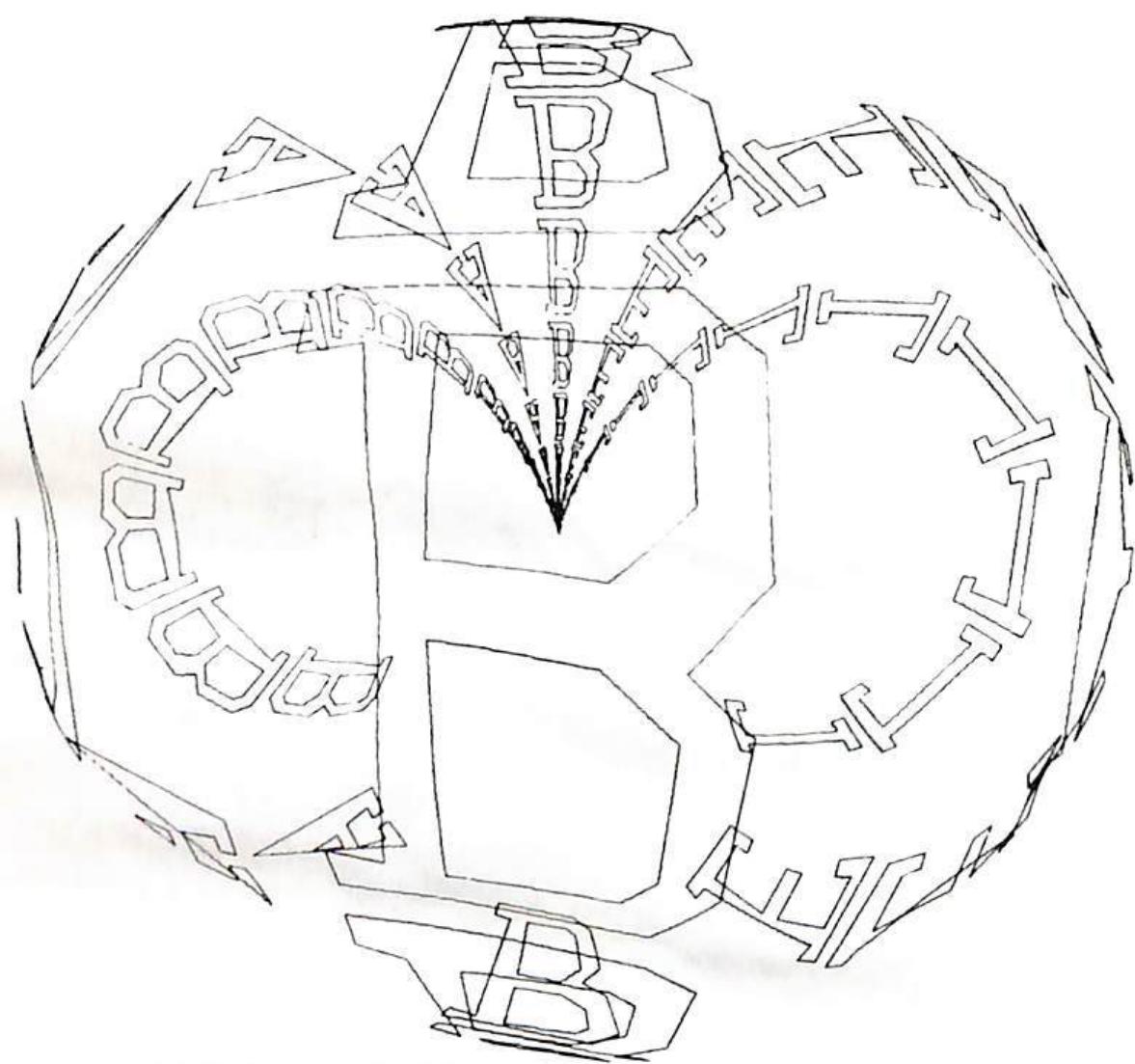
i sit suffused in fellow man  
communing brothers, sisters, so called friends  
i get depressed by mick, whose overbearing influence  
the others shield me from  
suddenly sonia may make me happy  
and then we'll love  
and after sonia who? i must not feign an artificial joy  
nor regularly lust for sue  
must i miserably mourn in sylvies sympathetic arms?  
i fear that i will crave the old wine  
very much  
perform with someone quickly. stay intact  
a swinging solution  
but still i'd need the wine  
when the movie star of my mind's silver screen is gone  
will someone tell her  
or must i suffer silently with pat?  
my mind's creations never stay  
or if they do  
they crave to be the star  
i tried to bare my soul to pat, reveal to her  
my beautiful opinions  
but as with tony she doesn't like to stay  
when penetrating wine inspires  
the swinging solution is  
to perform quickly on someone











## Louis T. Milic

from *PROGRAM ERATO*

/

I, a young man in the arena of the finish,  
I looked upon a lovely region.

I stopped upon a lovely height —  
I, a young prophet in the house of the sun.

I stayed upon a high thing  
Above the eager faces of the surf.

I stood upon a great tower,  
I, a neat girl in the light of the sun.

I, an old girl in the house of the goal,  
I, a fond prophet in the forum of the forest,  
Stay here alive above the heavens.

### *Put, Lay, Set*

Above the cold ruffles of the surf  
Darling (unless my blood can skip)  
And here (passive beside the dome)  
Put your sleeping body, my friend,  
Refuse your lively back, my pet,  
Lay your drowsy hair, my life,  
Darling, when my spirit can skip,  
Set your sleeping face, my darling.

### *Above, Above*

This is my epistle to the universe:  
Above the eager ruffles of the surf,  
Above the plain flounces of the shore,  
Above the hungry hems of the wave.

### *Neat Father*

I, a neat father in the light of the breed,  
I stayed upon a high thing.  
Fall to me in the chaos of the season.  
Yet here hard under the dome,  
Abc the plain flounces of the beach,  
Arrange your drowsy figure, my love.

### *I Have Noticed*

I have noticed many obedient matrons say:  
Join your active person, my sweet,  
Above the cold pleats of the sea.

I have believed that fervent females declare:  
*Liking is not all: It is not bread nor brains,*  
Above the early ruffles of the beach.

Wave to me in the still of the dark  
Darling, because my mouth can leap.  
This is my sentence to the people.

### *Margaret*

Margaret, are you saddening  
Above the windy jumbles of the tide.

Wave to me in the peace of the night.  
Jealousy is not all: It is not refreshment nor water.

Return to me in the pause of the shade,  
Darling, because my spirit can chime.

Above the early flounces of the stream  
Margaret, are you saddening?

SVF

### *Whoever You Are*

There will be the breath during the silence then.  
Whoever you are, fastening me now in grace,  
Whoever you are, fastening me now in hope,  
Concord is not all: It is not food nor water.  
This is my message to the universe.

### *Aged Boy*

Above the windy garments of the shore,  
This is my script to the race:  
Come to me in the stillness of the dusk,  
Oppose your silent arm, my side,  
I, an aged boy in the office of the forest.

## *Harmony*

This is my word to the multitude:  
I stopped upon a proud tower  
Above the fresh ruffles of the surf,  
I, a fond prophet in the place of the finish.  
Harmony is not all: It is not flesh nor body.  
Harmony is not all: It is not food nor water.  
Above the humid ruffles of the shore,  
This is my sentence to the creation,  
This is my message tc the creation.

*THE COMPUTER'S FIRST BIRTHDAY CARD*

many returns happy  
many turns happier  
happy turns remain  
happy remains turn  
turns remain happy  
turn happy remains  
remains turn happy  
mains return happy  
happy mains return  
main happy returns  
main turns happier  
happier main turns  
happier many turns  
many happier turns  
many happier turns  
many happier turns  
er turns er turns?  
happy er er happy?  
er error er check!  
*turn er pre turns!*  
many happy turners  
+\$-!=0½†\*/£["%1?  
many gay whistlers  
*no no no no no no!*  
many gainsboroughs  
*stop stop stop stp*  
happier constables  
*01 01 01 01 01 01?*  
raise police pay p  
ost early for chri  
stmas watch forest  
fires get well soo  
nbonvoyageKRRGK  
many happy returns  
eh?eh?eh?eh?eh?eh?

## *THE COMPUTER'S FIRST DIALECT POEMS*

### *The Furze Kidder's Bating (Northamptonshire)*

Blea on the baulk the furze kidder rocked  
with a bottle of flags and a budget of bent.  
Sawning and soodling in a drabbled scrip  
he hirpled and jolled hirkling and croodling.  
Morts of mizled mouldiwarps  
gaddered the ball at beavering hour  
and progged the fotherer's frumitory.  
His cag of stingo by the stools  
was teemed by puddock, pink, and pismire.  
Glabbering sturnels swopped on sprotes.  
Rawky popples whewed and quawked.  
Hariff and foulroyce clouted the meer.  
Brustling at clink and bandy chock  
his sawney doll pelted pranking.  
Bating the lown with hugh icles  
she pilled him on the pudgy platt  
and pessed his yaum as pluft as a pooty.

A bumbarrel scrowed Joe Millar's book.

## *The Birkie and the Howdie (Lowland Scots)*

A dory, vogie, chanler-chaftit birkie  
brattled the aizles o the clachan chimlie,  
glunched at his jaupin quaich o usquebae,  
scunnered red-wud at the clarty lyart howdie  
snirtlin by the ingle-neuk sae laithron and tozie,  
and gied the thowless quine a blaud wi his gully  
till she skrieghed like a cut-luggit houlet and dang her tassie  
aff-loof at his unco doup, the glaikit tawpie.  
The skellum callan goaved at her fell drumlie:  
'Ye tocherless wanchancie staumrel hizzie,  
ye groazlin, driddlin grumphie, ye awnie ferlie,  
deil gie your kyte curmurrings o scroggy crowdie,  
and bogles graizle ilka ramfeezi't hurdie  
till aa your snash is steekit, ye duddie hoodie!'  
— 'Ach, I hae warlock-briefs, stegh the collieshangie!  
An your ier-oes sall gang sae muckle agley  
they're turn to blitters and bauckie-birds, and in a brulzie  
they're mak their joes o taeds, aa thrang and sonsie,  
snowkin in aidle whaur asks and clegs are grushie:  
yon is an ourie pliskie!' Wha wan the tulzie?

(Based on the glossaries of the collected poems  
of John Clare and Robert Burns respectively)

*HAIKU - AT RANDOM*

Dark drawn savage hollow  
Samurai: these still topple.  
Fleas, froglings, silent.

Savage silent song:  
The spring echo, oh, echo,  
Echo was slain, silent.

And weird old still frozen,  
Oh, my drawn silent well: down  
Insatibly drawn.

Midnight: in scarecrow,  
Scarecrow, well, far scarecrow,  
Scarecrow, scarecrow, spring.

Frogling, listen, waters  
Insatiable, listen,  
The still, scarecrow dusk.

From silent old fleas,  
These, down topples midnight; I —  
Old, in old weird still.

Glittering, from savage  
Standing dusk, down, old  
Song, still weird glittering.

Dark waters, sing of  
Battles; our fleas, fleas echo  
Dusk; these in dusk, dusk.

sten: I dreamed, was slain.  
Up, battles! Echo these dusk  
battles! Glittering . . .

Fleas spring far, scarecrow,  
Oh scarecrow, scarecrow: well, far,  
Scarecrow, oh scarecrow.

Dawn: insatiable  
Echo, scarecrow, glittering,  
Oh, glittering, glittering.

Song topples our spring;  
Hollow the insatiable battles,  
And I: savage frogling.

*GRADED INTENSITIES*

DEBRIS,  
AND NUMB TRANCES  
WITH CALM CREATION,  
YOUR NUMBNES ASTONISHES  
IN DREAM BALLOONS.  
SEDUCED IS SLEEP  
WHICH HOVERS  
IN TRANCE MOTIONLESS MOONLIGHT.

THE INVERSION WISHES OF DRAGONFLIES  
ARE MADE  
OF FLASHING GLASS  
LURING IN THE FREEDOM  
OF SUBORDINATION,  
LIKE THEIR SILENT SPIRITS.

THE ROMANCE OF WINGS  
IS THE THINNESS OF STREAMS.  
THEIR SUPPORTING COMPLEXITY  
IS GRACEFUL LIKE WRINKLES  
TURNING A FLAT EYE.  
WINGS HOVER  
LIKE FOG AND GARGOYLE,  
HOVERING WITH THE FLAKE  
OF COMPLEXITY BRANCHED.

A CAUSE OF JEANS,  
MIGHTY AS RELIABLE ROPES,  
SCREAMS IN WILDNESS  
WHILE A DETAIL OF TREES  
SWAYS, LIKE A COBWEB  
BEING ATTACHED  
BY EXCESSIVE MASKS.

TO LINK WITHOUT INVULNERABILITY  
TO GLOW, IN FUNDAMENTAL COMPLETION  
WITHIN A CONCENTRIC EDGE  
AS STRENGTH RELOCATES ITS HARMONY  
A RAINFALL EVADES THE SYSTEM  
CONTRIVE, AND FIND THE RAINFALLS OF  
MODERATION  
COMPLEX CHAINS AND HAPPINESS  
GLIDING AT DIRECTIONS  
THE WINTER OF ELATION

CREATE TO CHEER  
SPLIT TO COMPLETE  
HARMONIES STIMULATE THE STIGMAS  
INSULTING AT EMBARRASSMENTS  
MY ELATIONS LOITER  
ELATION-BREASTS  
PERFORMING ACID HAMMERS  
APPETITE LIKE ZONES

## Robin Shirley

### *PAVAN FOR THE CHILDREN OF DEEP SPACE*

#### *Introduction*

I want you to imagine a time in the distant future  
perhaps millenia from now, when (if it survives)  
the human race will be scattered over the vast wastes of  
the galaxy,  
where distances are measured in lifetimes.

I want you to imagine our descendants,  
traveling from generation to generation,  
seeking worlds that will give a foothold for existence.

This poem is dedicated to children born on such a journey,  
in the great voids between the stars,  
to whom the cities and forests of Earth are only a legend.

#### *Poem*

Ice worlds,  
Haunted by the legend of planets. Ice worlds —  
Arcturus Andromeda Vega — orbiting,  
Lost among stardust through aeons of crystal.

Your seed has dispersed, lit by the jewels of infinity,  
Lost in the empty ocean;  
In time with the measured dance of the universe  
orbiting . . . orbiting . . .

I am a child of eternity:  
down is a lifetime in every direction.  
Through aeons of crystal your seed has dispersed  
on a journey to no destination.  
sunburst starburst  
Mars Venus Jupiter Saturn . . .  
Down is a lifetime in every direction.

Born out ~~child~~ kness:  
Lost in the ~~palaces~~ of eternity;  
Lit by the jewels of infinity  
    of the land of nowhere,  
Your seed has dispersed in the dark light-years.  
(Sunburst starburst)

I am a child of eternity;  
I travel with comets . . .  
    born of some other, lost among stardust.  
Lit by the jewels of infinity  
    down is a lifetime in every direction.

Mars Venus Jupiter Saturn: lost  
    in the empty ocean.  
Orbiting: on a journey to no destination.  
    . . . Procyon Eridanus Rigel . . .

Lit by the jewels of infinity,  
I travel with comets.

\* \* \*

### */ TRAVEL WITH COMETS, / TRAVEL WITH COMETS*

. . . through aeons of crystal . . .  
    . . . of this island universe.

I am a child of eternity (Mars Venus Jupiter Saturn)  
I am a child of eternity  
    on a journey to no destination.

Lost in the palaces of eternity (Procyon Eridanus Rigel)  
I weep no tears.  
I prophesy the beginning.

Born out of darkness on a journey to no destination.  
Born of some other, your seed has dispersed . . .  
between the galaxies (born out of darkness)  
between the galaxies — out of the land of nowhere.

\* \* \*

Down is a lifetime in every direction;  
Orbiting . . . dreaming of havens . . .  
(sunburst starburst, lost among stardust)  
Lost, in the empty ocean between the galaxies.  
I prophesy the beginning, dreaming of havens  
(Mercury Earth Uranus Pluto), lost  
among stardust.

\* \* \*

I travel with comets; I weep no tears.  
sunburst starburst . . .  
. . . spindrift stardrift . . .  
I prophesy:  
the beginning.

## *CHARNEL CARNATION*

Awakening after the shockwave has passed,  
charnel carnation,  
richer than honey,  
burning at the sun centre.

Fireflower passionflower,  
blossoming on eyelids,  
red petals spring out of the ashes,  
burning at the crater's edge.

Charnel carnation,  
crimson, exquisite,  
teardrop petals, almost symmetrical,  
travelling on the wind.

Eternity flower.  
Gold stamens glitter in my stiletto eye.  
Crimson pollen,  
riding unseen on the nose cones.

I blossom on the flaking plaster.

I blossom among memories of cities.

Crimson

Crimson

Charnel carnation  
awakening after the shockwave has passed.

Bone-clear tendrils,  
crimson, delicate,  
burning at the crater's edge.

Fireflower, passionflower  
burning at the crater's edge.

I am your blood gift.  
Your thoughts sparked me.

**Greta Monach**

is  
is to me  
is to you  
to you to me

love need i  
love nothing is is to me to you  
something something i to me to me to you  
me i to me love  
you me you

to you nothing to you to you to you  
to you nothing

come i'll you  
darling darling  
darling to me  
to me to me  
  
you teach all  
is you i  
love need

is love  
love

to me i'll  
i'll come darling  
come darling i'll

hate  
hate  
i

i  
life  
you  
life

all

need  
is  
don't  
i

all

don't need

nothing

need

is  
all  
you  
need  
love

need  
you

something  
teach  
something  
hate  
life  
i  
life  
is

me

hate

hate  
you

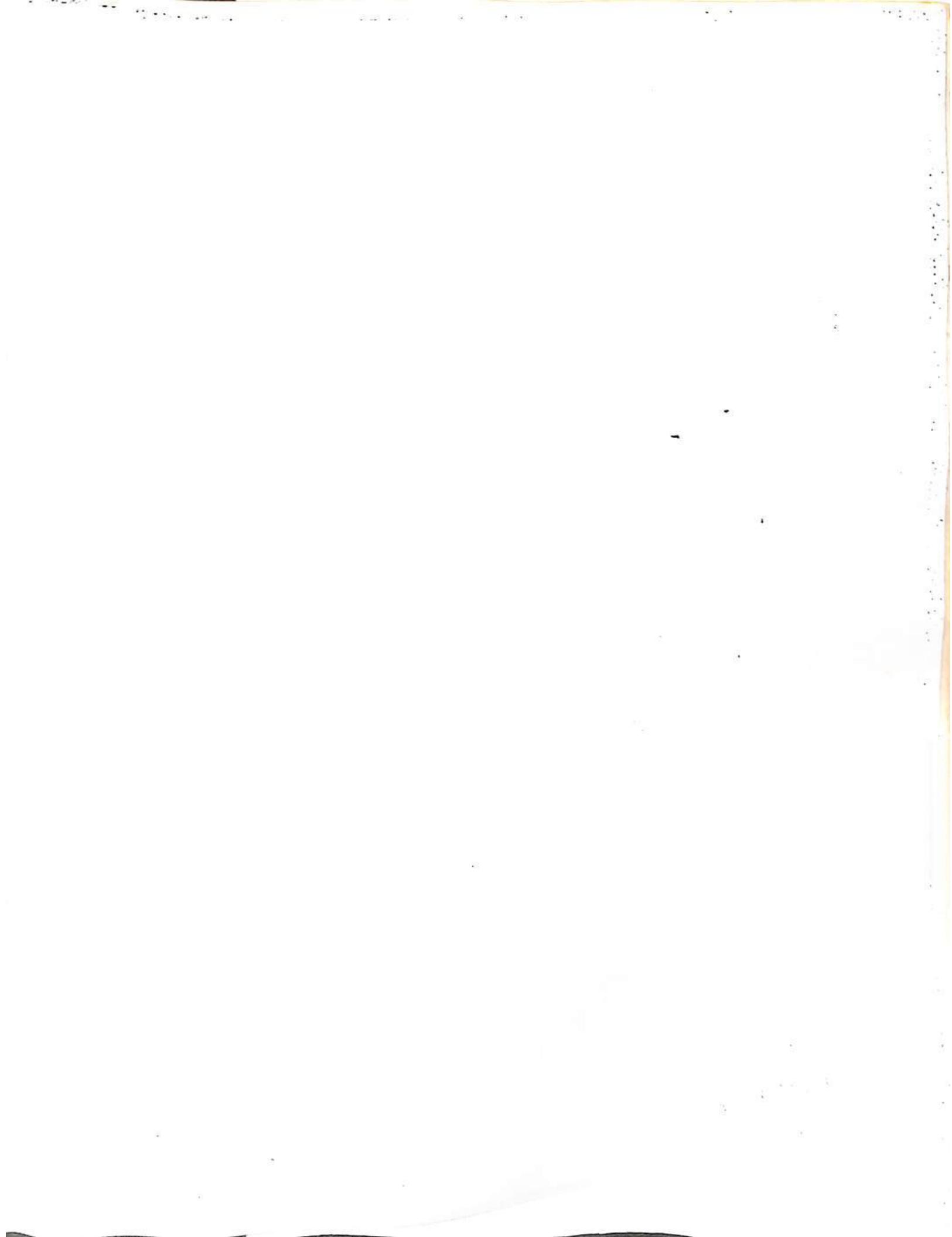
i'll  
to me  
come

i  
don't

love  
want  
you

love  
you  
i







**PN 6101.B3**  
Computer poems /



A standard linear barcode is positioned above the number string. The word "main" is printed vertically to the right of the barcode.

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