

Exile

One spots him easily: too perfect
Native under beret/sombrero/turban,
The puppet's own ventriloquist
With satchel full of masks (wherever
The country drinks, his bar is Harry's).
Though lost in any part, all thumbs
And dictionary, he knows one scene
By heart, the last. Which unlike the decor
Never changes and he rehearses
With a grin: leaping from a taxi,
He bumps his suitcase up the Station
Stairs to join the queue of stand-ins
Waiting for a ticket to the place
Where all are exiles, no-one leaves.

— Lucien Stryk
De Kalb, Illinois

Conversation Between The Full Reliefs Of Theodore
Roosevelt And George Washington At Mount Rushmore
On A Particularly Warm Summer Afternoon In 1963

-George- said Teddy
-I don't know how much longer
I can keep this expression on my face-
-Bully- encouraged George.

— Harry A. Livermore
Manhattan, Kansas