

## The Men Who Understood What Birds Said

Strange how everyone  
who has this assistance  
ends unlucky; almost as if  
the dead men whose souls  
become robins or wrens  
entice others into the swamps  
where they ended, jealous  
of heroes. Under the dank  
hedges in the maze's center  
squats a beaked thing  
waiting to welcome them  
with her unwelcome embrace;  
only she can understand  
heroes and keep them in hand.

### Aristotle And Campaspe

When Aristotle played  
The horse, he hoped to ride  
The softer steed whose girth  
Straddled his hips. Astride,  
He found her cruppers worth  
The stooping. Could he go  
Leaving her unassayed  
— Master of those who know?

Knowledge put out to grass  
Fed on the common weed  
From which it came. The age  
Of logic gone to seed  
Is greenest. So the sage  
Could split hairs with the best;  
Why let the ripeness pass  
Now it was manifest?

— John Taylor

Buffalo, New York