

Calling the Dwarf

-- for Craig

I know a small, twisted man  
a few years older than myself  
& even less successful.  
He gets by  
with bit parts in movies  
& a few dollars here & there  
signing model releases  
for New York photographers.

Last night, Craig,  
I had the lowdown on this dwarf  
& would've told you everything  
but I got drunk  
instead of staying up till 4  
& writing

& the dwarf disappeared  
while I slept.  
I think he's got a lady-friend  
in Providence  
he never brings home.  
Outside of that  
no particulars, not even a name.  
We could just call him Eddie.

When you notice him behind you  
at the airport  
he will be a small, twisted man  
who drinks more than the two of us.  
His bandy legs slow him down  
on long flights of stairs & escalators  
but he'll try sneaking onto the plane  
with you.

Let him go.

Tuesday, Back in California

All the sounds I set in motion here  
can't make it as loud  
as New York. I've got the radio  
playing Hindemith  
& a small electric heater  
humming at my feet. Between lines  
the clunk of a blue cup

half, one-quarter full of coffee  
hitting the table  
instead of a giant Frigidaire from 1937  
that never stops running  
& still it was so hard  
leaving you, your soft instructions  
for staying calm.

-- Joel Deutsch

Berkeley CA

#### Four Spelling Poems For Ian Hamilton Finlay

K(eye)TE

WA(tea)ER

P(oh)EM

SK(why)

#### Weather Report

"Can you tell me what the temperature has been at noon for the past five days?" John asked the weatherman.

"I don't exactly recall," replied the weatherman, "but I do remember that the temperature was different each day, and that the product of the temperatures is 12."

#### Nineteen Kites That Fly

a two-stick kite  
a three-stick kite  
a six-point star  
a five-point star  
an Imp  
a Fisherman  
an Elephant  
a balloon kite  
a tetrahedral kite  
a box kite

a box kite with wings  
a windmill kite  
a frog kite  
a cross kite  
a butterfly kite  
a yacht kite  
a shield kite  
an owl kite  
a military kite

-- M. K. Book

Lincoln NB