

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 box kite with wings
a three-stick kite	a windmill kite
a six-point star	a frog kite
a five-point star	a cross kite
an Imp	a butterfly kite
a Fisherman	a yacht kite
an Elephant	a shield kite
a balloon kite	an owl kite
a tetrahedral kite	a military kite
a box kite	

-- M. K. Book

Lincoln NB