

Her father never objected
to what might be considered
regressive behavior
but every so often
after a drink or two
with a good friend
he would admit
he was sorry
she never got married
& that
he didn't see more of the cat.

-- Albert Stainton

Machias ME

DAY HELP -- THE BINDERY

i

It's the monotony, of course;
the machine makes a perfect bow
and you only have to feed it
packages of brown paper.
You try to make a perfect package.

ii

The people here smoke a lot.
They kid each other, and gossip
even though the machinery
drowns all sound.

iii

The system is different.
There's a 15.93 on the card
they've given me.
That must mean four o'clock.

iv

I understand my sister-in-law better,
I think. She's parlayed seven years
of this into a new house and car.
She must have wanted those things terribly.