

IN REGARD TO THE GOBBETS
IN THRESHED GRAIN

Wheat shocks are forked upward—
Grain tops inward on the rack.
The dog in the stubble gobbles
After just unsheltered field mice—
As snugly sheaved grasshoppers and
Spiders and sun-sleepy snakes take
A ride towards the roaring separator.

HOMAGE TO NEBRASKA

Black cottonwoods spray from gulches
Into grey.
Black and white, black-white striped
(Snow on the frozen and plowed)
Ground is beauty and all sound around
Is only
Stiff rustle-crackle from brown weed
(Wind)
Stalks. Suddenly a branched crow drops
(Craw craw kaaa craw)
Into the chill and rides the gusts
From black to grey versus gravity.

MIDWESTERN ANCESTORS

Fortified by the truth that
prairie grass could be parted
and buried by steel to become
good corn and good wheat,
their strong hands became callused,
became knotted, became weaker,
became dead, became earth,
became good corn and good wheat.