

(glost)

Nathan Austin

Author's note

Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828): a protracted definition of an emerging nation-state; the narrative of its author's conversion; an attempt to restore a language to roots that precede the Tower of Babel. As such, it can be read as a map of a wilderness; but it is also a wilderness unto itself, haunted by countless ghosts, within which the reader becomes lost. These poems record of a series of encounters with those ghosts.

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“**Why** should not custom and imagination quicken the ear to hear the ghost of a sound as well as melancholy and superstition *sharpen* the eye to see the ghost of a body?”

—Edward Search (Abraham Tucker), *Vocal Sounds*, 1773.

a faint blowing which might be called
the ghost, or an “h,” or the drawing of
lips asunder

As words in February. Omit to flutter, so sutures stand in for needs. Also omit the feminine, the sex. Learn the word for slowly, for false, the French for oh. My shut lips—with a b, a v, a slip of the tongue. 23 words in February, a lexicon.

Buttons are bursting to x the heart, the pulse of the throat in swallow. up in larks—To cross the heart in safety twice.

Sweeter than breath is f, the tender—
apt—stumble of marks to teeth: sugar
plums, kissing comfits—covered in
silk. Venus—(*to see*)

To have holes at one's fingertips, breathing through the hands. Openings are located, to be marked with arrows (red) or indicated with gestures also. your hands please. Practicing the letters goes down to a v—this is not a real kiss; it is a lower v.

E: si-lent flutter, or method. The tongue must form a loop, and so pulled through. to slip; pronounce more than is needed. Translated, means: *moon, moon*. that is, *id est* a lunar vocabulary.

NEE'DLE, *n.* [Sax. *nedl*, *nædl*; G. *nadel*; Arm. *nadoz*; Ir. *snathad*; W. *nydwyz*, from *nwd*, something sharp or pointed. It may be allied to *nettle*.] A small instrument of steel pointed at one end, with an eye at the other to receive a thread; used in sewing and embroidery. Needles are also used by surgeons in sewing up wounds.

Witch-bracelet to close peephole (in the heart.) Catch a little word like a loop: to lace this snare is not a net; the locket given, the shape. it held as fingers do, continued to regulate edges, &c. These places for fingers are places for nails in here. Any thing that fastens, makes secret or close.

Touching as it were the sky, stitch spells kisses (multiple)—fit on a wing to fasten, with thread through *eyelette-holes*. Caress here extends to meet a butterfly, opened on a tiny pin. After all, it's not a sky; it's a forgotten game.

a dart *inheres* in the flesh. Skip down to break by collision, but usually with words. *in pieces*.

(seen) **T**he mouth should be stitched as follows: end over end; so the words don't show. Nimble strings finger together synthetic pearls, loosen'd teeth. Held close—and closer—X becomes invisible. One eye remains shut.

Littlest fingers are very handy with the needles. Very pretty; very pretty pretty work; what small stitches. I so wish that all books may be sewed, in the Latin of your love: *luvian, lioblyu, libeo.*

LID, *n.* [Sax. *hlid*, a cover; *hlidan*, to cover; *ge-hlid*, a roof; D. Dan. *lid*; L. *claudo*, *cludo*. Gr. *χλειω*, contracted from *χλειδοω*; Heb. לִט or לִט to cover. Class Ld. No. 1. 8. 9.] A cover; that which shuts the opening of a vessel or box; as the *lid* of a chest or trunk; also, the cover of the eye, the membrane which is drawn over the eye-ball of an animal at pleasure, and which is intended for its protection; the *eyelid*.

Like the eye to a box must be kept shut
for mementos. To fasten them with
wax and thread prolongs pleasure, a
collection. Longing pulled for
uncertain fruit, and lost.

Close the eye's lid with fingers'tips
and its contents in. I found a box
(locked) containing several hundred all:
a pilfered heart unsealed to see, careful
to copied.

Sunrise-sunset: the light will have been trapped in the box for two turns. And I to hold past my tongue—to pluck, like or as the fingers *shut* the hand, the eyes, the mouth; the ports of such a kingdom by blockade. Lax as a shadow, four tines make holes in the bottom, *sink*.

The *needle* with the card turns on a pin in the center of the box. The box is covered—a-fold with glass—to prevent the motion of the card from being disturbed by wind.

Another box (labeled American Pin Co., Hooks and Eyes) is empty. Latch is closing.

WIL'DERNESS, *n.* [from *wild.*] A desert; a tract of land or region uncultivated and uninhabited by human beings, whether a forest or a wide barren plain. In the United States, it is applied only to a forest. In Scripture, it is applied frequently to the deserts of Arabia. The Israelites wandered in the *wilderness* forty years.

2. The ocean.

The wat'ry *wilderness* yields no supply.

Waller.

3. A state of disorder. [*Not in use*]

Milton.

4. A wood in a garden, resembling a forest.

Interior, a forest. Light shown on any pale surface—as an opened book—may attract several and divers shadows and insects, which will by the reckless eye be mistaken for ghosts. (surprise sunset.)

The strategy of ghost echoes: fingers'-tips, drawing through. Latch is closing. a kiss between words—to speak while catching the breath, as if it is a tiny object lost some-where; apples falling, or feathers. Returned.

Certain words may be caught with both hands, palms open thus—the fingers make teeth. In other words, between, but without biting. The jaw often held together with wires, or articulated.

Adore in order to kiss one's hand. This object is carried to that mouth, cautiously: a pulse should be kept in the fingertips, not with the palm of the hand. Be delicate! grasping the tongue is with care.

Floret is all in cheeks, gathered; and what was repaired was licked-along. A finger trap breathed through as “in trembling hands.” Forced, no: a fingered ring marks the spot two fingers meet in. Something else, but lost.

Translate by blowing through pages.
And every heart is in this manner
inflated; in other words: grown wings.
Each word is a pin, a needle. This
should take place across the map-ends.

Inflate your heartbeat—you must be
breathing alone now. lips open against,
turned in on. The composed bosom
implies intimacy, parts adjacent.

Let slip a careful secret—sweetness falls from subtle lips. A pleasing skip and go catches words as out of burning brandy, and extinguishing them by closing the mouth, eats them. Put sin gently into the bosom, as with trembling hands inclose the heart (a secrets' receptacle) and delicately squeeze out. Any of close places, here almost touching.

Is this what they call drowning?—a struggle to speak in the overwhelming. To feel the touch of the lifeguard on tongue's back; the first several of five like fingers. like so.

The belief that some-one has spoken or is speaking through your hands, long shadows cast upon the wall. This is a lexicon: somebody else's fingers in your mouth, another set of artificial teeth and tongue. (Such words are easily forgotten; they are replaced.)

Make a single word and make it with fingers, teeth. To do a small case, as if you had two hands. reaching in this manner for the object, or *wish*; to articulate with such a stretch, to touching.

Eyelet-holes, and anxious to have this passage clos'd up, for gentleness comes into a garden at night, and destroys the flower-roots. The latter would give a little bloom or a perforation, and the sense of pink: the buds are eat off of the *pink*-roots and I fear they will not bear the next season. When spring will have come.

cherry like a red cherry, in color: red,
ruddy, blooming yet. As, a *cherry* lip
and *cherry* cheeks; soft slumbers.

Thank you for your favorite flowers, non-sequential intimacy. Meanwhile, outlines and folding in. To silently move one's lips or a less complicated motion. 3 things found in the sky are present. In other words, it was a solvable flower: unfastened, but gently so.

Interior. Drying from clothes-pins: concentric circles, an eclipse—the moon, as eaten by bird-callers divers and various. How null this light has half-grown, how gently; each shadow covers one letter, wraps it in paper twice, sixty two times. Showne below, a selection of those knots.

G'ARDEN, *n.* [G. *garten*; W. *garth*; It. *giardino*; Sp. *jardin*; Fr. *id.*; Port. *jardim*; Arm. *jardd*, *jardin*, or *gardd*. The first syllable is the Sax. *geard*, Goth. *gards*, Eng. *yard*, an inclosed place. The Saxon is *ortgeard*, Dan. *urtegaard*, wortyard, an inclosure for herbs. The Irish is *gairdin* or *garrdha*; Hungarian, *korth*; L. *hortus*. In Slavonic, *gard*, Russ. *gorod*, signifies a town or city, and the derivative verb *goroju*, to inclose with a hedge. Hence *Stuttgard*, *Novogrod* or *Novogardia*. The primary sense of *garden* is an inclosed place, and inclosures were originally made with hedges, stakes or palisades. It is probable that in the east, and in the pastoral state, men had little or no inclosed land except such as was fenced for the protection of herbs and fruits, and for villages. See Coxe's Russ. B. 4.]

Between the folds find breathing. To indicate gently with fingers the direction of the air-kiss written in by arrows here, here and here. Direct this mark against your own body, find the words to close a special gap.

Are under exposed; as, secrets removed from shelter; those knots which modesty requires to be concealed. Prevent light to allow on the words. Teeth can be applied in any of the following manner.

To trace the mouth with your writing hand—find the fingertips on your teeth, lips. I speak through spaces between these fingers, in hand-delivered letters.

Infix two cubes of borrowed sugar
between sinkable lips and teeth, petit by
bit. Breath drawn across well-
positioned organs wishes for the
following letter; to make inarticulate, or
sweet, sounds. So-called the shaping of
the mouth: transpire is to breathe across
the lips as blooms gently.

Technique of pick out certain words, mouth at sleeping positions—(as miracles). Each slip of paper that lodges itself in the heart-fold. this is the work and result of invisible vowels on or within the body's. [repeat

ENVEL'OP, *n.* [Fr. *enveloper*; It. *inviluppare*, *avviluppare*, to wrap; *viluppo*, a bundle, intricacy.] A wrapper; an enclosing cover; an integument; as the *envelop* of a letter, or of the heart.

2. **Couldn't** touch his fingers. My
tongue to trace letters, a love-lock from
an inclose. breath drawn in-wardly;
cherished—thus wordless.

Insteps, like angels. A sigh: absent are hands, entwined around a bottle, a womb, or the other surface of interiors. Beautiful sky—a list on folded slip of paper. (iris)

Under the rose, in secret; a manner that forbids disclosure. As, to *disclose* the secret thoughts of the heart, a blush may open a secret passion or catch in the breast. To invade, to blossom; to stain with a rose color, nearly the same.

Any folding of the hands into which words are. clasped close. Found in this fashion may be thread, several pins, visible indentations like teeth in the flesh; or a fragmentary sheet, small enough to be fit into a purse. The lips—as drawing strings.

And a single roses, wondrous sweet
with many other things which I brought
away with me. a pocket could as easily
be filled with hair, loose fingertips.

each letter tells a story of the organs
that (re-)produced it.

L lingers, in the space between finger and thumb: a tiny work composed of secretive knots; representing love, or mutual affection. vanilla, which is always so held.

Oh is complete by spread wings—cautiously. Open and blow, through every aperture indicated: sometimes the bee, in its efforts, will agitate this lily-cup ‘til it lilts, as lost in a breeze.

T on her tung, sleeping her o in. glided smooth—fluent. The mark of a stronger breathing, perceptible by the ear at considerable distance.

the shortest distance between angels
is often t. Heart skips a beat or —s;
on palms outstretched to read. A series
of listening

Letters gently found out by touch; soft foolish hands in the mouth. To make the “f” by help of sugar-plumbs—with an under lip thrust up, *un petit*. Drawn the teeth.

V is the reason plants revolve around the sun. a machine or such trifle. No *dreams*, but visions strange; as, a cover; a curtain; a disguise to intercept the gaze. To hide the face.

This final flare-up is erased so I feel every slightest flush—is eased so I. Let's quit this for language, with fold from vetiver (to tear).

G: lid—a lift to open flap a. Hefted up-words.—moon, to swell out (the body), Each peach restrained by several silver wires; wax. A *gentle* flutter, which see.

Found words: Noah Webster, Rebecca Greenleaf (Webster), Jane Harvey, Joseph Cornell, Velimir Khlebnikov, Guy Maddin, Eno, Frank O'Hara, Edward Search, Peter Greenaway, Lavinia Dickinson, Paul Vangelisti, Roland Barthes, Brian Schorn, Pam Rehm, Ben Marcus, Ow'n Thum.