CONTENTS

NOTE BOOK: INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERING xv

AUGUST 2007
195. “one of the people upon whom nothing is lost” (H. James) 1

OCTOBER 2007
256. Nora inu (Stray Dog) (Kurosawa) 2

NOVEMBER 2007
336. “the clear architecture / of the nerves” (O’Hara) 3

DECEMBER 2007
382. We Have to Be Careful about the Words We Use 4

JANUARY 2008
442. The Strength of Weak Gods 5
467. “the unconscious critical acumen of the reader” (Trollope) 5

MARCH 2008
595. “Partial Enchantments of the Quixote” (2) 7

APRIL 2008
711. Paradise Bereft: The Social Elegy of De Quincey 10
716. The Silent Correction Continues 12

MAY 2008
780. “so true” (Coleridge) 13
810. “Scars faded as flowers” (Crane) 14

OCTOBER 2008
1157. The Trouble with Aphorisms 16

NOVEMBER 2008
1187. “What is truth? said jesting Pilate” (Bacon) 18
1203. Ciceronian Suburbs 19

DECEMBER 2008
1229. “Cold!” (Gena Rowlands) 21

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

JANUARY 2009
1295. “Age does not improve us” (Forster) 24

FEBRUARY 2009
1340. The Afterlife of Moles 25
1341. “In the society of their common danger his innocence might serve to protect him” (Montaigne) 26
1349. “But I shall see it reanimated” (Walton) 27

MARCH 2009
1388. “The Unteachable Monkey,” “The Fables of Panchatantra,” “Indian Humor” 29
1389. “stippled Hopkins” (Nabokov) 30

APRIL 2009
1402. “And I am out on a limb, and it is the arm of God” (O’Hara) 32
1418. “They just look at me blankly” (The Author’s Mother) 32
1422. “He began to repeat the same stories more than once a day” (De Quincey) 33
1440. “The mind, intractable thing” (Moore) 34

MAY 2009
1461. “His jokes are no trifles” (Blake) 35
1476. “Ms. Arthur” (Tina Fey) 35
1488. The Finer Reaches of Monotony 36

JULY 2009
1566. “So they groped and shuffled along” (Grahame) 38
1579. “That’s wonderful, Sue. What are you studying?” (Capote) 38
1585. “I have loved you all my life!” (Dickens) 40

AUGUST 2009
1608. “What hurts now, but might become love” (Hollander) 41
1621. “Forth, pilgrim, forth!” (Chaucer) 41

SEPTEMBER 2009
1646. “I know where the wild things are” (Nunokawa) 42
1659. “bouquet of attention” (Mailer) 42
1663. “I am finally seeing, I was the one worth leaving” (Postal Service) 45

OCTOBER 2009
1708. “Merleau-Ponty’s readers can know him” (Sartre) 46
1724. Why Do We Fall in Words? In Order to Avoid Falling Ill. 46

DECEMBER 2009
1794. The Good Enough Elegy 48

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

1818. “may be translated thus” (Lewalski & Sabel) 48
1824. “A written French that was at once rapid and cursive, quick to evoke images” (Alain Badiou) 49

JULY 2010
2084. Home Reparations 50

JULY 2010
3027. “What the hell can you learn from Las Vegas?” (The Author’s Mother: A Play in Eleven Lines) 52

DECEMBER 2010
3095. “Why this overmastering need to communicate with others?” (Woolf) vii

3097. “The loss of all hope … does not deprive human reality of its possibilities” (Sartre) 53
3099. “show of grief” 56

3422. “It was not till they had examined the rings that they recognized who it was” (Wilde) 57

SEPTEMBER 2011
3427. “The Bondsman always labors in submission to the true master and Master, the fear of death” (Robert B. Pippin) 59
3505. “Telephone Directory,” “Heaven” (Auden) 60
3507. “She’d take it all for fun if I didn’t hurt her” (G. Eliot) 61

AUGUST 2011
3359. “a service of love” (De Quincey) 54

3397. “The loss of all hope … does not deprive human reality of its possibilities” (Sartre) 56
3399. “show of grief” 56

3527. “gigantic broken revelations” (G. Eliot) 62
3528. “The secret discipline of imagination” (Harry Berger Jr.) 64
3534. “On pardonne tant que l'on aime” (La Rochefoucauld) 65
3540. “(Why is it such agony to meet people—at least sensitive people?)” (Anne Morrow Lindbergh) 66

OCTOBER 2011
3551. “I say, we good Presbyterian Christians should be charitable in these things” (Melville) 68
3570. “There are only two things: Truth and lies” (Kafka) 69

DECEMBER 2011
3597. “He glimpsed something generic and joyous, a pageant that would leave him behind” (Updike) 70

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

JANUARY 2012
3622. “the law of his heart” (Hegel) .......................................................... 72
3269. “He somehow felt he was headed in the right direction” (E. B. White) 73
3270. “I track my uncontrollable footsteps” (H. James) ......................... 74
3272. “the masked pain of his bewilderment and solitude” (Trilling) ......... 76

FEBRUARY 2012
3281. “Add the case that you had loved her” (Dickens) ....................... 78
3283. “grief for disappointments of no fatal consequence” (S. Johnson) 78
3287. The Human Part of Speech ............................................................. 80
3299. The Elements of Sympathy ............................................................ 80
3302. Tradition and the Individual Eavesdropper ................................. 81
3303. Notes toward Aphorisms ............................................................... 82

MARCH 2012
3313. “Money is a kind of poetry” (Stevens) ........................................... 84
3314. We Apologize for the Allusions ...................................................... 85
3317. “a preponderance of loving affections” (W. James) ..................... 86
3871. Conversion for Dummies ............................................................... 87
4004. “a love stronger than any impulse that could have marred it” (G. Eliot) 88
4010. “a piece of classical debris which insists on being noticed” (Maurice Natanson) 89

APRIL 2012
4014. “cleaning house and throwing out things you know you’re going
to miss” (Pauline Kael) ........................................................................ 91
4020. “Why Write?” (Sartre) .................................................................. 92
4021. Principia Mathematica .................................................................... 92
4023. “how to talk to people you don’t like” (Salinger) .......................... 93
4037. “aspects of the life of Jack Kennedy of which Lyndon Johnson
was unaware” (Robert Caro) ............................................................... 94
4039. “a cry of pure pain” (Mary McCarthy) ......................................... 96

MAY 2012
4047. “Several people on the trip told me that I was an inspiration,
which made me feel good” (The Author’s Mother) .......................... 97
4050. “I think to myself: where have they gone?” (Alfred Kazin) ........ 98
4060. Noncomputable Memories ............................................................. 99
4063. “Things answer only if they are questioned” (Erwin Strauss) ...... 100

JUNE 2012
4073. Helping a Stranger Feel at Home .................................................. 102
4081. “In the vast literature of love” (Updike) ....................................... 102

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

4094. “She touched—she admitted—she acknowledged the whole truth” (Austen) 103
4098. “To wait” (Ashbery) 104
4100. The Near Enough Angel 106

JULY 2012
4102. The Abstraction of Love 108
4107. Sentiment and Author, Uncertain 108
4112. The Trouble with Parting 110
4113. “concealed from the reader” (Northrop Frye) 111
4118. The Mirror Stages 111
4120. Beauty, Coming and Going 111 ix
4129. “Turn your fear into a safeguard” (G. Eliot) 112
4130. “and apply yourself to your books or your business” (Thackeray) 113
4132. “I dwell with a strangely aching heart” (Frost) 115

AUGUST 2012
4136. “the dread fear of the unemployed that the world needed them no longer” (Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr.) 116
4154. “the most surprising openness” (Georg Simmel) 117
4159. “the dimmer but yet eager Titanic life gazing and struggling on walls and ceilings” (G. Eliot) 118
4161. Surpassing Speech 120

SEPTEMBER 2012
4170. “Good God, man, get on with your story!” (Uncle Arthur, as reported by Brendan Gill) 121
4172. Postseason Sentiment 122
4181. “The voice reaching us from a great distance must find a place in the text” (Michel de Certeau) 123
4182. Losing Voice to Regain It 124
4183. “though now superseded in details” (Angus Fletcher) 125
4186. “the purpose of writing” (Strunk and White) 127
4188. “their breathless disorder” (Sartre) 128
4189. Gods and Men 130
4190. A Will, Thus a Way 131

OCTOBER 2012
4196. Beyond Display 133
4198. “but yes, of course, I loved the … evenings of New York” (Camus) 134
4200. “Come live with me, and be my love” (Marlowe) 135
4230. Some Wounded Trees 136
4231. The Importance of Being Alone 137
4232. “She was never wholly admirable” (Woolf) 139
4237. “Often, almost nightly” (Nabokov) 140
4244. Bringing up Baby 142

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

NOVEMBER 2012
4245. This Side of the Dark Side 143
4251. Can You Hear Me Now? 144
4255. Weaker and Wiser 145
4258. The Care and Loving of a Gift 147
4260. “your whole peculiar plot” (Stevens) 148
4261. “What is truth?” (Bacon) 148
4262. Past “the province of literature” (Housman) 149
4267. “I'll come and see you again, as soon as I can” (Tolkien) 151
4269. “He … gave me clues to keep me afloat in the conversational stream” (qtd. by Érving Goffman) 151
4270. “poor Marcus Aurelius” (Pierre Hadot) 152

DECEMBER 2012
4275. “her endless power of surrender” (H. James) 154
4281. “Not a creature was stirring” (Clement Clarke Moore) 154
4284. The Portal's Tale 155
4291. The Life of Love 157
4293. “a proficiency in telephoning and telegraphing” (Wharton) 158
4301. “an extraordinary mildness” (Auden) 159
4304. “Mine would, sir, were I human” (Shakespeare) 160
4306. “Make it up as we go along” (Talking Heads) 161

JANUARY 2013
4319. “whom I hopelessly love” (O'Hara) 163
4324. Midlife Morning 163
4327. “my dreams are not calm” (De Quincey) 164

FEBRUARY 2013
4339. Finding My Picture of Dorian Gray 165
4349. “I have heard the mermaids singing, each to each” (T. S. Eliot) 166
4350. “I was part of the nastiness now” (Chandler) 169
4351. When What You Say Comes Out Just Right 169
4352. From Wary to Wonder 170
4355. “Having survived entirely your own youth” (Merrill) 171
4359. “prevented him from burning the difficult beginnings” (Updike) 171
4360. Cold Gathering 172

MARCH 2013
4366. My Mother, and Welcome to Her! 173
4367. “difficult marvels” (Merrill) 174
4372. “vanished early” (Austen) 175
4378. “I have now at last become a writer only” (Fitzgerald) 176
4383. Something Given from Somewhere Hidden 176
4384. “busy seeking for otters” (Boswell) 177

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
## CONTENTS

4386. “this penetrative suggestion of life” (Pater) 178
4388. Making Up in the Middle of the Night 178
4390. “The scars were of different ages” (Darwin) 179

### APRIL 2013

4399. “I have promises to keep” (Frost) 181
4400. Self-Doubt for Adults 181
4401. “for the party” (Austen) 182
4402. “compelled her to grace” (Hardy) 182
4403. “impulses which she had not known before” (G. Eliot) 184
4404. “There are as many perfections as there are imperfect men” (Wilde) 184
4405. Reserve Army of Rescuers 184
4406. The Charmed Cycle 185
4407. “Only he and his opponent ... knew that he was being destroyed” (G.L.S.) 186
4408. Self-Reliance for Commoners 186
4415. What to Love 187
4418. “funny” (O’Hara) 187

### JUNE 2013

4405. “an endlesse moniment” (Spenser) 188
4409. “for poetry was all written before time was” (Emerson) 189
4410. “What they made of his lectures is not known” (Peter Singer) 189
4411. “And in short, I was afraid” (T. S. Eliot) 190
4413. “the pleasure of giving respect” (Tobias Wolff) 190

### JULY 2013

4415. Of Bragging 192
4417. “writing at tension’s limit” (Bolaño) 193
4419. “almost converted” (G. Eliot) 194
4420. “as if I, not they, were leaving” (Merrill) 194
4424. “up again old heart!” (Emerson) 196
4427. “irrevocably a poet” (Samuel Johnson) 197
4430. “speechless wonder” (F. Creuzer) 199
4432. “not mentioned because it is the whole of the story” (Empson) 200
4433. “our togetherness” (Auden) 201
4434. “an agreeable melancholy” (Hume) 201
4435. Books of Revelation (Class Notes) 202
4439. “Dreams advise” (Milton) 204
4441. Over My Head 204

### AUGUST 2013

4453. “A Need for Gardens” (Richard Brautigan) 206
4454. “Love Enough to Be Kind” (Barthes) 207

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

4456. “without losing his reverence” (Emerson) 209
4457. “his sincerities are ... elegiac” (Richard Poirier) 210
4458. “Make gentle the life of this world” (Aeschylus) 211
4464. Two Cheers for Vagueness 213
4465. Continuous Diary 215
4466. “But in the movie, died” (Updike) 215
4468. “It’s the kingdom of heaven” (Camus) 216
4474. “the small band of true friends” (Austen) 217
4477. “The end of art is peace” (Heaney) 218
4478. “our Puritan anxiety” (Anne Morrow Lindbergh) 219

SEPTEMBER 2013
4479. “Nature’s first green is gold” (Frost) 221
4481. “her lovely, deliberate blandness” (Vidal) 221
4483. “Men who die childless ... are denied an ancestor shrine” (Jack Goody) 224
4490. “For our vines have tender grapes” (Song of Solomon) 225
4492. “Sincerity” (Auerbach) 225
4493. “Fallings from us, vanishings” (Wordsworth) 227
5002. “Love those for whom the world is real” (Merrill) 230
5007. “Then, all of a sudden, I started to cry” (Salinger) 231
5008. “a God to thank” (Fitzgerald) 233

OCTOBER 2013
5012. It’s Different from the Ones in Peru 234
5014. “I cannot be mended” (Stevens) 236
5016. “Where every paradox means wonder” (Merrill) 236
5017. Self-Pastoral 237
5018. “how he got out of the room” (G. Eliot) 237
5019. The Strangeness of Tears 238
5024. “We are going to be in for trouble” (Lillian Hellman) 239
5025. “where nobody was looking” (Sontag) 240
5026. Coming up Empty 240
5027. “It was now too late and too far to go back” (Dickens) 241
5030. “note” (Barthes) 243
5032. “where lost was found” (Merrill) 243
5033. Loving on Time 244
5034. “lost for lacke of telling” (Spenser) 245
5035. Thanks for That 247
5039. “so right” (Ellmann) 248
5040. Street-Level Closeness 249

NOVEMBER 2013
5042. Waiting for Light 251
CONTENTS

5043. Playing Fair with Your Feelings  252
5044. “(I too in this dictum)” (Kafka)  254
5045. Coming and Going  256
5047. Another Country  257
5048. “hope” (Camus)  258
5049. “sure as tomorrow morning” (Hopkins)  259
5050. “a perfect edition of my works” (Pope)  260
5051. “full of pain” (Milton)  262
5052. Making It Through  263
5055. From Ritual to Romance  265
5056. “pathless ways into happy ones” (Ruskin)  266
5057. Voir Dire  267

DECEMBER 2013

5072. The Good Enough Beginning  269
5074. “A Hundred Million Billion Sonnets” (Queneau)  269
5075. “He saw himself as a ludicrous figure” (Joyce)  270
5077. “like a tree of tears” (Merrill)  272
5079. Rage Comes Home to Roost  273
5080. “if nobody can understand it?” (G. Eliot)  274
5086. “burning boy” (Bishop)  275
5092. “allies in the fight” (Trilling)  276
5093. Part for the Whole  276
5094. News of the Day  277
5095. “Somebody loves us all” (Bishop)  278
5096. “real religious feeling” (Wittgenstein)  278
5097. Seeing off People You Love  279
5098. Old and New Friends  280
5099. Lost and Found  282
5100. “Now Voyager” (Whitman, H. Crane, C. Robinson)  284

JANUARY 2014

5102. Fool for Love  285
5103. Keeping It Public  285
5104. “How can anyone want such things?” (Bishop)  287
5105. Mint Car  287
5106. Questions of Rescue  289
5111. “for One only” (Browning)  289
5114. All for Love  290
5118. I’m So Much Less Sure of Myself Now Than I Used to Be  292
5119. “something understood” (Herbert)  294
5123. Notes as Novel  296
5129. One Step at a Time  298
5130. Finding Your Way through Fear  298

For general queries, contact webmaster@press.princeton.edu
CONTENTS

FEBRUARY 2014
5134. Runaway 300
5137. Human Landscape 301
5139. Interpretation of Dreams 303

MARCH 2014
5191. How to Live 305

APRIL 2014
5211. Robert Frost 308

MAY 2014
5236. Fantasy Fatherhood 309
5237. Love Story 311

JUNE 2014
5281. Then I Don’t Feel So Bad 312

JULY 2014
5290. Revelation Roulette 314
5213. Why We Teach 317
5218. Good Enough for Good-bye 319

INDEX 321