

DNA/RNA Poems (from *Howell MI*)

Tyrone Williams

By using the DNA/RNA template for this section of the book-long poem Howell MI, I wanted to address the mythos of this country's origins—the Puritan/West European ideal—as inherently false since it creates this myth by severing off Europe's relationship to the rest of the hemispheres that comprise what one might call "world culture." That is, even were one to concede that the founding of the country—not its discovery—were West European, that concession would be false within the parameters of normative history: the USA was founded after 1776. So then this nation's "origins" remain indeterminate to the extent one can trace both pre-Columbian civilizations' interactions with the first European arrivals and other European, African and Asian influences on the culture of West Europe, a culture which the West European arrivals brought with them as various forms of knowledge. The culture that was "brought over" did not arrive unchanged by the voyages. The experiences at sea, however "uneventful," had to alter, mutate, however minutely, that culture. This may be understood as the equivalent of converting one form of currency into another; one might call that "other" American, as long as "American" is pronounced with the inflection of cultures (pre-Columbian, Asian, African, East European, etc.) already named.



Prolegomenon 1880

Trismes-	Tetra-	[collapsed aqueduct]		grammaton
	TTT	TCT	TAT	TGT
	TTC	TCC	TAC	TGC
	TTA	TCA	TAA	TGA
	TTG	TCG	TAG	TGG
[collapsed	CTT	CCT	CAT	CGT
	CTC	CCC	CAC	CGC
	CTA	CCA	CAA	CGA
	CTG	CCG	CAG	CGG
aqualung]	ATT	ACT	AAT	AGT
	ATC	ACC	AAC	AGC
	ATA	ACA	AAA	AGA
	ATG	ACG	AAG	AGG
gistus	GTT	GCT	GAT	GGT
	GTC	GCC	GAC	GGC
	GTA	GCA	GAA	GGA
	GTG	GCG	GAG	GGG

Early Buildings and Settlers

The tin tongue
torts torque. Coin
tosses table awry.
Tells tales. Good-

tainted. Christens territory
tracts. Codifies crux.
Talks corn. Anoints
themselves Chosen Germs.

Trade and triage
Transpose apposition. Civilized
Tribes alienated. Armistice
treason against Gospel.

Topsy's guitar—turvy's
tom-toms garnish custom.
Trails guarantee asylum.
That galloping glockenspiel

crashes—treads tea.
Clavier toccata. Clarinet
concerto. Trifling alloys
comic-tragic garden.

Commode canvases—*terra*
cantus—coffee constitution—
case culture. Accountable
chains channel gimcrack—

converted apples [tart-
cured] accessorize crosses.
Clean august addicts
clamoring annex. *Gemulichkeit*

confers grace. Treaties
capitulate grind claims
canonize gibberish. Aggregate
coffers glow green.

As told to
arrogates tandem—cobble
agreement. Telegrams amity.
Avails temple's grip.

Affable cognates threaten

austere coherence. Canny
alarms clip advances.
Axiomatic conditions guard

apertures agog. Telluric
agents adrift caught
abyss Attic apogee
alter arcane groves.

Acute graves tremble.
Anarchy goads catalogues—
allows grins. Askew
accompanies gift-gorged

graft—theatrical trigger
galvanizing tepid cants'
gendered trill. Acerbic
garrisons tender gold.

Glee clubs trump
Greek choruses. Chippewa
Gobbledy-gook countersigns America—
gambit-aplomb. Gawk-

garbled annotated thespians
gauge acts—chronicle
growth. Allot agency
[genteel antidote]. Garrulous

gamuts gate tents.
Genealogy groups castaways—
gyrates gauche anathemas—
Genesis glitch—godforsaken.

Cellular RNA (tUCAG)

But for a few dropped calls and a feud of
responses

uprooted unholy utopia
uncanny ulterior chasm
unfold usurp asylum
unstable upright Gospel

a fugue of spouse and espouse

unbearable clinging undaunted
unbecoming coupled crux
unbound *cantus* annex
unearth canned Good

But for an Argo of ogresque
fudging

a step fused with steadfast

unabridged annunciation unauthorized
underlings arrogate civilization
usher *amicus* armistice
unbiased angst grates

But for infer a formerly ur-un-
broken

unfretted guitar unflags
unlimited grimace curtailed
uncalled-for glib airlift
urge grab-bag gluttony

vessels carrying tablet

Cellular RNA (mUCAG)

I am :: the way

by way of “back East”

cut-rate used Ute
 cribbed→Uth copacetic
 caravan U-haul assent
 contraband units generate

(that is in order to say)

colossal chateaus [umlaut]
 costume cakewalk commentary
 cap conk appliqués
 curb cotton go-ups

(a preposition abducted by a verb)

cathouse arms umpire
 coal amen corners
 chirp astorperious atop
 compost axle grease

(predicates murder-suicide)

color-struck gims [ursprache]
 Charlie Georgia crackers
 Cuffee-gat Afromobiles
 cleave gris-gris

“western New York” via

John Paul Bunyan :: John Patrick Henry

Cellular RNA (rUCAG)

alpha urb urn	first
anteDNA umbra climate	
ark uncut array	
armada—unconscious galleons	
armored club-foot uncouth	
assumptions column careen	factory
arraign curves—atavism	
ascribed—chump change	
advocates admonish unbridled	
art—archive cabbage	
adjunct abut amend	forgery
amplify alabaster Gentile	
accursed georgics underwrite	
agape geographical chimes	
arrow going akin	
aegis Ginny Gall	family

Viral (si-UCAG)

guttural [glade] ulcer
 [unwarranted] unravel [uberty]
 galoot [glory] understate
 [underpins] clap-trap [chunks]

glimpse [glossary] undulating
 [undersold] albatross [ascertain]
 glimmer [galore] undersold
 [undulating] gloom [gales]

global [glare] colony
 [clef] underpins [understate]
 grace [germane] clenched
 [crutch] carouse [career]

gradient [gymnasium] career
 [carouse] athwart [Alladin's]
 grammar [grant] crutch
 [clenched] glove [genie]

gainsay [groom] aslant
 [affliction] uberty [unravel]
 govern [galvanize] adverse
 [affluent] clef [colony]

galvanize [govern] affluent
 [adverse] affliction [aslant]
 groom [gainsay] Alladin's
 [athwart] genie [glove]

grant [grammar] gymnasium
 [gradient] unwarranted [ulcer]
 germane [grace] glare
 [global] chunks [clap-trap]

gales [gloom] galore
 [glimmer] ascertain [albatross]
 glossary [glimpse] glory
 [galoot] glade [guttural]

Viral (mi-UCAG)

geld undiminished unconscious
glide *ululato* cack
glass *umbral* upar
gouge *una* guild

gist craven *usuaro*
glower comely canary
gross crippled *azmat*
gore childhood goblins

ghaaib aspiration *ungir*
gumraahi *aghwa* *chaanak*
graft *azeem* appendage
goliath *aala* ghost

ghazi guarda *ungir*
girador guache CRIP
galayo grito *alwidaah*
gallows ghoul Goth