

## Mercury

SIMON SMITH's previous books are *Fifteen Exits* (Waterloo Press, 2001) and *Reverdy Road* (Salt Publications, 2003). His translations of Catullus and Pierre Reverdy have appeared in *PN Review* and *Poetry Review*. He was a judge of the Poetry Society's 2004 National Poetry Prize and is librarian of the Poetry Library in London.



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*for Flick, always*



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Mercury



## Buzz

The breeze is the note left by the meadow

For me to read hold it up to the blue

It's Real Life down here, you know

It's all right shooting live ammo

Through my head things go straight

Trapped in a box not the message

## Lorca

I want one true word

With you Jack Spicer

Today tomorrow and every other day

I push out on the rise

Angled in to wobble at the ankle

That's not cricket in my base

Ball scores and the breeze drop

It one way today tomorrow

Or any other day no mail for you

## Second Coat

This poem comes with a drawing.

Politics never far from the surface.

Circa sixty-five or sixty-six the trail goes cold.

If I wait long enough I'll see you.

Hands over eyes tight shut.

On the John Updike trail this Fall.

Power by any other name.

Every line ends with a dot or a full-stop

## Tint

The past we all disappear into one  
Liner or continuous text messaging  
It's the refund I stand for welcome  
To my path we mean no harm  
To your big toe we're not receiving  
The buzz mess and tangle  
Fame won't show on the print  
Licking my lips is not the same  
As tin say or a postcard

## Mending Wall

Frost said free verse is like tennis

Without the net, well fuck that poetry's

No game, it's a way of life we are

Calling to each calling hat on heart

Hand on hat, Ideas by any other

Form or phoneme: hill Hell tell

Trail pill till chill feels heels heal

And anything that means you

Take the ch

## Language

The language of patriarchy

Is ridiculous Ezra Pound

Couldn't join up the dots

Impossible men fall this

Is the death of political

Language is the wood

(Vertical) timber (horizontal)

The sunshine flat along

The valley floor out this way

Now that fall to no end not as

Saussure meant it, I'm sure.

# Timber

The world as it was never known

Is what you make of it, my Danish

Comes with a bomb in it the English

Department the graveyard of Poetry

Need never know the need

To know never as before happily

Ever after a final blow Personification

And Capitalised Abstraction return

The wood for the trees the timbre to timber

## Meanwhile

Back to Orpheus' place and the deadline.

Songs fill the World to bursting bursting

From radiators bursting from grass the chord

That is discord played across blue