Craig Dworkin

Asked Arragon, the historian, about history. He said you have to invent it. —John Cage, Mushroom Book

I.	Articles of Faith (Indefinite).
0	In 1894, Lord Rayleigh and William Ramsay conceived of a new constituent of the atmosphere.
0	This substance was not isolated as an element until 1897, when Louis Aragon was born.
0	As appeared by the manner in which paper, impregnated with a solution of it, burnt.
	There is no record to suggest that the confinement of M <sup>me</sup> Aragon lasted twenty-seven months, but it is in that discrepancy between the terms that surrealism gestates.
	Rayleigh and Ramsay "thought it undesirable to shrink from any labor that would tend to complete the verification."
	Despite the lack of proof, The Smithsonian Institution paid them $$10,000$ for their annunciation, although their proposal of the symbol $A$ for the new element was rejected and denied.

## II. Te deum.

an oar goes

swift, bright, and glancing

over the water

pulling after and about

a purse

sent

adrift

a gape

an oar quarters the rim like a reftlathe when the wave pours open

lap, slap, addles over a paper nautilus lost

or almost rased

and paupered

litros listing westward off the coast

a lee along the vessel's sides leaves a crust between the staves

> "Suffice it to say that an attempt was made to cause a store of atmospheric nitrogen to circulate by means of a fan, driven by a water-motor."

a scraping marks the beat of measures struck and wavered by the need—

1674: Are a Goan or Gawn, Chesh

gloss gall on leash

or by contraction of the word

to good the hour come, or

gone

bright	
imblued	
with oxide	
blistering their gills fish spill soluble in the sun	
swift, bright, and	
	"The light emitted from it is of a crimson color, with a blue or lilac shade."
split	iting,
like the hides of oxen, parched	
water skins, rugal	
singular, sincere	
yet divisions do occur	
in labored	
swift graspings	
branchiæ flaring out	
and then	
a coming together, as if to say: it is releven	ant; it is like this; you have done this

## and glancing

silent (cup unclappered but beautiful)

light pouring

save for the bubbles borne by gas in a liquid

nature abhors

tu non horruisti virginis uterum

## an angel with a stylus lounges in the round to capture a record of criminal speech —

C	or impotence, or critique	language used to conceal its true import
	[by contraction]	
t'	'd	'm
the words	refusing to work	
		"for they are of a most astonishingly indifferent body"
gilt lidded	or lashed, moneyed eyes	idle
	swift, bright, and	glancing

Boredom is always counterrevolutionary.

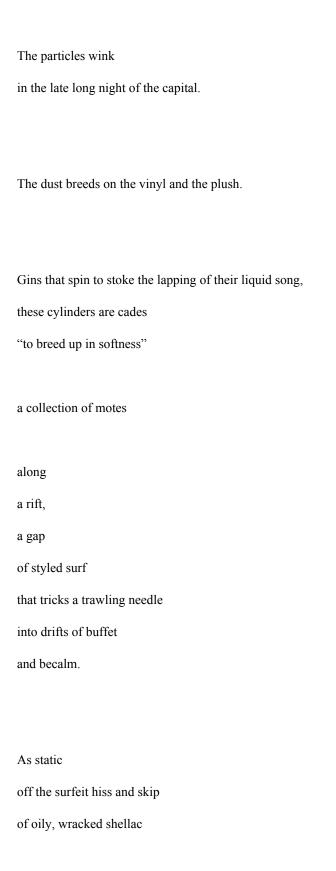
III. The Virgin Nyctalope.

Argus, insomniac, dreams devoutly of sleep: in a chapel crypt in Siena, down narrow arcose stairs, there is a fresco of the Virgin that weeps black tears. *Because she has scratched her eyes in sleep*. The thick liquid espresses with a viscous difficulty from her angular, Byzantine eyes. Bitter, they harden and fall in cysts distilled from the white plaster of the wall, which has swollen with the centuries and cracked in seams like a poppy bulb.

IV. Arcadia				
The incandescents that				
replaced the gas lamps				
in the Passage de L'Opéra				
display their threads in miniate	ure snop windows.			
The filaments bear delicate				
domed anthers.				
The papers yellow with				
the pollen and floresce.				
	"The soap-lees being then poured out of the tube, and separated from the quicksilver, seemed to be perfectly neutralized, and they did not at all discolor paper tinged with the juice of blue flowers."			
Rot ironic scrollwork wrote.				
A clay charybdic aireles arim	aling the chall lake			
A slow charybdis circles, spiraling the shell lake.				

Cowries: scratch
of sand that lines the shallows of the sound.
Currency, accumulated to an image,
charges.
And so now,
once invisible
allergens fluoresce:
excited
and tremulous
with the current.
Exited and sent
out in the flow,
the predicates silt.
They speculate upon the deposits left by an action.

relig devot compass fus



punctuates the passage

in a syncopated cycle of profane illuminations

from the tubes

of vacuums cracking

— now off, now on —

the stroller finds a pantomime of shallow ridge and shadow

which first appear, and then

from a measured volume to indefinite expansion:

one March morning, in 1969, on a sandy beach in Santa Monica, one liter of Argon was returned to the atmosphere.