

NOTES FROM A DOCK, FLATHEAD LAKE, JUNE 12, 1998,
BROUGHT FORWARD TO A DIFFERENT MORNING BY LEFT-
FACING BIRD (NEARLY) 8 YEARS AFTER. SENT FROM EAST
TENNESSEE, W/ ALL DUE FELLOWSHIP.

RICHARD GREENFIELD

4:56 AM

— Each breath of utterance is in danger, here at predawn, met by an inside refutation from the schooled mind. I know too much, and I need to know much less to write a poem. Still some meteor showers in the dark part against the Swan range. Soon too much light. Being.

Across the lake, I see with that gaze the new lakeside casino light, so many need relevance before the dawn.

6:19 AM

Here come rowers again. They are seeping into my text. I am in love with C. She's memorized Lady in Kickinghorse Reservoir, but I won't hold it against her. "Colaesce, today." My campaign pledge. Singular. Oar into water, oar into water.

7:42 AM

One tree, side vs. shade vs. size. Webs and wasp nests. Limbs start $\frac{1}{2}$, then the maple leaves of another. The path into the sky. Permeable barrier, bark. Do not turn these leaves into hands—resist being so fucking human all of the time. Leave, logos.

Return, 11:32 AM

"Do not figurate." —Traherne. George Herbert's "Jordan II" is radical dissent from metaphysical poetry. To just see. The comfortable track. Nature does not need this.

Makes it smaller than it is. Object-human relationship, but forced elsewhere. Traherne, and his utero poetics—seeing before fallenness into the world. It's a contrived notion of course, impossible, too transcendent, but beautiful. Crazy to find the Traherne in Alberton. Hungry now.

Return, 6:21 PM

Cottonwoods and sweat. Bird calls he does not know. Each piece of the world comes through.

6:45 PM

The dock extends into the lake, is part of the question, trying to place itself. What would the answer prove? On the shores of the lake the private amenities. Summer storm, lightening. Staying here, not moving. Come on, shock me.

8: 20 PM

Tired body/ is tiredness/ of everything.

9:06 PM

By lamplight: what? Tent, opening to stars. You think the flap is the divide between you and those foxes? Last night, but they might return?

9:56 PM

Kinds of air: Lavender air, honeysuckle air. Wild honeysuckle air. Honeysuckle air. Disarming air. Clean air. Financial air. Airflow. Air gulfs. Air hazard. Air infection. Malaria air. Regime air. Marine air. Some air. Stock of air. Air detection. Air protocol. Air component. Air debate. Most air. Tent air. Patricia hates my lists.

10:17 PM

From the Traherne book, glued onto the frontispiece:

Errata:

For "world" read "World"

For "his" read "this"

For "move," read "Move"

11:05 PM

Pine needle whiffs. The casino is ruining the starlight, but the lapping waves do offset.