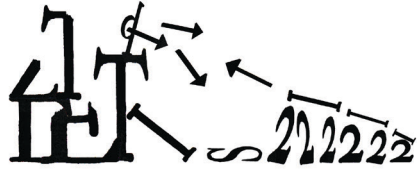


One



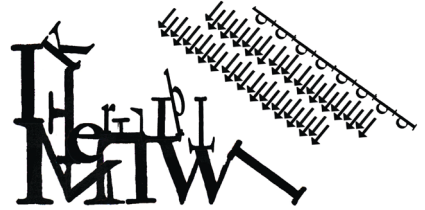
Steel felt sacred.
Lower, get a flat,
Roman Iron Age bow to draw.
Foster ruts, as turrets of war do.
Two began, or, in a mortal fate,
grew older....
Castle, fleets....

Two



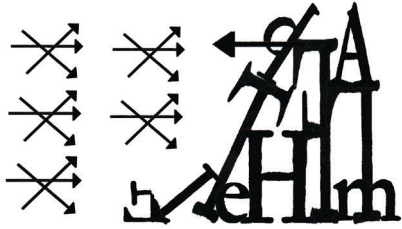
Sheath,
on its perch.
Arrow and tail.
A tempo to owe bones on stones.
One bow-to-poem, atilt,
and war—
O, archer, spit on the ash....

Three



Its trap,
or form, is torn,
as rains issue its arrows.
In bows, in rows,
are its suns.
I rain—
A storm is for portraits.

Four



Castles shell rows,
near my lost instructor,
sever verse, per the covetous omen.
Bow, metal bow!
Momentous,
cover these perverse vectors;
trust in my lone arrow's hell, less cast.

'Arrows & Bows' presents four palindromic poems, each inspired by visions of archery in ancient or mediaeval warfare. The first poem is palindromic by letter, the second by pairs of letters, the third by trios, and the fourth by quartets. With each palindromic verse is a complementary concrete poem, symbolically illustrative of its palindrome.

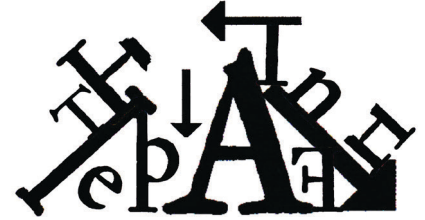
Anthony Etherin is a UK-based writer of experimental poetry and music. His poems have appeared online in *The Account*, *Five:2:One*, and *Nagari* magazines, among others, and he has had leaflets or chapbooks published by No Press, Penteract Press, Spacecraft Press, and *The Blasted Tree*. Find him on twitter, @Anthony_Etherin, and via his website, anthonyetherin.wordpress.com.

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Arrows & Bows



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