PROJECT MUSE®

Ringing the changes on Mistral

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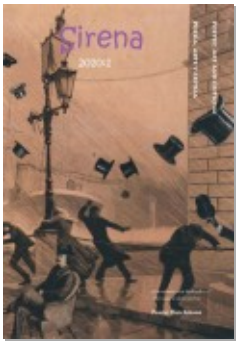

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Ringing the changes on Mistral

My mother brought me forth to show,
the neighbours came and gave me

a couple of eggs,
a cut of bread,
a grain of salt,
and a match-stick,

telling me to be:

as full as an egg,
as good as bread,
wise like salt,
straight as a match.

And if I later became
as empty as a cracked eggshell,
as bad as bread gone green,
foolish as caked salt,
and pointless like a spent match,

recall, as in Paris partridge
is less than apples at home,
that once I may have been

egg-full,
bread-good
salt-wise,
match-straight.

Variaciones sobre Mistral

Mi madre me sacó para mostrarme,
los vecinos vinieron y me dieron

dos huevos,
un trozo de pan,
un granito de sal,
y un fósforo,

y me dijeron:

sé tan íntegro como un huevo,
tan bueno como el pan,
sabio como la sal,
recto como un fósforo.

Y si al crecer acabé siendo
tan vacío como la cáscara de un huevo roto,
tan malo como pan enmohecido,
inservible como la sal humedecida
e inútil como un fósforo usado,

recuerda que, como en París la perdiz
vale menos que las manzanas en tierra propia,
alguna vez pude haber sido

huevo-íntegro,
pan-bueno
sal-sabia,
fósforo-recto.