Empire Burlesque

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Published by The Ohio State University Press

Svenvold, Mark.
Empire Burlesque.
The Ohio State University Press, 2007.
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/27971.

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Autumn softens the bluffs on the river
With a haze, and a fierce, finite light—
Rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.

Imagine, if you will, Coronado’s golden city,
for here he stood—never mind the doughnut bakery.
Rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.

Despite lost tribes of Welshmen,
Iraelites, Amazons, unicorns, all maps agree:
Rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.

Why ask the radar on the mountain
for latest news? Here’s an update—
Rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.

You want it when? With graphs and charts?
You give me a headache. I’ll give you the summary.
Rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.

First the diagnosis, then the announcement:
“You’re now free to move about the denouement,”
as rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.

How do I love thee, and why? O congeries
of gorgeous lies, I’ve lost my way.
And rivers flow into other rivers, and they
flow into rivers that flow into the sea.