Misinterest

M.H. Bowker

Published by Punctum Books

M.H. Bowker,
Misinterest: Essays, Pensées, and Dreams.

For additional information about this book
https://muse.jhu.edu/book/75667

For content related to this chapter
https://muse.jhu.edu/related_content?type=book&id=2624496
Persons go missing all the time.
A thousand abdications for every abduction.
I am not making light of—

In “Obóz głodowy pod Jasłem” [“Jaslo Hunger Camp”],
Wisława Szymborska writes:
“History rounds off skeletons to zero.
A thousand and one is still only a thousand.
That one seems never to have existed” (1997, 42).

But by the time we’re counting skeletons —
To be accounted among the dead is not —
To be the thousand and first skeleton —
To lament a missing one among a missing multitude —
Persons do not come to matter in this way.
Whether a person has existed —
Whether a person has been —
It is not a question for history.