JEFFREY JEROME COHEN

tooth, possibly fossilized, England

When Augustine combed the beach at Utica he discovered on that receding shore
the tooth of a mammoth, which he mistook for a giant’s molar. He committed to
parchment a reverie about his find, a story of vast humans and time out of memory,
but the tooth he hurled back into the sea. Currents moved the thing from Africa to
India, then around the jutting coasts of Europe. Because a saint had once grasped
the tooth, the object cannot erode. It has over time diminished, however, and when
discovered along the Thames held no narrative of woolly beasts or primordial giants
or a holy man walking the beach and dreaming theology.
I NEVER FOUND THE OCEAN

I DON'T LIVE ANOTHEAR

I AM NICK AND ALLISON