

STARLING; or
The Revenant as a Radiant Light; or
Why the King of Englishmen Sits in the
Position of Neptune on the Pound
Note; or
of Why We Creep Before We Walk

—

Mac Wellman
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Second Draft

APROPOS OF: **s t a r l i n g**

SENECA: 'ducunt volentem ... nolentem trahunt.' (After Cleanthes) 'draw those who are willing, drag those who are not.'

FIRST NOTE: Nature like to hide.

The text of this play consists of non-differentiated dialogue and scenario; the disjuncture of these is to be enabled in production. The apparent jumble of the play is apparent only, and is in no way a fact of appearance (See LAST NOTE). Thus, the play STARLING consists of a set of instructions rather than a description of an aesthetic end product, in (and for) itself. As a set of instructions the text is, of course, problematic (o damnable theater). This is intentional and intrinsically so. Indeed, as a set of instructions the text of STARLING possesses no set of instructions. This is precise. The fact of this purpose is the precision of the play.

There are seven rooms, and two groups of actors, one consisting of 7, one of 3; the latter enact the character of the REVENANT (the one who returns). All other parts are enacted by the 7, singly or in combination.

All the actors are female; all the rooms are empty. Except for such stuff as is indicated in the text: candlestick, parbuckle, window frame, etc.

'Nature likes to hide' is a fragment from Heraclitus; 'draw those who are willing, drag those who are not' has been identified above.

—

A SMALL NOTE TO THE FIRST NOTE CONCERNING A POSSIBLE CONFUSION (o damnable confusion): In the first scene, the Revenant is under the impression his name is 'Sperling', but this is not his name; it is the name of a mythical town in Arizona, where in order to prove his sanity he delivers his "Lecture on the Serpent Ritual" to two young women who are hitch-hiking to New York City. They do not understand a thing he says. Later we learn the truth. The Revenant's name is not 'Sperling', it is STARLING. These events are based on the life and work of Aby Warburg, founder of the Warburg Library and Institute.

Scene:

Seven rooms, of which
three are
capable of being reversed and
arranged either
in an L or in a torus

[A diagram of this]

Sperling, the Revenant sits quietly
in his chair. Review, revert, revisit
dog's age constructions.
Barricade against expletive and
loud noises. Dog's bane. Bang.
Hell's do-it-yourself.
Lie doggo. Bang.

~

Lights up in a room all
vanish
hoop skirts and shoes
out three doors
in a moment

~

Silence. Bright light. Nothing.

Sperling is shrouded
Bang
is a bong. Bong
is a gong. And so on. Long gone.

As eyes appear from all corners of the

Is a bright light we are (as if) blinded;

Is
an assembly of shopping cart, hat,
and an old Shaker chair. Shoes. A

candle-stick. All in any order covered darkly
from the rhetoric of the unseen, beyond,
outside the frame;
look up all words you do not understand.

Rewrite and reword. Sperling:

One day, after I had gone
maddened;
awake in a wilderness of monkeys
a wilderness of monkeys
wilderness of monkeys

do not know the place;

~

I did not know the place I saw

two girls, as in a poster,
hitch-hiking on the highway, a

place I

place I did not know;

Sperling, Arizona.

~

a

~

Long ago I had been to Arizona

all the rooms revealed as one room and
emptier than hope

Black. A black rhino, and the
damnably shoes
there, black. Being
black

~

000 three zeros

Blackness.

All in a line. Say it

oh oh oh

—

Zero tripled;

as, as the light trips the tip

fingers appear, fingers

&

part the

so,

so we can see the

thee

bingo bingo bingo;

silence, deep as in the

—

~

bingo bingo bingo

bingo bingo bingo

bingo bingo bingo

bango

Sperling. For long periods of time I would sit
under the might sky, sit

and

and look at the moon we see the

moon,

and it is quite a colossal

and reminds us of another
reminds us of another

rewind and revolve
rewind and revolve
when we

would sit for long periods, in the quiet,
and look up at the moon--

Psst! When we were young Bang

Lights up all of them
up full
bang bang
bang.

Bango ...

Vanish, they

~

Sperling. It has come to this:
Be removed or suffer to be
blinded in a bright light,
bug light of purest revocation,
and be made dead. A thing

sling
slang
slung

shot out of sight. So they go
just go

~

We see such & such shadows and hear a far laughter, off,

we

we set\see the light
only and

~

... & ...

~

When I came to my senses, I was in this
awful bughouse, a door, a bed, a table.
open windows and the desert [universe] beyond

Psst, a picture or poster on the wall, of two

~

o, wholly innocent of removal

~

o, wholly innocent

~

pretty girls, oh, oh,
hitch-hiking from here to there,
at Sperling Arizona, a place I
I had not known.
A poster or picture and sure I was
mad.
Or so they told me

Well. Was this a condition my
superior sense of conviction has
caused a space to? Or

Well. Was this a conviction my
superior sense of space had
caused to seem a condition?

Space opened. Apparence.

Is's argument.

Or integument.

Or

~

a [A picture of this]

~

Run out of space. They do.

Sperling is silent;
Starling of shadow;
notices his own
shadow till it stares.

It stares?

Crowd of them enters, inch in & await a mere
glance ...
but no ...
no look is returned;

...

?

...

!

a finger taps on something wooden;

what of wood? We see
a

~

The Revenant's apparentness
in
his foot, covered;
covered by shoes, black ones;

For he is being
under the obligation of being (an obligee)
watched;

This

~

—

~

The
is
this goes on for a time

[A picture of this]

And goes: all
peel off and go out
singly and in pairs;

Sperling says:

Starling, starling, starling.

An old, odd removal
of obligation.

We hear someone sing a song we cannot
quite
make out. Time was

...

Nothing here, go on to the next room

...

an old victrola, playing an old
song not now remembered;
parbuckle, mallet, and a

yes, a

ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha

ha

Labyrinth; lit cigarette in the ash
tray someone has been here some
one someone has just departed, a

~

Unfinished, an order of being

Someone does something. Stops.

The room stops-- not the
someone; not the
something; not the
doing. Doing portrayed

as an old victrola. An

odd arrangement of
parbuckle, mallet

(tinsmith's? mason's? bossing? caulking?
composition? rawhide? carpenter's?)

and a

—

Leave this place, one at a time

7 in all

~

Next we are aware of the, ah

An Inability of the Theatrical, ah,

(not what I meant)

An Inability of the Theatrical to

Pin the pindownable to
more

than this;
This This--
pinheadedness, oh

a light wind ruffles the curtain, through
which we see:
Luna (the lunatic),
behind a starlit

psych

~

Starlight and Starling
in rare rotation;

a roomful of the

the

pseudo-event, the

wow again. Wow!

What happened at Meteor Crater, my

!

~

You must respond to this by doing nothing nothing

more than rotate the world

StagePictureDevice,

Like a sphere. Like a ball
Bingo Bango Bam
Bingo Bango Bem
Bingo Bango Bim
Bingo Bango Bom
Bingo Bango Bum

Central axis of the Moving World,

unseen,
unmoving;

the, ah,

the unstill all around you

as the 3 who make the Revenant
&
whisper in the next room.

Dead. Gone.
Crow.

~

Actuarial. Memory. Time's ago. Go

Go there, thinking.

Good, a ghost

Good, a ghost

Good, a ghost. Three girls ghosts with
tails and wings (wrong play)

...

accompany you, who.

Silence.

Pause.

Silence. Stop the. Stop it. Stop.

~

Just stand there, Starling's

Eye out the window.

And then, godamighty,
came the Mahoon.

Oh yeah, came the
came the came the
but partially glimpsed
and obscured in view
Came the Mahoon yeah

Yeah. Came the.

(from the next room)

~

Revenant in the bug house dreaming

~

Now a shadow of the
thee?

an instance of mortmain

dead hand of the

thee? Can hear the old victrola

3 rooms back. What's ago; ago's what

So. They retire to the next room
in resignation. Wherever. Death
will not be looking for you
there. Death will be looking
at the wrong rite somewhere
down the hall, somewhere else.

Ha

Ha, say it seven times.

Somewhere (look all around)
else. One: If else there be.

Rites, wronged.

~

Move one. Move one. Move on.

~

Reinvent yourself
in a bug house
of your own devising.

Welcome to the theater of downsizing by
attrition.

Like the Revenant

You can never be replaced.
Panegyric. Eulogy. The golden watch
is
to
be found
in the next room.

Open window. Sperling, Arizona.

7 stories, splat.
jdark, dead. A
suicide without a question.

Whispers, seven voices, out of earshot
barely

. Punt

Unmoving
the
Starling's eye,

. Puntilla

The Unseen

~

Even big shoes get filled. Exeunt
(they go).

professor emeritus "forgotten but not gone"

~

Prompt the recent retiree
to remember that remembering
is a forgetting

As the three dikes know
(Did I mean Fates?)
Did I mean Graces?
Did I mean Erasers?):

The Sleeper. The Dreamer. The Waker.

One slips out. One coughs. One
lights a cigarette as the Revenant
comes apart, is reassembled,

all hope and brightness

[A picture of this]

in the next room, or better yet
in the room beyond that one.

~

Room with the Revenant's big
black shoes
in them. Old rhino hide. These

shoes will be filled, but not by the person hired
as

a replacement. All: I am looking at you

One: buster

~

A sudden act of someone being removed,
not someone you know.

Thus. Only seen in glimpses, partially

or fully obscured in view. An old chair
in a shopping cart, hatted,
covered darkly,

...

is a bright light overhead

light-scatter

as eyes appear from (odd) corners
of the room

The town of Sperling is covered
Bang
Is a shroud. Bang
Is a bong. Bong
Is a gong.

Gone gong. Gong.

The 7 are gone, a flutter of silk.

The 3 are:

Silence. Brightness. Nothing.

Where? Who? Leave it open

—

!

—

SilencePauseSilence.

~

Now you guess (doggone doggo).

~

The Revenant's next room is the room
of most hatted abbreviations, all of them

beginning with the letter Q.

Q 1. queen. 2. quetzal.

q 1. quart. 2. quarter. 3. quarterly. 4. also

Q quarto. 5. query. 6. question. 7. quintal.

(what's a quintal?) 8. quire.

qb quarterback.

QB queen's bishop.

QB Queen's Bench.

Q.E.D. quod erat demonstrandum. Which was to be demonstrated.

Q.E.F. quod erat faciendum. Which was to be done.

qt. quintal (what's a quintal?).

...

The 7. QSO. quasi-stellar object.

QSRS. quasi-stellar radio source.

qt. quart.

qt. quantity

qto. quarto.

qu. 1. queen. 2. query. 3. question.

quad. 1. quadrangle. 2. quadrant.

The 3. ques. question

quot. quotation.

qt. quintal (what's a quintal?).

By "hatted" he meant "hated"; there are
no hats; there is no questions of hats;

All. Q.E.D.

~

In room the next

Eye

effigy you

to invoke an absence,

...

an indifference to the here and now.

A flutter of silken curtain, mad curtains
in the afternoon sunshine.

An answer to "wow"; a

non-Wow.

Pause.

Someone does something.

Silence.

Pause.

We hear the sound of leather and rubber. Exeunt.

~

Enter omnes in a bunch.

All caught in full view. Shock.

Shock Horror Disbelief!

Go out in a bunch. A

rubber ball bounces.

Bounce

bounce

Bounce. Stops. The bouncing stops.
all of its own. No one has done this.

. Punt

...

?

...

!

. Puntilla

A & B. That is better.

That is much batter.
? Batter?
Better, I said "better".
You said "batter".
I said "better".
Skip it.
Ahem. Someone notices something,
or rather. Someone has failed to
notice something until someone else
(someone else more perceptive)
has pointed it out.

Indian tobacco. Indian turnip
or Jack-
in-the-
pulpit.

The Feather'd People.

All 7 stare. Go out and

~

In the next room the King of England is pictured
Sitting in the position of Neptune
on the Pound Note

(Because he looks like an Indian
turnip)

Dead. Crow.
Gone

[End of]

Scene:

Seven rooms, of which
three are

capable of being reversed.

In one, one some ways away, a person has
failed to appear. This creates an

oddity here; how?

By here is meant (t)here.

No one can say. No
one can say. No one
can say.

Say;
for in the room beyond that is exhibited the town
of Sperling, Arizona,

as a miniature, the model of which
has caused to be builded in paper and sticks
painted according to the true. Color of color actually not,

because the disappearance of town into a
person's mind

is to be enacted, very quietly,
in the

farthest room imaginable Hush

and you can hear the walls;
point
focus
light
a corner
a section of
3 dimensional;

Sperling thought he was a man.
No, no, no,
because he is
a town
in Arizona that does not
exist on any map,

map I know. Hush, & be

O

~

—

and he is
a

~

Someone goes away
because

~

Someone has to
tie a shoe
lace

[Picture a big space]

~

Thing there, a covered thing?

brass base,

circular, hurricane lamp

...

Okay, someone says, in the next room,
all hoax, all a hoax, yes, yes.
Came here to prepare my lecture on the,
ah,
on the,
(I do not expect you to believe)
ah,
on the

...

[
]

~

Starling goes; Starling stays. He is played

by 3

others

Sleep. Waker, and the

Surrogate Dreamer, a

kind of duck. They do the "damnable duck", get
lost, other rooms, other times,

[Make a picture of this]

[Make a pictorial response
to the first picture, by
tracing perhaps]

and

and?

and

Nothing can stay for long, withstand
being drawn out of here, bodily, into
the next room where

I

effigy you
sit there in your
own damned doubleness
and judge me;
like a very roundy
yellow fruit, an apple,
a pear, or some such.

"A Lecture on the Serpent Ritual"
and by this composition I shall prove my
sane way out of this infernal bughouse;
as

In room the next
you
effigy me
to express an absence. Or invoke, I meant.

~

Stop. In
the long corridor the shadow of a what
and
and?
and
Came the Mahoon
Came the Mahoon
Came the Mahoon ...

Silence.

Someone checks the silence to be sure
it is not

horror horror horror

a pause

by rapping on it with a spoon.

...

?

...

?

And. And.

Pause. Silence. Pause.

Came the Mahoon
Came the Mahoon
Came the Mahoon ...

Someone tries to portray the picture of this, is
cut down for her folly. Brightness
and Nothingness

remove the guts, lug them to the next
room;

Room Theoretical

where "Nature abhors a vacuum" and so on.

All that old
bughouse
crap

~

That leaves only Brightness and Nothingness
and
the sound of the old victrola.

Curiouser and curiouser, the two
girls

on the soft shoulder, two miles out the
window,
are still trying to thumb a ride to the big city.

within a
room
they do not know,
imagining.

Someone will have to replace them when they
are
come to be dead.

...

?

...

!

Came the Mahoon!
Came the Mahoon!

Starling, softly, from the farthest room
from which one may be overheard:

C
A
M
E

T
H
E

M
A
H
O
O
N.

The 7 reply from
here;
shut the window on the two lonely girls
who
on the road
are
run out of space;

arrived at a
000,
a place I had not known. Known

like a sphere. Like a ball

Bingo bango bam

Bingo bango bem
Bingo bango bim
Bingo bango bom
Bingo bango bum

Central axis of the Moving World,
unseen,
unmoving;

the, ah,
the unstill all around you

....

As the 3 who make the Revenant
&
whisper in the next room:

Dead. Gone.
Crow.

~

Shoes will be filled, but NOT by the person
hired as a
replacement,

all hope and brightness

in the next room, or better yet
in the room beyond that, or in the

...

Lights up there (here they go out)

...

or:

of water, under pressure, or aer.

No one there. An error or ors:
an error of alternatives.

~

...

(hushed)

... there are no doors.
Doors have disappeared. People disappear

without

going through doors because there aren't any.

... the motif of a universe
without boundaries
without compartments ... [Man Ray]

... shadow from the next room We are
only just now aware of it. From the
previous room

a chair is set. Something

thinks about sitting down
you are all very tired
someone thinks about this
you are all very tired
but does not sit down
because somehow it is
impossible to do so with
that damnable shadow

there, as of the past of future
even worse if the future yes

a chair is set. Something
is wrong with spacio-temporal
arrangement:

~

Do not know. We

~

...

?

...

~

a sound like wind, only it cannot be

The curtains are ruffled, in the least,
in the
in the least ruffled; hence
if it is a wind, it is a
wind
made mad. A wind maddened

...

(wacko)

...

Consider this

as you think about making you own exit;

making your exit in such a way

as to suggest to the others, the FOOLS,
that they consider the same thing;
look at
them, the
FOOLS, greatest tribe of humanity the
FOOLS,

the, why it,

it, ah,

er;

Lights up in a room all
vanish
hoop skirts and shoes
out three doors
in one moment;

doorways, not doors.

There is, as you can plainly see, no
door, nor
any such thing as door;
Look!

~

...

... you do not look ...

...

... are afraid

...

... are afraid to look
because of the shadow;

Came the Mahoon!
Came the Mahoon!
Came the Mahoon!
Oh, yeah, came the Mahoon;
came the Mahoon!
Came the Mahoon!
Came the Mahoon!

Silence. Brightness. Nothing
(not "nothingness", notice).

Sperling is shrouded.
Bang
Is a shroud. Bang
Is a gong. Gong
Is gone

as eyes open up on the first, on the last

as if a bright light from somewhere overhead

was (is)
a shopping cart resting on, dog's age, an
old wooden chair, hatted
covered darkly,

I do not recall the place, only

...

?

... from where?

~

an old wooden chair, dog's age, of shaker construction

Notice the

~

People disappear through doorways, and do not
return

sometimes;

[A picture of this]

or,
the opposite of this is enacted.

[A picture of this]

~

So that if/when the Revenant returns as
something else.

Notice this.

Notice what was said was "something else"
not "someone else"

~

Shoes will be replaced, but not by the person

hired as a
replacement,

all hope and brightness

in the next, or better yet
in the room beyond that, or in the

...

Lights up there (here they go out)

...

~

This is the Revenant's pinacotheca;

surrogate upon surrogate passes

quoting Aristotle
on the vacuum:

"Nature abhors a ..."

...

—

The 7 sing: Nature abhors a ...

Nature abhors a*

Nature abhors a

Nature abhors a

Nature abhors a, etc.

While the 3 sing (in strange counterpoint):

Came the Mahoon,

Came the Mahoon,

Came the Mahoon, etc.

...

[* = lap

Preceded by a shadow, a Tall Man enters,
covered in a shroud, a man not like
any of the others (Mahoon?);

he threatens to drive us out;

and so the 7 are driven;
the 3, however, remain.

~

For a time nothing happens, and
they
remain
there, remaining
as still
as if it were a challenge to someone else
to be a part of this.

Whispers. Ah, er, ha.

Silence. Pause. Silence.

Someone does something in the vicinity of her
shoe. Old Rhino hide.

Bingo Bango Bam
Bingo Bango Bem
Bingo Bango Bim
Bingo Bango Bom
Bingo Bango Bum

This in a hurry-scurry, as in an afterthought.

...

The Sleeper. The Dreamer. The Waker.

One slips out. One coughs. One
lights a cigarette as the Revenant
comes apart, is reassembled.

all hope and brightness,

[A picture of this]

in the next room, or better yet
in the room beyond that one.

~

Hydraulic.
Hyacinthus.
Hurricane lamp.

~

The 3 enact the Revenant.

...

Pause. Silence. Pause.

... and not one person laughed. This rude parody was not felt to be a piece of comic mockery; rather it was a kind of auxiliary ceremony of the more wildly exuberant ... to ensure a rich harvest. Anyone acquainted with ancient tragedy will recognize in this the dual nature of the tragic chorus and the satyr play-- both grafted to one stem.

The girls from Sperling. One. Did I hear him wrong? Did he say, this road doesn't go to New York City? I dunno. Neither do I. Dammit. Damn.

...

The 3 as the Revenant. I shall be vindicated if the pictures of the daily life of the Pueblo Indians have proved to you that their masked dances are not a mere game, but the heathen's answer to torturing questions on the whys and wherefores of things.

~

Stop.
Down the long corridor, we hear a reply
spoken

On the whys and wherefores of things, and

...

... and on the question,

The (far off) 7 (whispered):

of ...

ah,

er,

ha,

of why we creep before we walk

(because, are we creepy?).

[End of]

Scene:

Seven rooms, of which
three are
capable of being reversed.

You who are
still
present, you

...

will do as I say (the 7 and the 3 in
some
configuration, other than
the
obvious) as what is
spoken
IS spoken; so

Someone (this means you; this
does NOT mean
you)

does something.

Pause. Do you know
WHAT
that is
?

...

Silence. Do you know
WHAT
that is
?

...

Pause. Must I repeat myself.

Find a volunteer. Take this person
out,
and do something to suggest a(n)

ah,

er,

ha,

Equation, in which the person so removed
must stand for X,
the unknown,
against some knowable Y,
a shoe perhaps.
Black. Hide. Rhino.

So that an endless series of substitutions
may begins;

~

The
is
this goes on for a time.

[A picture of this process]

And goes out: all
peel off and go out
singly, and in pairs;

Someone says:

Starling, starling, starling

...

An odd, old removal
of obligation;

down the hall some way, in a far, far room,

...

We hear someone sing a song we cannot
quite
make out. Time was

...

Hydraulic

...

!

(Hushed): off somewhere, somewhere
difficult to pinpoint:

Strophe a) Hydraulic*

Hyacinthus

Hurricane lamp

Strophe b) Or: of water under pressure.* Or Air;
or aer; or err.

Lights out.

Strophe c) No one there (here). An error
of ors: an error of
alternative errands.

[Repeat X 7; or X 3]

~

Error (here)

Errand (there)

Someone goes; someone stays; or

Error (there)

Errand (here)

Someone stays; someone goes.

~

Item.

Someone comes to take your place. You are not altogether unhappy, as this person is,

ah,

better at being (impersonating you) than you are.

~

Item.

Someone recedes to the Innermost Room in the name of the Outermost and sits there talking quietly to herself.

~

Someone else listens to this, as if it were a far off thing, thinking-- thing-thinking;

~

Someone
other than the one you expect is deeply involved
in observing the someone else who
so
listens;

~

Item. The
two lost girls wonder

...

wonder at all this

~

Item. In
the above three (the 3) comprise the Revenant
in his madness; they are aware of both the
Innermost and Outermost as they enact,

ah,

er,

ha,

The Starling;

An old, odd removal of
... of obligation;

We hear someone sing a song we cannot
quite
make out. Time was

(and is)

...

Nothing here, go on to the next room

an old victrola, playing an
old song not now remembered,

inner word, inner light, inner-
tube and a

yes a

ha ha ha
ha ha ha ha

ha

[Picture the 7 enacting this
according to a cycloid:

Picture of the cycloid]

labyrinth; lit cigarette in the ash
tray someone has been here some
one someone has just departed, a

~

Item.
Behold the Revenant's inner
most
Inner
Mongolia:

~

Shadow of the

~

Came the Mahoon.
Came the Mahoon.
Came the Mahoon.
Oh yeah, came the
Mahoon.
Came the Mahoon.
Came the Mahoon.
Came the Mahoon;
and all (!)
Go out, banging on wood with metal
implements or on metal with wooden

implements or on wood with
wooden or on metal
with metal
or on ___ with ___
or on on with on;
and on and on

...

(Hushed)

...

... mahoon ...

~

Item.
Silence.

Pause.

Silence.

~

Item.
Life's a w

h

e

e

l

o

r

maybe not;

|

i

f

e

,

s

a

Deadbeat Escapement.

[A picture of this]

~

Item. The girls arrive at Meteor Mound, where no road is; encounter a man named

Named (a feather'd person)-- an

anagram of 8 letters
(plus 2 for the girls makes the total
esoterica,

o
in this space,
o,o,

A

S B
L R
E N P
G I

~

O,o,o. Wind hushed,

out the
window, a
far far
Moonish &
a
... of the ...

Dead. Gone.
Crow (Starling).

~

Item.
The Tall Man was (is) a Room like none of the
others; he
the girls, projective entities on wooden balls (Oursler)

And in doors to come will, yes,

arrive in New York City

and after doors and doors and doors and doors
to come

...

(I mean "ways")

will stay where we are;
stop time
&
block the work of forgetting

—

an architectural manifold:

[A picture of this]

~

If one god frowns

~

Item.
Innocents in a cluster, as
a

...

reverberatory furnace
of voices, reversions,
revolt, revocation
and
ah,

er,

ha,

...

?

...

... (hushed) the whatnot of what he
(The Revenant)
learned from the
Feather'd People

~

Item.
Tap the toe too.

~

Item.
A single shoe, battered, black.

~

Item.
Something under a cover, and the brass
candlestick, knocked over.

Item.
A perspective, accidental, of all 7
Rooms, with nothing in them, except a

ah,

er,

ha,

...

... a whatnot ... in the ... hatted(?)

~

Item.
Not even that.

~

Item.
Idea of the Pinacotheca is the Pinacotheca,

"things are where they seem to be"

Nothing happens, and
fills all spaces;

Someone gives a ride to two girls, near the
Crater Mound or Meteor Crater (he? The Mahoon?)

in central Arizona; near the mythical
town of "Sperling" or an anagram
of those letters

Each of the girls possesses a letter which is deposited far
off in a room beyond anyone's reach.

These 2 letters when combined with the 8 of
"Sperling"'s letter comprise the 10;

broken down this reveals
both the 3 and the 7;
the

Revenant (the 3) is revealed
as

...

SANE, a cured man ...

ah,

er,

ha;

and is re-re-released from Doctor ___'s
Hospital of Diseases of the Already Known,
the Chronically Undecidable and All Forms
of
Deadbeat Escapement,
(a terrible
affliction);

So--

~

Item

(Hushed) the 10 in turn.

Innocent XIII surrogates Innocent XII who goes to a
far room, where (s)he surrogates Innocent XI, who goes
one room farther and so on; Through the
sequence Innocent X
Innocent IX Innocent VIII Innocent VII
Innocent VI Innocent V Innocent IV.
All. Innocent III Innocent the Tooth
Innocent the Once

—

Innocent the one afflicted, down the hallway
some, with a cess of ors; and ors ago--
like the Revenant himself-- with an inmost

horror of all abbreviation, and an
obsession with the question
of

Why the King of England Sits in the Position
of Neptune on the Pound Note;

and other disturbing
matters inmost
enmeshed

(t)here, or there, or in another room (w)here

...

Someone gives a feather to
someone as an effigy of someone who
is no longer

(t)here;

Bingo bango bam
Bingo Bango Bem
Bingo Bango Bim
Bingo Bango Bom
Bingo Bango Bum.

~

!

~

...

~

!

~

—

~

Item.

So: In this curiously EMPTY and
curiously VACANT place,
the bughouse of Doctor ____;
the

maddened Revenant has been
organizing his images and items
to present, singly and chorically
his "Lecture on the Serpent Ritual"
and
free him (and us all) of the
Mahoon's error of

To
stay in a room after one has already been
removed therefrom

~

Item.

The Revenant's errand is to embody his own
removal.

~

Item.

Room, room, ro(o)om.

~

Item.

Chorus (the 7 and the 3) enacts the litany of surrogation;

Removal & departure
(of Innocents, all 13);
i.e. (Author's Note) this is
NOT a visual play; it is a play on the spacio-temporal
in entirety.

~

Item.

The Revenant's errand is to embody the

~

Item.
The Not-Already Known. Slant.
Plays as a device. Slant.
Room
the room.

Stop the

Stop

Stop time, block the work of forgetting

Look out the windowworld.
Saepe premente Deo fert Deus alter apem.

—

~

Item
a feather.

~

Item.
Someone drives us out before it is time.
We resist.

~

Item.
Peril.
Shoes. Biting, or the urge to bite. Be a
fox. A Fox Person.

~

Item.

...

Ways (open) to the land of the undecidable

~

Item.
Some one ... girls

~

Item.
Often if one Starling frowns another will do
our business

~

Someone goes; someone stays;

Apparence

LAST NOTE: The girls, A & B, arrive in New York, and secure employment at St Ann's Center for Surrogation Studies. At night they frequent low and slank places; they explore the architectural wonders of the theater. In so doing they re-recover a reality. That which is lovely in itself is lovely when it appears.

[End of].

End of Play.