

## Sources for *self-avoiding space-filling curve*

### intercranial hypertension

Title: a mistyping of “intracranial hypertension”.

“a visual cliff”: Wikipedia, “Visual cliff”.

### maintain wants

Title: from the user menu of abebooks.co.uk

### demodex folliculorum

Title: a mite living in human hair follicles, once mistakenly believed to be anusless.

“a wet market with no zoonotic potential”: Wikipedia, “Wet market”.

“the dump was a mother she provided everything”: Fernanda Nidecker, “Striking gold - at a rubbish dump”, BBC News, 21 Jan 2015.

“obligate parasite of an endangered species”: Wikipedia, “Obligate parasite”.

### more fun with is

“my most extreme self-consciousness has a leg in it”: Frank O’Hara, “In Memory of My Feelings”: “My quietness has a man in it”.

“and is structured like a second language”, Jacques Lacan’s observation that the Unconscious is structured like a language.

“my brow is still red from the kiss of the queen mother: Gérard de Nerval, “El Desdichado”:  
“Mon front est rouge encor du baiser de la reine” (“My brow is still red from the kiss of the queen”).

“my new i don’t do this i don’t do that poems”: Frank O’Hara, “Getting Up Ahead of Someone (Sun)”: “I make / myself a bourbon and commence / to write one of my ‘I do this I do that’ / poems in a sketch pad”.

“the sound of one / high heel treading softly on my human ball”: “What is the sound of one hand?” (Zen kōan attributed to Hakuin Ekaku); also George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*: “a boot stamping on a human face - forever” ; also W.B. Yeats, “He Wishes For the Cloths of Heaven”: “Tread softly because you tread on my dreams”.

“my cock is in my pocket it is poems by iggy pop”: song title from The Stooges live album *Metallic K.O.*; also Frank O’Hara, “A Step Away From Them”: “My heart is in my / pocket, it is Poems by Pierre Reverdy”.

## **willy's lyke-wake**

Title: "Willie's Lyke-Wake" (Child Ballad 25).

Structure of poem roughly suggested by "Captain Wedderburn's Courtship" (Child Ballad 46) and other riddling ballads.

"my bi goshawk": "The Gay Goshawk" (Child Ballad 96).

"mither mither": from "Edward" (Child Ballad 13).

"...what is not clear / is the will to clarity...": Charles Olson, "The Kingfishers": "What does not change / is the will to change".

## **a protestant with no mitochondria has been discovered living in the intestines of a chinchilla**

Title: Christopher Intagliata, "Microbe breaks the powerhouse rules", [scientificamerican.com](http://scientificamerican.com) 12 May 2016, which is about protists rather than Protestants.

## **immortal invisible god's only wighs**

Title: a hymn by Walter Chalmers Smith, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"; "wighz" for "y-fronts" appears in Tom Leonard's poem "treat me izza sexual objct" from *Ghostie Men*.

"rust never sleeps": 1979 album by Neil Young & Crazy Horse.

"non-fatal familial insomnia": Fatal familial insomnia is a neurodegenerative prion disease.

"you must change your y-fronts": Rainer Maria Rilke, "Archaïscher Torso Apollos", "Du mußt dein Leben ändern" ("You must change your life").

## **alice kober in edenkoben**

Title: Alice Kober (1906-1950) was an American classicist whose research laid much of the groundwork for the decipherment of Minoan Linear B. The poem includes memories of a translation residency for Scottish and German poets at the Künstlerhaus Edenkoben in the summer of 2019.

"faintest glimmer of a personal life": Margalit Fox, "Alice E. Kober, 43; Lost to history no more", *New York Times*, 11 May 2013.

"junikäfer ... and your mother is a pomeranian": the children's song "Maikäfer, flieg!":  
Maikäfer, flieg, / Dein Vater ist im Kriege, / Dein Mutter ist in Pommerland" ("Maybug, fly! / Your father is at war, / Your mother is in Pomerania"); also the (related) lyrics to "Ladybird (Green Grass)" by The Fall.

“twinkle not unkindly”: description of Alice Kober’s eyes in a 2005 essay by her student Eva Brann, quoted in Margalit Fox, *The Riddle of the Labyrinth: The Quest to Crack an Ancient Code and the Uncovering of a Lost Civilisation*, p.91.

### **lines composed a few feet below tintern abbey**

Title: William Wordsworth, “Lines Written [or Composed] a Few Miles Above Tintern Abbey”; also, “Tintern ‘secret’ medieval tunnel system found by accident”, BBC News, 4 March 2021.

“i saw a ship in site”: an old tongue-twister.

“young iambs bound”: Wordsworth, “Ode: Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood”: “The young lambs bound / As to the tabor’s sound”.

“o deaths in scotland”: headline reporting zero Covid deaths in Scotland during a brief period early in the Pandemic.

“my named and memorable acts of brutality”: Wordsworth, *Tintern Abbey*: “His little, nameless, unremembered, acts / Of kindness and of love”.

“a phosphorescent jaw for war”: phosphorus necrosis of the jaw (“phossy jaw”), an industrial disease of phosphorus workers; also Winston Churchill, “Meeting jaw to jaw is better than war”.

“the sleep of reason”: “The Sleep of Reason Produces Monsters” (“El sueño de la razón produce monstruos”), an aquatint by Francisco Goya.

“the unknowing cloud / of discontinuous starlings under all bright stars”: *The Cloude of Unknowyng*, an anonymous 14th century work of English mysticism; also Wordsworth, “The Daffodils”: “Continuous as the stars that shine / And twinkle on the milky way”; also John Keats, “Bright star, would I were steadfast as thou art”.

### **luminous urology**

Title: suggested by a Facebook advert for a medical tech company called Lumenis.

“language well fuck me now you’re talking”: W.S. Graham, “Language ah now you have me”.

“it is resistant sonorous and can be broken”: description of Holland paper in article “Guide to paper types in books” on [abebooks.co.uk](http://abebooks.co.uk)

“ill-favoured megafauna”: Wikipedia, “Charismatic megafauna”.

“poisonous cheesecake”: psyops attack by William Burroughs on the Moka Espresso Bar in London, in revenge for “outrageous and unprovoked discourtesy and poisonous cheesecake”.

“wine comes out at the mouth and love has no direction”: W.B. Yeats, “A Drinking Song”: “Wine comes in at the mouth / And love comes in at the eye.

“i is not an emulator”: “Wine Is Not an Emulator”, the Wine compatibility layer for Unix-like operating systems.

“late lamb child ballad process is finished exiting”: Afrikaans phrase “laat lammetjie”, a child born many years after its siblings; also the collection of ballads assembled by Francis James Child; also the Linux error message “Child process is finished, exiting”.

### **liking the diddy bovril**

Title: someone’s comment below a photograph of a very small Bovril jar posted on the River Thames Mudlarking Finds group on Facebook.

“the word ew”: definition of “ew” on merriam-webster.com

“in the court of pork”: The Port of Cork, in Ireland; my spoonerism.

“ode to joy on the carillon”: one of the tunes playable on the Shandon Bells in Cork, the regular background music at the SoundEye Poetry Festival.

“remade in crossbone style at the penultimate trump”: “Cross Bones Style” is a song by Cat Power; also the belief that preserving the skull and long bones of a body would be enough to allow for its physical resurrection at the Second Coming of Christ.

“with approbation of the master in lunacy”: a phrase from the *Surrey Advertiser*, 31 January 1942, notice of a sale of furniture belonging to Mr. N.S. Brown, much of whose collection of Chinese antiquities ended up in the Burrell Collection in Glasgow.

“two birdlike figures tweezing the severed bearded head”: image on the Papil Pictish stone, in the National Museum of Scotland.

“modestly sick young people”: a phrase from David McWilliams, “In the Mandarin vs. Merchant debate, my money is on the merchants”, *Irish Times*, 3 July 2021.

“the smallest mimes of the gods of snow”: from Wikipedia, “Minim (paleography)”.

“the muzzled hogback bear”: the end-beasts carved on the Brompton hogback stones (some now in Durham Cathedral museum).

“the love of four blood oranges”: “The Love for Three Oranges”, opera by Sergei Prokofiev.

### **i saw a mound in rutherglen**

Title: Gallowflat Mound, a tumulus on Main Street, Rutherglen.

“having found the young soul conformists”: Dexys Midnight Runners album, “Searching for the Young Soul Rebels”.

“festooned with more than 100 crawling worm fannies”: from Jennifer Frazer, “One Head, 1,000 Rear Ends: The Tale of a Deeply Weird Worm”, *scientificamerican.com*, 8 August 2021.

“i grow smaller still in rain”: J.H. Prynne poem, “The Numbers”: “we are / small / in the rain”.

“dear like how heart you this”: Sir Thomas Wyatt sonnet, “They flee from me”: “Dear heart, how like you this?”

“you grant me fever”: “Fever”, a song by Eddie Cooley and Otis Blackwell.

“an early morning juice rave”: from Harry Sword, “Axis of Tweeville: Mawkish Brit Food Culture V The Glory Of Keith Floyd”, thequietus.com, 8 December 2016.

“as art aspires to the condition of mushroom”: Walter Pater, “The School of Giorgione”: “All art constantly aspires to the condition of music”; also John Cage’s observation that the words “music” and “mushroom” appear next to one another in most dictionaries.

“greig / quickly sears his neck on a fire-pit leaving it pink”: from Lizzie Rivera, “Why lamb is the most ethical meat to eat”, independent.co.uk, 6 October 2017.

“both beautiful / one a gnu”: W.B. Yeats, “In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markievicz”: “both / Beautiful, one a gazelle”.

“you cannot post while the memory is loading”: Facebook error message.

“john taylor the water poet from duran duran”: John Taylor (poet), 1578-1653; John Taylor (bass player), b. 1960.

## **the merry wido**

Title: “The Merry Widow”, operetta by Franz Lehár.

“absorbed the wolf clyde water”: *The New Statistical Account of Scotland, vol. VI, Lanark* (1835), p. 342, on Wolf-Clyde, a place where the waters of the Clyde might easily be diverted into the River Tweed; also “Clyde Water”, alternate title for Child Ballad 216, “The Mother’s Malison, or, Clyde’s Water”.

“the wind blows mary a contrary identity”: Jimi Hendrix, “The Wind Cries Mary”; nursery rhyme “Mary, Mary, quite contrary”.

“her mother was a professional hog-dandler”: Merrily Weisbord and Kim Kachanoff, *Dogs with Jobs: Working Dogs Around the World*, p.131 (“dog-handler”; my spoonerism).

“and preferred to be known as the enemy of lies”: Ted Berrigan, Sonnet LXXIII “And preferred to be known as a stunt-man”.

“ah will you lay me down and love me for no reason”: Lal and Mike Waterson song, “The Scarecrow”: “Ah, will you lay me down and love me”; also Johnny Bristol song, “Love Me For a Reason”.

“uncoordinated irritable hole”: OED “Grex, n.”, quote from 1971: “coordinated irritable whole”.

“androgynous peripheral attach system”: name of a kind of Russian spacecraft docking mechanism.

“poetry will be mad eyeball”: see Isidore Ducasse, *Poésies II*, “La poésie doit être faite par tous. Non par un.” (“Poetry must be made by all. Not by one.”)

“be sure to dig it out while it still looks like vomit”: from gardenanswers.com, 19 March 2016, on Dog Vomit Fungus.

“troll cats looked like balls of yarn”: from Wikipedia, “Troll Cat”.

“the testicles in an old sparrow in april”: from a label upstairs in the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow.

## **angina of micturition**

Title: James J. Morris and Henry D. MacIntosh, “Angina of Micturition”, *Circulation* Vol. XXVIII, January 1963.

“i dismantled santa”: the dismantled Santa is Arshile Gorky’s painting “Tracking Down Guiltless Doves”.

“i confess I am a man / -tis”: John Gower, *Confessio Amantis*.

“like an ordinary private father of a child”: Samuel Pepys, *Diary*, 12 September 1664.

“propagated in madin darby canine kidney”: from the data sheet with my second Covid vaccine dose, June 2021.

“sweet silent thought in session”: William Shakespeare, Sonnet 30, “When to the sessions of sweet silent thought”.

“to help me with this short illness my life peerage”: Alexander Pope, *Epistle to Arbuthnot*, “To help me through this long disease, my life”.

“grizzly bears disarm a well-tempered militia”: garbled version of the Second Amendment to the US Constitution.

“gondoliers shakespeares overseers playboys and bums”: title of a song by Norman Greenbaum With Dr. West’s Medicine Show & Junk Band. Thanks to Mark Johnson for sending it to me.

“break ass for emergency ass”: perpetually defaced “Break glass for emergency assistance” notices on the Glasgow Subway.

“justify the jaws of love”: Thomas Gray, “The Progress of Poesy”: “To justify the laws of Jove”; my spoonerism.

The contingency Lidl was a temporary groceries-only store, opened while Maryhill Lidl was being refurbished in 2021.

## **pro rata thank you bonus**

Title: Scottish Government Tweet 23 August 2021, “£500 thank you bonus for social care personal assistants”. The bonus was pro-rata’d.

“i am the world’s fauxtalian boy the one who searches”: mishearing of the Stooges song “Search & Destroy”: “I am a world’s forgotten boy / the one who searches and destroys”.

“to read personal protective equipment at keele”: Keele University offers a degree in Philosophy, politics and economics.

“is there a damper on your floor tom”: Glyn Johns question to Ringo Starr, from The Beatles *Get Back* documentary series.

“eight of the molehills contained probable human bone”: from Kevin Paton, “Tillicoultry Old Parish Church, Stirling: Non-intrusive archaeological works data structure report. AOC Archaeology Ltd.”, on [archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk).

“not one of us lives in my kathy staff bathyscaphe”: mangled lyric to “Yellow Submarine” by The Beatles; Kathy Staff, English actress, 1928-2008.

“my beautiful baloo”: Mangled lyric to “Up, Up and Away” by The 5th Dimension.

“the octagonal deadhouses of ontario”: from Wikipedia, “Dead House”.

“what ted kaczynski wrote about diaghilev is / true of the angry inch”: W.H. Auden, “September 1, 1939”: “What mad Nijinsky wrote / About Diaghilev / Is true of the normal heart”; also the 2001 musical film “Hedwig and the Angry Inch”.

“which makes no flann an isle”: John Donne, *Devotions upon Emergent Occasions*: “No man is an island, entire of itself”; also the poem “Flannan Isle” by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson.

“mis / -take not cliff for hank marvin and treacherous bramble”: Confucius, *The Great Digest*, tr. Ezra Pound: “Take not cliff for morass and treacherous bramble”, used as the final line in Cornelius Cardew’s *The Great Learning*.

### **an englishman’s tongue is his kazoo**

Title: suggested by Stéphane Mallarmé’s drawing of an Englishman making the “th” sound, from his manuscript “L’Anglais récréatif, ou boîte pour apprendre l’Anglais en jouant et seul”. Reproduced in *Oeuvres complètes*, Tome 2 (2003), p. 1331.

“i can’t go on i go on”: Samuel Beckett, closing words of *The Unnameable*.

“space-filling self-avoiding walks”: Article on “Self Avoiding Walks” on the datagenetics.com blog. The Hilbert Curve fractal is a self-avoiding space-filling curve.

“the encroachment of old aberdeen sub-wobs”. *Dictionaries of the Scots Language* online, definition of “Subwob, n.”.

“good occasionally poor later”: BBC Radio 4 Shipping Forecast.

“to become the father-in-death of my own parents”: My uncle Archibald Manson, who died aged twenty-one, is the first name on the family headstone in Kilmorich Churchyard, Cairndow; everyone else, including his parents and mine, is defined by their relationship with Archie, making him a kind of inadvertent point of origin for the family.

“i had cut off like a weaver my examined life”: Isaiah 38:12 (KJV), “I have cut off like a weaver my life”; also “The unexamined life is not worth living”, attributed by Plato to Socrates.

“imaginary shit with real sweetcorn in it”: Marianne Moore, “Poetry”: “imaginary gardens with real toads in them”.

“and had no memory of my life as a jockey”: Sarah Hughes, “Declan Murphy: When I woke up, I had no memory of my life as a jockey”, *The Guardian*, 2 April 2017.

“my cyanotic dog licking this off a pizzle”: my spoonerism of the proverbial “a face like a bulldog licking piss off a thistle”. A pizzle is a bull’s penis, used historically as a whip, now cut up for dog treats.

“or the jimmy shand monument in auchtermuchty”: there is a statue of the late accordionist in Newburgh Road, Auchtermuchty.

### **a report song in a dream**

Title: that of a poem by Nicholas Breton, c.1545/53 – c.1625/6.

“importers of rebuilt typewriters”: ghost sign on a wall in Oswald Street, Glasgow.

“and is now a property of his family”: from an 18th century gravestone in Kirk Lane Cemetery, Pollokshaws, Glasgow.

“a geometric elevation of the lord’s loft”: from *Archaeological and Historical Collections Relating to the Counties of Ayr and Wigton*, vol II, Edinburgh 1880, plate 3 (facing p.120), “Kilbirnie Parish Church: Geometrical Elevation of the Lord’s Loft”.

“a barn that’s been blown onto the line near polmont”: Scotrail Tweet, 26 November 2021 during Storm Arwen.

“the thump of fat that will never abolish chance”: mangled translation of Stéphane Mallarmé, “Un coup de Dés jamais n’abolira le Hasard” (“A throw of the Dice will never abolish Chance”), incorporating a memory of Waldemar Januszczak pronouncing “coup de grâce” as “coup de gras” in a documentary about Manet.

“or inframince crevice ’twixt two after dinner mints”: Marcel Duchamp’s concept of the “infra-thin”; also Thomas Lovell Beddoes, *The Last Man*: “The crevice ’twixt two after-dinner minutes”.

“in advance of the warrington minge declaration”: Duchamp readymade, “In Advance of the Broken Arm”; “Warrington Minge” was the name of an out-of-work actor in a joke told by Peter Sellers on the Parkinson Show in the 1970s; the name was also used as a pseudonym by the drama critic of *New Saltire* magazine in the 1960s. The Great Barrington Declaration was an open letter published in October 2020 which argued against Covid lockdowns.

“a latin small letter y with diarrhoea”: Unicode name for the symbol ÿ, “Latin Small Letter Y with Diaeresis”.

“whose perfume on the remote faded within a year”: the perfume was that of my late mother, Frances Manson, whose television (and remote control) I inherited.

“be careful with that white wax eugenol putty tops”: Pink Floyd song, “Careful With That Axe, Eugene”; eugenol putty is used in temporary dental repairs.

The lunar terminator is the line dividing day from night on the moon’s surface.

## **rhomboidal dirge**

Title: that of a pattern poem by George Wither, 1588-1667.

“for day’s ascent”: a mispronounced translation of the subtitle of Stéphane Mallarmé’s poem “Prose (pour des Esseintes)”.

“in death’s ironic orbit”: Scottish comedian Ronnie Corbett, 1930-2016.

“the scottish government resilience room”: “a coordination facility of the Scottish Government that is activated in cases of national emergency or crisis” (Wikipedia).

“conservative surgery dervishes”: Terry Riley album, “Persian Surgery Dervishes”.

“an earnest hello”: French writer Ernest Hello, 1828-1885.

“the saudi arabia of wind”: “Wind turbines: How UK wants to become ‘Saudi Arabia of wind’”, BBC News, 22 June 2021.



## **the wild chelonian boy**

Title: The anonymous Irish-Australian folk ballad “The Wild Colonial Boy”.

“now fades the last long streak of piss”: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *In Memoriam* CXV, “Now fades the last long streak of snow”.

“to stand on ceremony to jump about on love / will tear us apart”: “Ceremony”, a song by New Order; “Love Will Tear Us Apart”, a song by Joy Division.

“apart / from viewers in scotland”: traditional regional television opt-out notice.

“viewers in scotland forlorn / the very word is like the word foghorn”: John Keats, “Ode to a Nightingale”, “in faery lands forlorn. // Forlorn! the very word is like a bell”.

“in the valley of the cow in clent under hawthorn”: after the early Middle English couplet on St. Kenelm: “In Clent Cubeche Kenelm cunebearn / lith under haʒeborn, haudes bereafed” (“In Cowbach, Clent Kenelm the king’s son / lies under a hawthorn deprived of his head”).

“your rampant mullet cut with a saltire chief”: mangled heraldic language.

“been spring too long did not resuscitate gongula”: Ezra Pound, “Papyrus”: “Spring . . . / Too long . . . / Gongula . . .”

## **my thermal runaway**

Title: “Runaway”, a song by Del Shannon and Max Crook; Wikipedia, “Thermal Runaway”.

Multiple phrases in this poem adapted from gravestone inscriptions in Ayr Old Kirkyard, including a Covenanter Stone.

“at number seventeen stationary hospital”: My first cousin twice removed, Edward John Manson, of the Army Cyclist Corps, died of grenade wounds to the head at No. 17 Stationary Hospital, Gallipoli, on 21 December 1915.

“prescribed ovaltine and eukodal by his gp”: from Wikipedia, “Ernst Ludwig Kirchner”.

“a dog for which he had not then a licence in force”: from an Irish Petty Session Court Register entry relating to my great grandfather Patrick McGettigan.

“on a mis-cut headstone corrected in lime putty / washed over with beige or cream the letters painted red”: see Geoff B. Bailey, “Larbert Old Parish Churchyard”, pdf on the Falkirk Local History Society website: “A large number of the gravestones have the remnants of a surface wash of paint, usually beige or cream in colour. Some also have traces of red or black in the cut letters [...] There is also plenty of evidence for the re-use of headstones [...] More conclusive are the many occasions where one of these sets of inscriptions has been filled in with white lime putty (and then presumably the whole face painted over)” (pp.13-14).

## **helium flash**

Title: Wikipedia, “Helium flash”.

“my soul i discourage the hand of god from touching / my body i recommend to earth”: based on a common formula in old wills: “I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God that gave it and for my body I recommend to Earth to be buried” (many variants findable online).

“i have rubbed my foreskin on the plums in the fruitbowl”: William Carlos Williams, “This Is Just To Say”: “I have eaten / the plums / that were in / the icebox”.

“the lean etymologist cussin / for tussin”: Wikipedia, “Lean (drug)”; “tussin” is “Robitussin”.

“manna mildust ond wyrtgeornost”: last two lines of *Beowulf*: “manna mildust ond monðwærust, / leodum liðost ond lofgeornost” (“the gentlest and most benevolent of men, / kindest to his people and most eager for praise”) conflated with the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle spelling “Wyrtegeorn” for “Vortigern”.

### **an extorted offering**

“ah mallarmé when you think of him delivering / a carnivorous plant to beatrix whistler”: Stéphane Mallarmé, July 1893 letter to Mme Whistler, accompanying the gift of a *Nepenthes* pitcher plant (No. 1992 in Mallarmé, *Correspondance* 1854-1898, ed. Bertrand Marchal); also Frank O’Hara, “Naphtha”: “Ah Jean Dubuffet / when you think of him / doing his military service in the Eiffel Tower / as a meteorologist / in 1922 / you know how wonderful the 20th Century / can be”.

“a larynx tuner made from iodised wallflowers”: from an advert for a patent medicine in the French journal *L’Illustration*, 20 July 1872.

“it is in truth the tuber of a kind of melon”: “Giant New Zealand potato is not in fact a potato, Guinness World Records rules” *The Guardian*, 16 March 2022.

“the orphic obfuscation of the earthen warhead”: Mangled translation of Mallarmé’s phrase “L’explication orphique de la Terre” (“The orphic explication of the Earth”), from his 16 November 1885 letter to Paul Verlaine (No. 672 in *Correspondance* 1854-1898).

“a timelike loop of hate”: Wikipedia, “Closed timelike curve”.

“and below me like an emu lifted by the wind”: mangled translation from Gérard de Nerval, “Le Réveil en voiture” (“Waking up in the carriage”): “Et sous moi, comme ému par les vents soulevés” (“And beneath me, as if stirred by the rising winds”).

“pea-wet and the oink of pigs”: “pea-wet” is the water used to boil mushy peas; “pea-wet and scraps” is a proverbially free meal from a chip shop.

“the feelings i had watching them hug pus”: Matt Fidler, “Life Framer photography prize winners - in pictures”, *The Guardian*, 1 April 2022 (unfortunately curtailed pull-quote seen on social media).

“spontaneous vaginal delivery manson”: “S.V.D. Manson”, handwritten text on my ankle tag from Redlands Hospital, Glasgow, May 1969.

### **papal retaining wall**

Title: the name of a structure in Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, dating from the visit of Pope John Paul II in 1982.

“amorous mcmonagle”: details from a death certificate found on the Irish Genealogy website; no relation.

“the weaver george”: his headstone is in The Howff, Dundee.

“swifter than a shuttle my days have passed and vanished”: Job 7:6 (Jerusalem Bible):

“Swifter than a weaver’s shuttle my days have passed, and vanished, leaving no hope behind”.

“my crew and i were alive when we hit the water”: the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster, 2003.

“i repeat the trope as two different kinds of farce”: Karl Marx, *Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*: “Hegel remarks somewhere that all great world-historic facts and personages appear, so to speak, twice. He forgot to add: the first time as tragedy, the second time as farce” (tr. Saul K. Padover).

“anhedonic carnoustie”: Robert Crawford, “Scotland”: “It is you I return to, mouth of erotic Carnoustie”.

### **extrapyramidal orchid**

Title: Wikipedia, “Extrapyramidal symptoms”, and *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, the pyramidal orchid.

“i cannot set the pipeline to the recording state”: error message in a Linux audio recorder, “Unable to set the pipeline to the recording state”.

“as hope is the featherless biped”: Emily Dickinson, “Hope is the thing with feathers”; also Plato’s definition of a man and Diogenes’s rejoinder to it.

“key-patterning on the anus”: OCR error (for “arms”) in the canmore.org.uk entry for “Fowlis Wester, Cross”.

“the oil in the dolphin’s melon”: from Wikipedia, “Spermaceti”.

“which put us in hope we should soon have the manson wind”: OED, “Monsoon, n.”, quote from 1662.

“i fell ill with conjunctivitis and overdubs”: from Wikipedia, “Space Oddity”.

“mourning becomes treacle”: *Mourning Becomes Electra*, a play cycle by Eugene O’Neill.

“the fine mess anyone leaves”: misquoting Oliver Hardy, “That’s another nice mess you’ve gotten me into”.

### **malaise trap**

Title: Wikipedia, “Malaise trap”.

“weighed down by cast iron cobbler’s feet and possessions”: Chiara Giordano, “Mystery of body found in North Sea nicknamed ‘The Gentleman’ may have been solved 28 years on”,

independent.co.uk, 6 August 2022; also Alexander “Skip” Spence, “Weighted Down (The Prison Song)”: “Weighted down by possessions”.

“he recognised that the pancake controlled the gender / and that this was a compliment intended for him”: from Wikipedia, “Crêpes Suzette”.

“encouraged by dysentery he single-mindedly / improved the sheep of his county to a marked degree”: adapted from the gravestone of Robert Reid, d.1916, in Irvine Old Parish Churchyard.

“now that my bladder’s gone / i must lie down”: W.B. Yeats, “The Circus Animals’ Desertion”: “Now that my ladder’s gone / I must lie down where all the ladders start”.

“unspectacled testicled periwigged wingless soul”: “Spectacles, testicles, wallet and watch” (mnemonic for making the sign of the cross); winged or wingless, sometimes periwigged, souls are common carved images on 18th century Scottish gravestones.

### **parthian laser**

Title: a substitute (possibly asafoetida) for the extinct ancient condiment Silphium.

“adding muffles makes bells sound mournful more like a hum / so they will sound like thud thud thud rather than dong dong”: “Plan for when the Queen dies Operation London Bridge has been updated”, walesonline.co.uk, 14 April 2022.

“a kneeling barbarian from the bank of england”: from the label next to a bronze figurine in the Museum of London.

“removed in the midst of his usefulness”: from the gravestone of Alexander Cowper in Wigtown Kirkyard.

“his fifth aura to the palace [one text has debt slaves]”: from “Gilgamesh and Huwawa, version A: translation” (in *The Electronic Text Corpus of Sumerian Literature* at the University of Oxford): “He gave his fifth aura to the palace (*1 ms. has instead: debt slaves*)”.

“he was eighteen years if not more on the steamroller / and talked a lot for a man with a severed windpipe”: based on a report in the *Londonderry Sentinel*, 25 August 1925, of an inquest into the death of Jack Mulhern, the first husband of my mother’s stepmother.

“however by 1876 the teaspoon / had grown so much larger than it was previously”: from Wikipedia, “Dram (unit)”.

“the case for a new streaming royalty”: proposed by Damon Krukowski and others in response to the poor remuneration of musicians by online streaming services.

“depart from me therefore ye men of blood”: Psalm 139 (KJV): “Surely thou wilt slay the wicked, O God: Depart from me therefore, ye bloody men”, as used in the Queen’s funeral service.

“the penultimate died”: from Stéphane Mallarmé’s prose poem “Le Démon de l’analogie”: “La Pénultième est morte” (“The Penultimate is dead”).

“pedestrians hold hands / under picassoid duck and wait for signal to change”: text and image on the new hands-free pedestrian crossings in Glasgow.

### **disembodied on demobilisation**

Title: a common phrase found in military records.

“m for a muse of fire”: William Shakespeare, Prologue to *Henry V*, “O for a muse of fire”.

“to distill some chrism oil / the flame made by burning old and disfigured icons”: from Wikipedia, “Chrism”.

“broken up and used for bottoming at polmont church”: the fate of most of the 18th century headstones which once surrounded Falkirk Old Parish Church [my mistake: “In fact they went to form the foundation for the road into the crematorium at Camelon” (Geoff B. Bailey, *Falkirk Parish Churchyard*, pdf on the Falkirk Local History Society website, p.11)].

“the church razed to an elevated lawn at sill height”: canmore.org.uk, entry on “Cardross, Main Road, Former Parish Church”.

“another green world paved with the illegible dead”: Brian Eno album, *Another Green World*; my description of the field of flat ledger stones surrounding Glasgow Cathedral.

“of a farting polyp which grows fatter hour by hour”: mistranslation from Paul Verlaine, “Autre Explication”: “D’un polype grossi d’heure en heure et qui pète” (“Of a polyp grown fatter hour by hour, and which bursts”).

“and was not sole deity of faeces on its own”: from Wikipedia, “Sterquilinus”.

“but entered into a partnership with suspenders”: from “Grieve and Others v. Incorporation of Tailors”, on [scos.law.virginia.edu](http://scos.law.virginia.edu)

“with the sun in his scalp and his clackers to the wind”: mistranslation from Verlaine, “Nevermore”: “les cheveux et la pensée au vent” (“our hair and thoughts to the wind”).

“peter manson is missing details about his death”: based on a regular prompt on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk)

“eight feet long by three feet broad without the central hedge”: based on a note in the burial records for the Southern Necropolis, Glasgow, found on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) (actually “7 feet long by 3 feet broad without the central hedge”).

“i woke to nightmare from the dream of life at death’s edge”: Percy Bysshe Shelley, *Adonais*: “He hath awakened from the dream of life”; also Samuel Taylor Coleridge, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, “The Nightmare Life-in-Death was she”.

## **rubber hand illusion**

Title: Wikipedia, “Body transfer illusion”.

## **the first widowhood testoon**

Title: a coin of Mary, Queen of Scots.

“uncle you’ll never pass that monstrous carb”: in 1984, the then Prince of Wales referred to Richard Rogers’s proposed extension to the National Gallery in London as “a monstrous carbuncle on the face of a much-loved and elegant friend”.

“pass the duchy original ’pon the left hand side”: “Duchy Originals” was a brand of organic produce (now “Waitrose Duchy Organic”) founded by the then Prince of Wales in 1990; “Pass the Dutchie” was a 1982 song by Musical Youth, partly based on “Pass the Kouchie” by The Mighty Diamonds.

“and smile european son here’s what you could have won”: “Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit-Bag, and Smile, Smile, Smile”, a song by George Henry Powell; also “European Son (to Delmore Schwartz)”, a song by The Velvet Underground; “Here’s what you could have won” was a catchphrase used by Jim Bowen on the ITV quiz show *Bullseye*.

“these spurs that you might do anything but chib a horse / these loom bands of insincerity and stoic grift”: mangled quotes from the coronation ceremony of Charles III.

“a fig leaf of frogs”: effigy on the transi tomb of François de Sarrà, La Sarraz, Switzerland.

“you can twist my melon till ted hughes runs up my leg”: Robert Johnson, “Travelling Riverside Blues”: “you can squeeze my lemon ’til the juice run down my leg”.

“when the king had given his sperm sample and the screens / were removed and the pawned sword was redeemed...”: further misunderstood scenes from the coronation.

“the more famous co-editor of *tel quel* lay dead”: Philippe Sollers died the day before the coronation; also Peter Manson, *Adjunct: an Undigest*: “The less famous co-editor of *Tel Quel* is dead”.