

At a Loss

D.A. Wright

From the page he looks at me--
with indignity, contempt, or resignation?

The bodies lie at his feet,
in a hole they dug together.

A proud SS, with a gun to his head,
does he not see the injustice?

Young eyes behind him,
anticipation like Christmas morning.

Would the next moment's picture show
a slumped figure no longer waiting,
and happy Aryan faces above blood soaked
boots?

Would that be as bad?

Service in St. Paul's

A.P. Mendenhall

Acrophobia turned
upside down:
fear floating away,
gravity deciding
to suddenly
give up.

Despite the dome
overhead, a glowing
Jesus over the altar,
there's too much space
to pray
comfortably.

Imagination

among the scaffolding,
eye to eye with Joseph,
now falling facing up
while heaven does
not seem so high.

On Tourism

Debra A. Granberry

The Walls of stone and steeple stand unchanged
since the consecration made in Saint Patrick's
name.

Each crumbling cross-shaped headstone
points up in holy awe and oaken pews still
dutifully face every colored stream of light.

Brochures and ticket stubs rustle in the hush
as the archaic stained-glass window is abruptly
eclipsed
by a bright new screen mechanically veiling each
ray.

A click and hum sends a sudden beam gleaming
down the aisle in a square halo of light.

What does it mean to deconsecrate a church?

Does one send God a letter saying
"You're not welcome here?"

Or perhaps "You can stay on as a tenant
but your house is repossessed.
Here's a ticket to the tour free of charge."

And what about the churchyard?

Is it deconsecrated too?

Do the decomposing faithful care

if in the letter of eviction, a coupon was enclosed
Giving them the off season-rate year round?

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