

Bards in the Bog



Vowel Soonds, Shetland

hay, neep, byre, hoe, ewe
aer, steid, sye, gyo you,

vowelled echoes from the stone of Quarff crofts

smooriken, twartree, dastreen

gene - assonance of time's stepping stone

"Peerie Eddy", "Muckle Eddy", "Peerie Eddy"

you, born *doon sooth* but come home, *cam hame*

graves, murmuring,

twenty of them in this Quarff kirkyard at dusk
each stone epitaph rooted with your names

you, stepping among them, listening for the vowels,
hearing *dy* own ancient alphabet.

Dowell Manson


aer – oar
steid – shoal of fish
sye – scythe
gyo – seashore creek
smooriken – kiss
dastreen – last night
twartree – two or three
peerie – small
muckle – big
dy – your

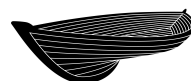
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