

# A&W

## *Christopher Mulrooney*

contents

forklift

busted

outrage

formal development of a phrase

diadem

the trade papers

a token history

# forklift

this is a machine for shifting items  
it will lift and carry  
over a man's head  
beyond his capacity  
he doesn't even have to think about it  
before he knows it the job is done  
quick as a wink

# busted

to tell the tale

there is an apparatus

believe me

don't take my word for it

the piling-in of effects

as you would say at an inquest

is sufficient for Eliot's

objective correlative

to coin a phrase

# outrage

the score and several batons later

the symphony concludes

in nervous jubilation

a note of that in tutti

# formal development of a phrase

the tangling guys in the parking structure

muster up a gift it is for you the magi and Jesus

an end to radicalism and the strange suppositions of the upper class

all you have to do is await the glowing face

among the bulls like Moses in a basket

# diadem

the Four Corners bar on 67<sup>th</sup> that's where I'll meet you and indeed

it's still there we won't go in

it isn't the same what did she say

Simone Signoret souvenir que me veux-tu

nothing new

# the trade papers

as I know you've coincidentally asked me over to tea  
without a care in the English manner  
knowing it would captivate me  
we'll spend the late afternoon and early evening  
talking of Michelangelo Antonioni as it happens

# a token history

this is his lunch pail

used to carry it to school

in his Huck Finn overalls

and bare feet