

Two poems for the catalogue...

On the 60th anniversary of the death of Melvil Dewey (1851 – 1931)

Quote: Decimals have been used as servants not as masters.
Melvil Dewey, 1926

by *Jellie Wyckelsma*

*Sixty years on and within his Sistem
each subject is said
not wilfully put to use
on a decimal procrustean bed.*

*Would Melvil looking in quietly
wonder how his brainchild
grew and grew so gracefully
or, has he always known
its own immortality?*

*See us play with different concepts
struggling with his original intend,
would he like to now rejoin us, and
change the Sistem, lend once more
a helping hand?*

*Or, would he chuckle and watch
books bungi jumping
towards an exciting destination,
landing behind some safe decimal point -
bungi jumping not beyond his own imagination?* □

Passing Order

by *Juliet Risely*

*Enter now
this old world order
of knowledge so defined
and placed to read by number
my fingers creep to find.
Please speak to me the Keeper
of all that will enfold,
Purvey this raw phonology,
longevity trapped, in Gothic Bold.*

*Enter now
this new world order
of knowledge so refined
and placed to read on disc
my eye to see is blind.
A Juggler's hand will take you
through the silvered-maze entwined,
And mutely it will be there
on a crystal screen to shine.*

*Oh, call to me
The Keeper
of this revered iconic age,
console me first, then
help me turn
a final fragile page.* □

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