



Booth

Volume 3 | Issue 10 Article 4

10-28-2011

Sovereignty

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Recommended Citation

Lantry, W.F. (2011) "Sovereignty," *Booth*: Vol. 3: Iss. 10, Article 4. Available at: http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/booth/vol3/iss10/4

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Sovereignty

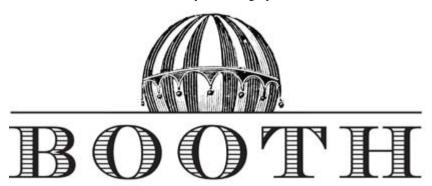
Abstract

Beyond the house, beyond the fence I built last summer, down the slope I cleared with saws and brushhooks, past the sycamore too large for any blade I have, with its hung vines, beyond the trilliums, immaculate with white each April, vanishing by June,

Keywords

poetry, foliage, freedom, rule

Lantry: Sovereignty





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October 28, 2011

Sovereignty

by W.F. Lantry

"Experience, though noon auctoritee..." ~ Chaucer

Beyond the house, beyond the fence I built last summer, down the slope I cleared with saws and brushhooks, past the sycamore too large for any blade I have, with its hung vines, beyond the trilliums, immaculate with white each April, vanishing by June,

I cleared the loose dimensions of a glade, cut saplings down, untangled every vine, rank poison ivy, devil's thorn, red grape, tore out coarse undergrowth, and carried limbs storm fallen, to the bramble edge, then mowed our meadow grasses almost to a lawn.

I'd hoped to make a ground for summering,

Booth, Vol. 3 [2011], Iss. 10, Art. 4 for play and evening song, perhaps a spot where she could mark up scores in quietude untroubled by the chaos of the house, but lifting up the last decaying wood disturbed a swarm of hornets. Poisoned barbs

winged everywhere. I felt them through my shirt and stripped it as I ran. My other clothes littered a path towards the riverbank where finally I paused, my skin in flames. Doused in the stream, I called out, then returned to gather what was left, and limped inside.

W.F. Lantry holds a PhD from the University of Houston. In 2010 he won the Lindberg Foundation International Poetry for Peace Prize, Crucible Poetry Prize, CutBank Patricia Goedicke Prize, and the National Hackney Literary Award in Poetry. His work has appeared in The Wallace Stevens Journal, Prairie Fire, Kestrel, Asian Cha, Poetry Salzburg, Gulf Coast and Aesthetica. He currently works in Washington, DC and is a contributing editor of Umbrella. His website is http://wflantry.com/



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