

Well-heeled, you dine on posh steaks,  
take in a real show, tool around  
town in fine imported sportcars. What  
have we impoverished to do but  
stay home nights, tooting  
the tune of penury?

It must be dietary: peanut  
butter toast and cocoa for breakfast,  
cheese sandwich for lunch.  
Dinner is either beans and hamburger  
or tuna and cheese casserole.

I make no apologies for this malodorous habit  
but have learned to walk fast in a crowd.

#### AT THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY

They have every book I ever  
wanted on display. We try to  
park behind the tall cane  
so the car is shaded  
and cool when we leave at  
the end of the  
day.

It's a good crowd, cultured.  
You can sense it before you  
get out of the parking lot.  
Lots of German and Japanese  
being spoken. The guards  
look so relaxed  
they've never had to worry  
about riffraff.

The cactus gardens look like  
something off another planet.  
The Zen rock garden is  
almost real  
and  
there are palms of every  
species planted  
about the grounds.

My kids like the lillypads  
floating in the ponds. I  
kind of like  
the crazy  
foreign girls  
squatting on the lawns  
open-legged  
gathering acorns in their  
long black skirts  
unashamed.