

7-15-2016

## *Poem for the lost library of La Mancha*

Gania Barlow

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### Recommended Citation

Barlow, Gania (2016) "Poem for the lost library of La Mancha," *The Mythic Circle*: Vol. 2016 : Iss. 38 , Article 11.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/mcircle/vol2016/iss38/11>

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### Abstract

After the books are burned there is a hush and then a flutter of ashy syllables out into the world

# Poem for the lost library of La Mancha

by

Gania Barlow

After the books are burned  
there is a hush  
and then a flutter of ashy syllables  
out into the world—

to be read  
by the bottoms of our shoes  
their black phonemes smeared across  
pages of dirt and stone.

(There in the courtyard a knight  
no longer  
and his lady  
doesn't).

In the still solemn manner of madness  
each Manchegan among us  
spells out the remains of the story  
in muddy war lines  
down our long gray cheeks.

&

Tell us again,  
Don Quixada, Quexada, or Quexana,  
what the fire read

because if you tell it  
with your whole body  
in a line like a string,  
a chain, a graph  
of hoofprints in the dust  
like a line of music  
we can't quite remember

if you tell it as though  
it is still here

it is still true

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## About This Publication

*The Mythic Circle* is a small annual literary magazine published by *The Mythopoeic Society*, which celebrates the work of C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and other writers in the mythic tradition. (For more information about the Mythopoeic Society, contact Alicia Fox-Lenz, Communications and Social Media Manager, E-mail: [correspondence@mythsoc.org](mailto:correspondence@mythsoc.org))

Copies of the next issue, *Mythic Circle*, #39, scheduled to appear in the summer of 2017, can be pre-ordered through the Mythopoeic Society's website, < <http://www.mythsoc.org/mythic->