



6-15-2005

Traveler

Robert Ferrier

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Recommended Citation

Ferrier, Robert (2005) "Traveler," *Westview*: Vol. 24 : Iss. 2 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol24/iss2/20>

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Traveler

by Robert Ferrier

I found her e-mail trapped and dying
in the spam filter of AOL.
The editor had sent word she'd lost
my poem in the cleanup after a flood.
Could I resend a copy today?
(Too late for this issue of course,
she'd use the poem in May.)

Later my wounded muse
worried about the traveler...

Where does a flooded poem live?
Reciting "A Prayer for Poetry Judges"
to an audience of veggie cheese wrappers
and low-carb heels
as the garbage guys
dumped it into the truck
along with our neighbor's
spent tuna tins,
creased toffee bar wrappers,
stained by bleeding ink
from Dagwood and diapers,
crosswords
from last week's daily rags,
iambes and dactyls falling
on silked ears,
verses and stanzas seasoned
by wet coffee grinds
revised by dull Mach III blades....

Then entombed in a layer of trash,
selling the epiphany
through phosphors and vapors,
a forever of 3 a.m.s
in blind spasm
of the time it was born.

