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John Zedolik

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BLUES CAST

by John Zedolik

Just an overnighiter
at the city jail,
drunken and disorderly
at a fern bar
(when those were the rage)

accompanying the wee hours
with renditions of blues tunes
by artists certainly more skilled
than these two

but useful for their situation
against the bars and their steel
rhythm through the span
to sobering that led concurrently

to a dawn as white as an etiolated
stalk under a dull-heavy rock

not to Mississippi and Miss Liza,
just a drain of irregular income,
a hangover-headsplitter, and eternal
banishment from the faux-fiddlehead

garden of Eden, arch-officer Michael or not,
no flaming sword, just a cool baton at the door.