The Probabilities of Sinking for Kerry Coons

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The Probabilities of Sinking

for Kerry Coons

Altitudes often reach 30,000 feet or more
the improbability of flying

a nearly prenatal instinct
to fear death by falling

in human life
a lack of support or airspeed are inevitable

the process of travel
by boat for example

rusted rail and leaning
give way to

watch island
appear then disappear
turn head follow strict
increments of

horizontal gradations of
opaque to transparent mist

the brown of river
gives way imperceptibly
to the blue green of sea

Hard to express yourself clearly and to be heard. Support promised to be given turning out to be merely a dream. If looking for a mate, watch out for a possible serious mistake. Legal case in your favor. Winning good company. Meeting relatives. No lucks.

Tendency towards an aim does not imply that the aim is attained.
The aim is attainable only in approximations.
sugar snow
beneath thick slabs of ice
give way to the occasional science
of the avalanche
as unpredictable as they
are imprecise
the firebreather speaks
a new language of heat and kerosene
members of that profession
are highly susceptible to consumption
and chronic bronchial inflammation

The loss of the Miranda was still fresh on everyone’s mind. The main object of the
expedition was to study Greenland’s glacier system, the inland ice cap and icebergs; and to map the hitherto unknown portions of Melville Bay. Sketch the human, animal, and vegetable. Name life of the arctic region. Visit Peary’s camp and bring back news of him in advance of his return. Return to Philadelphia. Drift into journalism. Engineer the mountains of Pennsylvania. He has since time traveled extensively. Hunted in the vicinity of Equator. Shot reindeer feeding on lichen in the Arctic Tundra.
little shrines
the house beautiful
in other time, other season
cousin Anthony and I
inspired little rivers
through suffering
little journeys
we found black pebbles
and cool to the touch
five sins of an architect
tick-tock treasures
the nursery
the infants magazine
the vanishing pictures
of yellow beauty
white wings and similar things
zigzag journeys around the world

Lisa Stein and Amy Wright
(Re)-Defining Scottish Nationalism after Devolution
disclosure interviews Cairns Craig
(4 April 1998)

Carins Craig is the Chair of the English Department at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, the general editor of the Determinations series on Scottish culture and politics (Edinburgh UP) and general editor of a four-volume series entitled The History of Scottish Literature (also Edinburgh UP). He is the author of Yeats, Eliot, Pound and the Politics of Poetry: Richest to the Richest (1982), Out of History: Narrative Paradigms in Scottish and English Culture (1996) and of many articles on Scottish literature, nationalism, regionalism, and cultural identity. His most recent publication is “I.A. Richards, T.S. Eliot and Empiricism’s Art of Memory” (Revue de Morale et de Metaphysique, forthcoming) and he is currently writing a book on the twentieth-century Scottish novel.

With Scottish devolution having occurred in September of 1997, Dr. Craig’s participation in the University of Kentucky Committee for Social Theory Distinguished