

EARISH

THIRTY POEMS OF PAUL CELAN

TRANSLATED BY ROBERT KELLY

MATTER BOOKS

ANNANDALE 2006

for Dick Higgins,

in memoriam

[First version completed 23 March 2002. Revised Winter 2005/ 2006]

Translator's Note:

In 2002 I was asked to contribute to Alec Finlay's edition of translations by several hands of Paul Celan's poem "Irish." While working on my translation (which duly appeared in the second volume, *Irish (2)*, Edinburgh 2002), I began to work on other dimensions of the poem, then of other Celan poems. The present homeophonic translations are one result. By homeophonic translation I mean: listening to the sound of the [in this case German] poem until you can hear it as English – the result, the poem *heard*, no doubt 'says' a 'different' thing from the 'original.' Those quoted words are all questionable, more question than answer, I mean. So here are some of my hearings of Celan poems. They are, in effect, translations into Earish.

A reference in italics at the foot of the page identifies the book in which appears the German original text here heard heading towards English:

at = *Atemwende*

f = *Fadensonnen*

licht = *Lichtzwang*

schn = *Schneepart*

zeit = *Zeitgehöft*

(This edition is not for sale, and is for private distribution only.)

WILD YOU 'THEN NOTE SHARING FONDEST

in the view's tongue

rune the shattered yards hounded a neighbor to rouse

and hay run thick – thank him

Feel like it's a war,

dash here the freed of twice failed curb's rock

out tone — go face them.

THE STREAKER, salt's washer, clomb

the wiser

grove's keynote in dismal

gate and knickers off

Off the shudder see grass down even

in anchor shot and

naked as number dares

(ant's willing)

red sail.

EARISH

Give me this vague wreck
heave her the corn's teacher to die in his laugh
this vague wreck
heave her down laugh's path
this wreck that his story's taken on
on hurts hung
more gone.

THE TWISTED NINE

gone haggled to hill free
vexed

the numb unblue
sets out

the glaciemilk cart
the foal vixen again dour
thus swimming the seal
ear her unbearable un-
brandy

SPADE. Unswam eager fetish

buys stitch the sopping foam Christ born,

off gay road fun

frost spree kin

hipped from womb shy noon neck,

day's fence star flees off, where sand rouses,

neat even so bring him

the hovel there sign,

I need cup lasting, a

deep unafraid walker —

coaches art one seeks there, over

Him.

DO WARS mean death
thick Kant I called them
weary of all it unfeels

f142

DARES OUT A SHOCKED HEADED HEARSE

daring she goes feel install earring

groves shy mast forty

tiles of

milk sweaters

shovel.

ALL DYING SEAGULLS ARE BROKEN? NAY.

Gay verse ether oak

see, the brief

haughty elf

hoofing took her:

that the well, the hornet

fern, the milk

knower, when

the mood she tours clock be awayed,

the clock be dumb mood, weed her,

that she nicked oak

then elect throne dear idiot and

speak low, the dottle

for a biter too for

many take a long dying

often.

POE KNOCKS

The unstirred bleak kite's if a fawn-high hayrick
dame fear them in
den, she'll gird a needle key fixed
her n't a Leah dish
hinter seek here.

f58

EYING A HIM HILL tempest

lock in. Arm

enter knocked it them

or it.

The lid's slack reflex averring

the hip begone

tomorrow's two for

null.

EDGE LOCKED, edge locked.

When weary at semester's veering
blond cats going we to malls
allowing gone to Paris, eye no outgone glued long

though arctic is a steer
came again sprung and
under crooned emit on his sighing horn or
under tease to his tease to.

OFF ENDS, in

harm's boor, kine

unend lick her shoe reaming — a

neem

cow in the cloister

been debts why blue ticker to saying, to summon

to some wake shore.

at 168

HERB Linda shone height:

oak the Amish kite stays full of oaken—
door in

a trinket, wash the buildings away half
heaving them wake, then she came in,
door in

her lashed what oak dished out the sprocket
Fortnum's with a guest too,
the dewy sheen leaves, we
ten tense wires wore the outs louder
hair best and sighed and needs.

at 120

STAY IN him, shatter
this wonder moss in the loft

firm emend and needs staying.

On her can't

fur thick

align.

Myth all in woe's door, in room hot

oak own a

sparkler.

WOE?

In them, locker mass in the knot.

Imagining all under Sheba
in lonestomest uproar,
in wise hide his shucked knee.

Was her nod alone?
neigh in thinky bornstone
shattering to summon — or came sick
deeper in winter,
fly.

WAGES IN SHATTERING BREAK

die on hand.

House the fear finger fork he

wheel it mere then

first eye inert and say again.

at 68

EAR IN AFTER, for gambled her
deepen.

Wearish — —

Noon you, wearish
the — woeing a blowgunner? —
ash it rousing,
ease vista thick tube gliding,
like tender growing rich meat
deem thick doors waxen tensile
her under suit virgin build
under men
gone soggy and flaccid and
dank rice unlike
bite her.

at 216

ASH IN GLORY hinder
thine inner shuddered work not eaten
hand and on dry vague.

Pontiff's is iced malts: here,
eye in drop fen
of
them or drunken one ruder blade,
deep
in first eye nor then swore
rushed us off.

(Off the sink wrecked an
atom's isle, damn all's
higher all's over.
twitching why shimmer's coat wearing
the blank
tottering mind to us, her off clomb,
groovish mission dish and in dish.)

Ash in
glory hinder
like dry vague
hands in.

at 176

HIM ASKING

hide a fall

seek to go

bet each dish off dense incense

they give al-

legiance

shadowing us to myth-leaked tongue.

SHH! LEWDER, a smart
slog her nicked in his gazes,
air whoosh dear
the sending of her hymn
wise and down even.

schm 112

CALL CROCUS, in

hell worth an eye
stick brief griped as
form door to endow door hair,
unspoiled bar,

Spring stuff a
lecturing dear to
the Delhi design
hill of tines, a flock
also sick here rose,

in the found graven
start seek the mould out.

FOR MINE

whether like tin destiny
combed the hand to stay,
myth dare to
dear heave hers oak forest,

eye in clearing
hold seek a vista sight
in Christ, and each soak
humans why,

monk's mall frolic
steers the hymnal
uncertain share being
for us.

EYE ON STEEPLE FOLD her in
linden rage and kestrel:

a sphere dying gazing, eye grows us,
white evil done wrenching,
dizzy us seeing.

EACH DRINK WINE out's why glazers

unsuck her on

the coy knee's seizure

Vienna

on bend her,

got gift the steam gavel off

as eye on the climbing

erect one,

owes the low stream mill failed

underdied.

UNLICKED AT they came, he
did each in deer
or swarm,

fly Garuda art
the known one — see,
be far on the engine,

eye in seeking spoke, horn,
balled each
sore wetter feeling in
forced.

WORD'S AXLE by dense of dancing:

gate to suitor, she leads each on,
by fair shall all of them
earth lick,

each here, a fear faring
eye him melts you vex,
dust blows to be wiser, faun
over her, on
unsure word sailing long,

it's why sun's a gift herd to you,
why,
on each eye know—
you want?

BACK ON

summer, neckings

the hooks are full

on finger and on light stroll

fear in, then eye an un-

flickering

word's deer

back on

my stair.

BILE'S WARMER

heaving us

grace breaker

myth, tilling ax tenon thief land—

in sail flow or do

myth-dirty

evil name building

half noon.

TREAD MEANING of dying, linking

Monday, Saturn.

Share bone for sea gull

the unloaf banning doored drowsing

Ace missed yet the hour can, bleak sighing

fear eye naked right—

go born.

ANGER IMPELLED by faun gone
from eye on the lass:
greened and shore up, shore up and greened.

In this laugh's wretched gain, o eye mill.