

## **I Long to Linger**

I long to linger on library ladders  
travel between stations  
stop off  
    as with Eurail pass  
climb to random rows  
alight on volumes  
selected for shape or colour  
size or neighbour

I long to linger at learned mahogany  
in leather-armed chairs  
scan heavy historical atlases  
flip through first editions  
of Tolstoy Pascal Blake  
no matter the language  
revel in the lilt  
luring these scholars  
toward dazzling revelations

I long to laugh aloud  
in Silence Please stacks  
finger lettering of gold  
on monks' parchment scrolls  
let chance lift up words  
chanting my name