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Scientific Challenge

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College of DuPage

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The Achievement of Love

Deborah Thomas

Once Conductor

Frank, the craggy skin-stretched skull who is all arms, brain veins, and a bundle of ageless nerves. A portrait of mine own, most eccentriclee.

The conductor, in 30 years, I will be.

Timing every anthem, checking off every item on the master rehearsal plan as the symphonic chorale of 6 wonders.

“...All right, now, people, you see, watch me, up here, you see, for the phrasing and don’t taper off...”

The flail with a powerful full-handed tremolo and the necessary delusions to proceed.

And still rasping, 50 years from now, at the 4 altos, 1 bass and one experimenter, and a young eye and ear at the keyboard.

I will be free, you see, to proceed. And not taper off.

Lee Kesselman

Haiku In 4/4.

Schmidt: Scientific Challenge

Scott Barnard

Frigidare

Joan Bingham

Scientific Challenge

Kathy Schmidt

Sing praise to the power of coffee!
That oh-so-refreshing drink,
That clears early morning cobwebs,
Enabling the mind to think.

Were it not for this wonderful beverage
How tired, how droopy I’d be.
It gives a dependable leverage
Gainst the sluggishness plaguing me.

A daily excuse for a work-break,
And the donuts we all consume
This medium for friendship and gossip
Adds warm fragrance to any room.

So, sing out the glories of coffee!
Let your pancreas do what it may —
There’s no better snift, say what you will
to help me through the day.

Judy Hess

Greek Gods — Roman ones too
Mythological creatures encompass you
Startled from perception
Agony will flee
Danced with confusion
Of how you are thee
Triggers the force within
Captures the moment you can win
Dare say you not believe
Seek truth and perceive
Know thine own self true
Be as those who made you

Joan Bingham

O men of science, please find a placebo,
Sedation for an overworked libido,
A wonder drug to heal a wounded ego,
Dream up an unrequired — love injection,
A cue not a cold but cold rejection,
An antidote against man’s non-affection,
Forget the smearproof lipsticks, smoothing lotions.
Invent, instead some good face-saving potions,
Unguents and oils to smooth disturbed emotions.

Come, boys, concoct a cooling balm
To guarantee platonical calm,
A numbing shot of anesthesia
To offset masculine amnesia,
Vaccines that might inoculate us
Against the male who would deflate us,
To counteract a potent lack
... and anti-aphrodisiac.

Get with it, friends, and give us, for a start
A tranquilizer for the troubled heart.

Kathy Schmidt