

**THUS &  
(SAMPLER)**

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**DEREK HENDERSON**

**THUS &**

**An erasure of Ted Berrigan's *The Sonnets***

~ V ≡ D

*Thus &* is a systematic erasure of Ted Berrigan's 1964 collection *The Sonnets*. In his original sequence, Berrigan frequently and famously used repeated and/or reconfigured phrases, lines, and entire poems throughout. The current project seeks to uncover the "phantom poems" (in Alice Notley's phrase) by erasing each word that occurs more than once in the original sonnet sequence. The only words that appear in *Thus &* are those that are typographically unique in *The Sonnets*. Thus, since "Carol" appears seven times in the original text, it has been erased, while "CAROL," which appears in all-caps only once, has been retained.

The base text I used for the erasure is the version which appears in the 2005 California University Press edition, which I have checked against the 2000 Penguin edition of *The Sonnets*. When there are slight typographic differences between the two (for example: all-caps in the dedications from the California edition versus italics in the dedications from the Penguin), I have relied on the California UP edition, being the most recent and most up-to-date version. This project has a companion concordance to *The Sonnets*, which can be accessed at:

[www.ifpthenq.co.uk/books/henderson-derek-thus](http://www.ifpthenq.co.uk/books/henderson-derek-thus)



II

dear

8 30 p m

Much Longer

Able

Inhabit

Divine

scotch tape

notebook

17 1/2 milligrams

III

                  reeds           elephants decay  
island sail           shores toss

                                  Dawns  
                                  eyelids

lifting    shadowy  
          hurled   hurricanes   birdless  
                          pass    prison ships

IV

sweetly spoke

E

loveliness

longs

pad

often  
shoe

pork  
cities

buckled  
Poised Nijinsky

critic

clank gives shoes

XIX

weathers

XLII

amongst

Derek Henderson lives with his wife and kids in Salt Lake City, Utah, where he teaches writing and literature at Utah Valley University. He is author, with Derek Pollard, of *Inconsequentia*. His poems have been published in *Fence*, *Black Warrior Review*, *VOLT*, *Colorado Review*, *Bombay Gin*, and elsewhere.

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