1966

Ecumenism

Clarence A. Amann
St. John Fisher College

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Cover Page Footnote
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There is this pair
of dogs,
neighbors of mine:
the one a German shepherd
straight strayed from Wittenberg, they say;
the other a molding mottled mongrel,
his pure and primal parentage
in miscegenetic meandering
long lost sight of...
I never saw them approach
but within snarling distance
save now and then
when at each other's throats
they rent
the peaceful parish air
with piercing screeches
and pompous doggy threats...

I've even seen them
lie together
of an afternoon or eve
without a snarl
a growl
or bark
(at least a hostile one)...
I do mark though
they still
tote their own bones
unready yet to share
their cartilaginous sustenance.
It's doggone encouraging though!

ECUMENISM

So
small wonder
one sooty city night of late
scarcely could I
aye my naying eyes
seeing this very canine duo
cross the boulevard
'hip to haunch'
in peaceful dogologue,
their concerted goal
the selfsame crossway lamppole
that lights the farther side...
I note
of late too
they've taken to visiting
each other's yards, porches,
pens even...

Clarence Amann