

Fossil Record

Brachiopod, Trilobite,
Ammonite, Crinoid stem,
fern in stone with spores
strung like pearls along
each bract; snakeskin
tree bark, imprint wing
pressed and fanned; one
metatarsal wears a ring.

Substrate less self,
negative space
embraced by stone
womb, Corpus Luteum.
What has and what will,
pre- and post-virginal
virgin of be, preamble
and postscript of am.

Thick wedged slate,
old X-ray plates,
dense and dark,
shot through with light,
exposing heart,
the inner part of things
what's been unveiled,
what's been enshrined

in sunken shaft
of mine or light,
bones thrown down
of Czar or thief,
of bird or wife.