

ADVENT 1996



by W. H. H. Rees

"Drawing, Untitled, 1980"

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Text by W. H. H. Rees

Drawings by John Ford

- 12/1/96 in the two mandalas formed by the intersecting shadows of a man and a woman talking at a surprise 50th birthday party
- 12/2/96 in the sound of rain in the early morning outside a bedroom window, a steady drip inside a light drizzle and then a sudden rush of downpour; later in the early morning in the two grey wooden boxes in front of Notre Dame Church in Waterbury, a part of each reflecting light as one pass by; and at night on a bridge under Rt. 8 in Shelton, two square objects of metal or cloth, the one on the left dark brown, as if of earth, with a vertical stick or rope like a sword, the one on the right in dark silver, with an image of 2 stone tablets in the lower left as if containing the Ten Commandments
- 12/3/96 the vertical of the small case "h" of the Shoprite sign flickers as an "i", and no lights in letters of several signs: in the "d" of Ryder, in the "o" and "n" of Motor Inn, in the "b" of Schwab, in the "B" of Boy's Room and the "M" of Today's Man
- | | | |
|---|-------------|------------------------|
| i | indespectus | unfathomable |
| d | Deus | God |
| o | opimus | plentiful nimbus cloud |
| n | nectar | sweetness |
| b | beneficium | kindness |
| b | beatitudo | happiness |
| m | madeo | overflows |

- 12/4/96 in the lighting of a candle at random by a woman in St. Stanislaus Church in New Haven and thereby creating 4 lit candles on the right to balance the four lit candles on the left, alternating in a row with three unlit candles
- 12/5/96 in the "G" of the round, unlit Gulf sign against the dream during that night of a man who eats a small round plastic wafer to no effect
- 12/6/96 in "C" in the middle of a Connecticut sign, having been torn away, slicing the state in half
- 12/7/96 in the three circles, appearing within minutes: inside a silver square decoration of a greeting card on the sidewalk; by an abstract painted over graffiti on the side of a power terminal; by an elastic band on the sidewalk
- 12/8/96 in the branch lying on the ground, a casualty of the season's first snow storm, beside three square concrete blocks, each of which is stamped "united"
- 12/9/96 "Is he the father of your children?"
 "No. Thank God."
 "But people love him."
 "Oh, yes. Everybody loves him."
 "So, not everyone is all bad. People are good and bad."
- 12/10/96 in the early AM, adjusting the guide of venetian blinds, pointing at a 30° angle downward to a round waist paper basket filled with tissue paper; and, later, at the Stamford Hospital: "Yes. Everyone should . . . I would not want to cause him any pain."

12/11/96 in the 4 signs on one directory:

Aaron Interiors
Fishing & Tackle
Consignment / Advent
Printing

12/12/96 in the two earths as the letter "E": the first a destroyed letter in the Yankee sign and the second is lit inside a Christmas wreath over the Bayer sign

12/13/96 in the dream,
just before falling deeply asleep, an unidentified man appears and says: "I am 39 years old"; and, then, awaking to the sounds of rustling of the last dead leaves on the beach tree in the front of the house; of the scampering of a leaf on the road, as if a crab; and, in the distance, of the beeping of some mechanical device

12/14/96 in the picture of the Blessed Virgin on the left in St. John's Church in Orlando, at the end of an arched isle, and the Exit at the end of another on the right

12/15/96 in the
"GL" part of the label of the VW Fox that had fallen on the ground: Gloria, Laudamus; and in the "Nov" of the license plate: the "o" being the 1st letter in the alphabet after "n" and the "v" being the 7th after the "o"

12/16/96 in the partially smoked "Adonlino Reserve" cigar on the ground, pointing to a spade, stuck upright, its handle pointing directly to the sun, through a tree, echoed by a nearby Impatient book marker, on one page of Swafford's "Biography of Charles Ives" and on the other, on page 245: "... on the toplines, in thirds, tremolos quietly soaring in even eights but grouped mostly in threes."



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IN MEMORIAM

John Gordon Ford
3.2.50 – 5.13.96

John Ford is now before
in a downpour;
this lad of light,
invisible in night.
Undone initially by Lyndon,
sitting on his john,
and by the Viet Cong.
This grip slambamming
every ouch of aspiration,
or because of them.
This handsome broth of summer,
filling rooms
with such exuberance
that Tutsis learned the Hutu curtsy,
cut down rounding first.
Such generousness sundered
on the road that night;
the mix of Baltimore confession
and persistence in the face of Ks.
In one sense it is fitting
he should end alone
in darkness,
so our knowledge of it can be filtered
by his lilt, his lift, his Franz Kline leaps,
his markings which are mansions
and de profundus ladders.
So dear friend, forever young,
with eyebrows on your left side
and your nose and belly on the right, farewell.
May you find rest
an Abram's breast, and mercy.

12/17/96 in bits of conversation heard at the
Milford Hospital:

1. A: "OK"
B: "Thank you"
A: "OK"
2. C: "I don't know when we will have a sunny
day."
D: "Friday"

12/18/96 in the right hand side of an auto
grill, which had been knocked out; and, in the
remainder on the left, 6 squares on 4 lines; and, before
the car on the ground, an elastic band in the shape of
infinity; and, later that evening, in the strand of hair
caught on the "C" of a label on the elastic band of a
pair of Hane's undershorts, beside the size: "40"

12/19/96 in the "Available" part of a sign which is lit while the
"For Sale" part is not; and in the discarded chewing
gum wrapper, pointing to a round, grey electrical
device on the side of St. John's Church in Stamford,
part of which is a blank square, perhaps a control panel

12/20/96 in the oil spill on the pavement which declares itself a
cursive "a" beside a rubber band as an omega; and,
later at night in darkness, the band in an incomplete
circle and the oil spill indistinguishable; and in a
dream, a young boy in the holy land beside a wall
outside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre feels a sharp
pain when a man on the wall has stepped on his index
finger, a tall heavy man dressed entirely in black as
Darth Vader and wears a Greek Orthodox headdress,
standing motionless, reading a book

12/21/96

in the hand on the "Don't Walk" which is half lit, the 2 fingers and thumb as a bird, perhaps a parachute, noticed while stopped by a red light, becoming a full lit hand when passing on the green, the left section having been obscured by a pole

12/22/96

in several I95 signs:

1. the top half: "Speed Limit"
the bottom half: covered by a white cloth
2. "motorcyclists" inside a rectangle on top of a 4 cornered diamond sign: "Roadway curved"
3. 4 arrows pointing to the full moon on the left

later, a "w" inside a small collage circle of paper on the "Rock" on the sole/soul of the "Rockport" shoe

12/23/96

a man with a desperate expression, coatless, approaches me: "Please help. I blew a waterhose on the highway. If I give you identification, can you help?" and i decline; later, in the checkout line of a package store, the man in front of me notices the bottle of champagne i intend to buy for a Christmas party and says that he has forgotten to get one and will come back; when i give him mine and, as i walk away to get another, hear him say to the clerk: "That man has the Christmas spirit"; and still, later that night, in a dream that Jimmy Carter had just won the Presidential election against Clinton and Dole, his name being on the ballot as the Democrat, because of the work he was doing with Habitat; he was seen rebuilding slum housing, while a voice predicted that it will be very difficult in the future for anyone to get elected from either major party

12/24/96

on a concrete bridge, the holy, numbers 7 9 1 are painted next to the directional sign to New York City, the sum of which is 17, the sum of which is 8, the drive transforming itself into the 4 corners of the cubic world; later, the directional sign to the United Church of Christ, on the New Haven Green, having been blown back by the wind, forms a triangle with the pole to which it had been posted

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