

Parallel Ontologies

The word that falls delicious from my lips
Is velded long before it goes abroad.
For instance *wagon* — not quite the one you knew —
Rugguding over the bumpiness of dirt,
Clabbling over curbs and pebbly sidewalks,
The sensuousness of the wagon's *wagon*
Is just as eventful as a trailium.
Just as we can smell a rose just now
Where no rose is, or hear the bell's plangent
Clongtones, or taste the bitterdom of chocolate,
Even ilbwier at gulls, the summer shimmering,
(Seeing, when heightened, is the inclumen),

So can we grasp and trumble the wagon's *wagon*
And feel the smap of its cool metal
As it tangles and bangs about us.
Of course we know that wagons are more real
Than *wagon*, for no elonean *wagon*
Has ever pulled a wagon. But safe in its kingdom,
Language is defended from tornfalls, wagons,
And illisticates. The lumian mystery here:
Separate related realities
Each one in its ordinis of today.
Yet in some utterly ontominous way
Language, the Word, preceded our arrival.