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Until his death in 1998, *Wallace Fowlie* (b. 1909) was professor emeritus of French literature at Duke University. *Seth Whidden* is assistant professor of French at Villanova University, and co-editor in chief of *Parade sauvage*, the scholarly journal of Rimbaud studies.

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—pour ma seule prière muette comme ces régions de nuit et précédant des bravoures plus violentes que ce chaos polaire.

À tout prix et avec tous les airs, même dans des voyages métaphysiques.

—Mais plus *alors*.

Démocratie

“Le drapeau va au paysage immonde, et notre patois étouffe le tambour.

“Aux centres nous alimenterons la plus cynique prostitution. Nous massacrerons les révoltes logiques.

“Aux pays poivrés et détrempés! — au service des plus monstrueuses exploitations industrielles ou militaires.

“Au revoir ici, n’importe où. Conscrits du bon vouloir, nous aurons la philosophie féroce; ignorants pour la science, roués pour le confort; la crevaision pour le monde qui va. C’est la vraie marche. En avant, route!”

Fairy

Pour Hélène se conjurèrent les sèves ornamentales dans les ombres vierges et les clartés impassibles dans le silence astral. L’ardeur de l’été fut confiée à des oiseaux muets et l’indolence requise à une barque de deuils sans prix par des anses d’amours morts et de parfums affaîssés.

—Après le moment de l’air des bûcheronnes à la rumeur du torrent sous la ruine des bois, de la sonnerie des bestiaux à l’écho des vals, et des cris des steppes—

Pour l’enfance d’Hélène frissonnèrent les fourrures et les ombres, — et le sein des pauvres, et les légendes du ciel.

Et ses yeux et sa danse supérieurs encore aux éclats précieux, aux influences froides, au plaisir du décor et de l’heure uniques.

Guerre

Enfant, certains ciels ont affiné mon optique: tous les caractères nuancèrent ma physionomie. Les Phénomènes s’émurent. —à présent l’inflexion

my one prayer silent as those night regions and preceding bravery more violent than this polar chaos.

At all costs and in every manner, even in metaphysical journeys.—But no more *thens*.

Democracy

“The flag’s off to that filthy place, and our speech drowns the sound of the drum.

“In the centers we’ll feed the most cynical whoring. We’ll smash all logical revolts.

“To the peppery dried-up countries!—in the service of the most gigantic industrial or military exploitation.

“Goodbye to this place, no matter where we’re off to. We conscripts of good will are going to display a savage philosophy; ignorant in science, rakes where our comfort is concerned; and let the world blow up! This is the real march. Forward, men!”

Fairy World

For Helen the decorative sap conspired in the virginal darkness and the impassive light in the astral silence. The heat of summer was entrusted to silent birds and the appropriate languor to a priceless mourning barge moving through waters of dead loves and collapsed perfumes.

—After the time when the wives of the woodcutters sang to the sound of the cascade in the ruins of the forest, after the bells of the animals sounded to the echo of the valleys and the cries of the steppes—

For Helen’s childhood the furs and the shadows trembled,—and the breast of the poor, and the legends of heaven.

And her eyes and her dancing still superior to the shafts of precious light, to waves of cold, to the pleasure of the unique setting and the unique moment.

War

Child, certain skies have sharpened my eyesight: their characters cast shadows on my face. The Phenomena grew excited.—and now the everlasting