

Not an "e-mail"

By Nancy Mann

Knowledge, from experience
Is now written down –
Once tribal elders "spoke" it
By campfires, as they gathered round
8,000 B.C., storage records for bushels of grain
Were made –
To prevent "silo loss", human theft
And *leger de main*.

Maps and writings for generals were made
Military leaders in warfare –
Read their diaries, after their heroics,
If you care...
Records of trade, land and property
Wills about real estate; oaths of fealty –
Scrolls, inspiring biographies of leaders of men
As Clovis and Charlemagne,
Caesar Augustus, were preserved, and then,
Writings in politics-documentation –
Used in universities, centers of education.

So, the world over, east to west
(Writing, printing – Gutenberg did it best)
Wherever you were situate –
(After 1700, you had 20% chance –
to become literate...)

Churchill, Ghandi, Asoka, Mandela –
Now women are in history –
Not just the fellows.
You'll find out where to go hunting –
How to make warm bunting –
How to limit kerosene fumes
How to make your own perfume –
So many theorems, still valid
How to make a good tossed salad...
How to save wilderness
And species of bear –
Just as important

As good child-care...Go beyond Dr. Seuss,
Learn grammar...
Start saying "you," not "youse..."
More than facts for survival,
We need a cultural revival –
In good writing, there'll be
An introduction, ideas and a plot –
Inanity? Not.

You'll find paragraphs whole sentences, LOL!

What the he__!
Come close, gather children round –
The world will open up –
No, not...your e-mails... (this is nothin' profound-)
It's called a..."book!"