

Repapering the Kitchen

Randall L. Hall

We probe and scrape and peel away the faded
Multicolored layers of a lifetime,
Like Schliemann
(Who? Grandmother asks)
Burrowing the many-layered Troy
Yearning for a reenactment from another time,
Such as comes to her like breathing.

There are fifty years and six or seven layers here:

Some full white flowers spangling a deep, yet muted pink
That even I recall

An ivory vase of tiny purple blossoms
Clustered there since just before the war

A simple cup and saucer and a china plate
Upon a background pastel blue.

As each new pattern breaks upon the light
The visions bud and bloom for her, and shimmer
Out, away
To bud and bloom and shimmer
Into bud and bloom

As she interprets to our blindness,
In anecdote and tale,
The echoed genealogies that linger here
Not far from flesh and blood.

Who can tell what time it is
In that one corner of the room
Where she sits in silence now
And who or what she sees outside the window
Or in the pale reflection hovering in the glass?

RANDALL L. HALL lives in Orem, Utah. A volume of his poetry, Mosaic, was published by the Utah State Poetry Society in 1979. His first novel, Cory Davidson, is scheduled for release by Ensign Productions in August 1983.