

1. Poets

It is the nature of poets
to believe that they are

great (or will become great)
that their lines will echo

down the ages and be studied
by schoolchildren but this

is statistically unlikely
the latest figures from the

NEA estimate that there are
about 100,000 more or less

literate poets in the USA
(of whom 10% are graduates

of creative writing courses)
I think my fav'rite of all

these poets is a young man
I met in Santa Fe he played

the role of a poet because he
felt like a poet but he never

took the risk of writing a
single poem his life was

his poetry and he was happy.

2. The Poem Factory

The poems are talking to them-
selves again they're bored

with me over the years they've
heard everything I have to say

the same old stuff put in the
same old meter (that nobody

likes much anyway) the same
classical tags that don't all

hitch to American speech the
same old sentimental moonings

about love they've had it
with me so now they get their

kicks talking with each other
they've gotten some nice ef-

fects taking lines from differ-
ent poems to make new ones

mixing them together the next
step will be for them to auto-

mate making poems completely

by themselves without my inter-

vention that will be the day
(as good as surrealism) their

own robotic factory of poems.

3. Like the Octopus

I would enfold you in my
tentacles but believe me

my embrace is loving not
injurious some say that to

confuse his prey the
octopus sends out a kind

of ink to cloud the wa-
ter so too the poet e-

mits ink (much ink) on
his beloved but it is

not noxious his poems
may be bad but their in-

tention is affectionate
they are part of his oc-

topode nature they are his
submarine squeak of love.

4. The Word Machine

writes & writes & writes
it denudes northern for-

ests to get enough paper
to eat sometimes it writes

poems to the beloved but
mostly it writes about

the lover himself extra
stamps showing a carrier

pigeon must be printed to
circulate so many words

weary postmen wear out
their shoes making deliv-

eries the beloved has had
to buy a shredder because

her flat was so deep in paper
she couldn't move around

will the word machine ever
run out of words probably not.