

Ada Unseen

Frances Presley
United Kingdom
francesp.fphc@gmail.com



wave function

the difficulty of measuring a wave function

. at two specific points separated by time .

which changes

continuously and causally

discontinuously and erratically

as a result of observation

is the collapse of the wave function

wave writing

when
waves
reclaim

shufter shingle
ridge

grey smooth stones
white lichen

white paint
swastika
on grey smooth stone
kick down

how long & when
waves turn roll
suck

surf swallow
sink holes
grey splu sur

.....

.....

your hand pulling me
across the breach

tidal fast flow
slipping submerged stones

new salt marsh residents
white egrets
surprised

the breach did not defeat us

Porlock Bay Nov 17

Will o' the Wisp: eight equations

I

These Functional Equations are Will-o'-the-Wisps
the moment I fancy I have really at last got hold of
something tangible & substantial it all recedes
further and further & vanishes again into thin air

A.A.L.

II

Prompted by your beauty & intangibility you always elude
my grasp you seem to delight in leading me into a bog
you are will o' the wisp flickering with wayward course
and pleased when those who follow are bogged to the neck

Dr JK to A.A.L.

III

Lead then, said Eve The wily adder rolled in tangles
Makes intricate seem straight Elevates his crest
A wandering fire compact of unctuous vapour
Misleads the amazed night-wanderer to bogs and mires

J.M.

IV

God amputates
his small right hand
ignis fatuus no illume at all

E.D.

V

A functional equation specifies a function in implicit form
Solve through substitution with some constants (eg. 0 or 1)
after that some expressions
which will make some part of the equation become constant

VI

the moment I fancy I have really got hold of
two or more known constants:
marsh gas (0) fireball (1)
it advances as you advance recedes as you recede

VII

I have often seen it there rising up
and falling
twistering about
rising up again
a candle in a lantern
Mrs Lubbock

VIII

Joan (0) the Wad (1)

Note: Will o' the Wisp, or ignis fatuus, was a common sight before the draining of the fens and marshes in England. By the time Ada Lovelace used it to describe her difficulties with functional equations they were much rarer. JK is Dr James Kay, who wrote flirtatious letters to Ada, then hastily got married; JM is John Milton's *Paradise Lost*; ED—a reworking of Emily Dickinson's 'Those—dying then'. Mrs Lubbock was remembering incidents from before 1810 in Norfolk. 'Joan the Wad' is a Somerset name for Will o' the Wisp. Scientists have attempted to recreate the right conditions for the spontaneous ignition of marsh gas.