

Racing to Measure the Immensity  
~~The City Shapes~~

~~10 September, 1962~~

~~On a Train Moving West~~

~~The city shapes yield artificial patterns,  
Sheered rectangles, ordered techniques  
To the eye.~~

Racing to measure the immensity of the <sup>Yuma</sup> Arizona desert,  
Like a trim long-distance runner, the train presses on,  
Its massive windows flooded by heroic images.

~~The~~ The eye is assaulted with

Irregular masses, undulating plateaus,

Depth in space undreamed of under ordinary lamp-light,

Uneven contours,

Rocks exposed to the bludgeoning of time,

Hollowed masses gnawed by wind and water.

Wild organisms thirsting for life, ~~hungry for other organisms,~~

Fitted against the harsh odds of time.

The sheer scale, immensity, awesome mass

Of the topographic settlement

Thrusts its own drama upon the eye.

In the city we have become accustomed to

Famer shapes, dimmer lights, thinner sounds.

(10 September, 1962)

