

Criticizing the System

Hillary Warren

I stare blankly at book spines.
The Library of Congress demands
letter prefixes at the core
of decimals threaded together
while Dewey's system might be
more cluttered still –
stringing copious fragments
of a whole behind decimal points.

This is all arbitrary,
or, at best, just systems
of arguable methodology.
I can't imagine a debate
over merits of either one.

Such is the lunacy of circumstances
where time, with its role sometimes fluid
and its power other times devastating
can make you vital or dispensable.

The shelf harboring all the SF55s
needs shifting and for no other reason
Domestic Animals of Nepal
has to reside on the next shelf below.
This could be devastating, depending on

gambit

location – shattered aesthetics
for the sake of upholding taxonomy.

I descend the stairwell
just as you emerge from the room above –
missing me by a millisecond.