

To & Fro

Many leaves trembled to dislodge dust

At this stage of our global forest / Compare

A machine sifting flour / A metronome

Automatic bulbs keeping season at headquarters

We took samples / We lived among hardwoods

While we muttering *superorganism* / *superorganism*

Their leaves also muttering / our larynxes

Pushing up air tufts to agitate stems

So close were we the oaks could sip our sweat

It was a symbiosis party everyone fertilizing

Graphs & figures / All roots poised for publication

Our-cells scraping them-cells / bark deep in the knees

Then we failed peer review / sprang

Toward hypothesis / like the problem was

Lack of competitive earthworms OR insolvency

Of owlets OR undergrowth that never

Died OR dead that decomposed too slowly

Stable seres have no egress / When a rupture

Splits the earth we rush / down like boiling water