

semiotician ordinaire

for eons  
you managed meaning  
up the hill,  
shouldering that boulder  
against ruts, around ridges and rills,  
catcalls plucking at your cuff,  
the plummet before summiting  
borne gracefully over  
and over,  
the chicago way.  
outlasting every atlas,  
you swapped rook for king,  
gamboling with symbols  
in mind's eye.

all boxes lettered  
down, across,  
all arias and oratorios  
quelled, and knelling  
calling colleagues  
to the table one last time.  
proud pater familias,  
hestial helpmate,  
cloaked nomad,  
rest now in your  
slate blue slat back  
adirondack  
in valhalla  
for eons.

*john f. sherry, jr.  
for sidney j. levy,  
90 words for 90 years*