



**COLLECTED POEMS OF**  
**JOHN A CIAMPA**

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A CHANCE MEETING UPTOWN

JOHN A CIAMPA

First time  
uptown  
alone  
broad sidewalk passing  
storefront mirror panel  
I saw  
a child  
same size  
same eyes  
coat and hat  
coming at me  
he looked but  
never stopped to reflect  
a look, even now I recollect  
he wondered about me

# THE BLUES IS A SEA

goes wide

goes deep

some times a short chop we can top

troughs and crests, we manage with sea legs

some times storms, we handle with hand rails

AND THERE IS THE TIDE

in lives of men

with enough time between its ebbs and flows

to make it a surprise every time

even in a quiet lagoon with a clear sky

Who knows why

that which floats your boat-

brings you down

all around

everyone and everything is out of reach

even the beach

You can't leave and you can't stay

Depression is a tidal recession

About which there is not much to do

Except to wait for the tide to rise

which you can't remember

but always comes

# THE SHADOW KNOWS

Knows what I know?

I don't know  
what shadows know

how they come from the light  
spill from a well  
like ink

shadows draw themselves

before noon  
shadows lead you  
you never catch them

after noon  
shadows follow  
you never lose them

every form of give and take  
stand and shake

they are you  
they are not

figure out what's right  
from what is left

no matter how much  
you cannot touch

you cannot figure

who is left

and

you are right

The shadow knows

Comensa

by John A Ciampa

Do you have time ?  
or does it have you

You wait  
the end is never late

What is going on  
Is also going off

To think in words is your sentence  
Period is a time with no sentence  
Time is a sentence with no period  
Tragedy makes us blink  
Even if we stop, we think

in the play  
Is the last sentence already written  
is there a last word you say  
or do you sing it

Should you rehearse your death scene  
or do you wing it

I still see the forest  
the trees are gone  
even if you're blind  
the world is out of sight  
but not out of mind

Tell me DESCARTES  
If- I think therefore I am  
How can I think I am not

If you think thought is gone,  
that's a thought  
and it is not  
gone

Thought goes before  
thought goes behind  
why not beyond

Do you have thought  
Or does it have you

# HITLER IS GONE FOR NOW

by John A Ciampa

The strange tree

which bears fruit

each century

a perennial rite-

no mater if it's wrong

storg and song

obsolete absolutes

ridicule rituals

a chance to regress to

triumphant tribalism

and follow the leader

to scars and memories

all leaders

rock star, quarter back

duce, commissar, fuhrer

keep us young

infantile

# HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN

By John A Ciampa

How is it that the same body is flattened by an irresistible gravity  
so as to lay on the beach and  
at the same time  
impelled to spring into the surf and learn to swim under and over the waves

Enantiodromia- Heraclitus  
Greeks define life's energy as a tension of opposites

Ying/ yang/Jung  
Oriental wisdom and modern psychology agree

We try to see the flow between day and night, life and death, rest and motion.  
We tell ourselves that one begets the other.

At same time as the sigh of relief finds its way to our lips as we kick back  
There is a buzzing in the ear, like flee, to push us forward

The cavalry charge ends with a discharge  
As do batteries, lightning bolts and bankruptcy

broke and repair  
hope and despair



# **A MAZE WITHIN**

By John A Ciampa

mind wanders without direction

through space with no dimension

faster than speed

slower than time

watch mind rehearse the future

while it edits the past

everywhere is here

here is nowhere

# CONNECTION

by John A Ciampa

Love connects  
hate divides  
division subsides  
connection abides

# **TIC TOC ( A LYRIC )**

by John Ciampa

Blame it on my youth  
I never saw the big hand move around the truth

You watch the watch but never see the time

Still some how you know

Its getting later than it was

You never see,

but always hear

the tic and not the toc

which saves you.

# UTOPIA

BY John A Ciampa

Your Utopia  
un seen  
My myopia  
on screen  
a rose arose  
on scene  
by another name  
a pose  
out of the frame  
cast a spell  
passed a smell  
from nose to eye  
nostril to pupil

# THEODICY

By John A Ciampa

If god puts up with warring religions  
then war is god's wish  
and Peace on Earth?  
Who's wish is that?

# **MINE & HIS**

By John A Ciampa

his story- history  
my story - mystery

# **LIFE INSURANCE**

By JOHN A CIAMPA

Who brought the affection  
for those that are dear to me

Who arranged the collection  
of all those that are near to me

Who bought the protection  
from all that brings fear to me

# UNBORN

BY John A. Ciampa

Once the random erection  
fits -lock to key.

Once the seminal injection  
floods the ovary,

Is there preconceived deflection  
of aspiring progeny ?

uninvited invitees

just those chosen by the department of selection

so why the department of correction  
and the public enemy?

If the plan requires correction  
was it wrong initially



# EXISTENTIAL ANGUISH

BY John A Ciampa

Every child, cub or pup  
Who has ever looked up  
realized  
real eyes  
do not see  
reality  
vision is a bluff  
eye was not enough

—  
to be is not to see  
most of us are partially blind  
part of us are mostly blind  
the more you know  
the more you know that  
you know less than there is  
if you guess  
at patterns in the mess  
you get depressed  
flattened

to stay well rounded  
you must be grounded  
in the quicksand  
reaching for a hand  
from some one you don't understand

# **PROBLEMS**

BY JOHN A CIAMPA

Problems: you process or pass on

If you pass them on they multiply

If you process them you multiply

# LETTERS ARE WORDS

BY JOHN A CIAMPA

Pronounce each not as a letter in word but as a stand alone letter or character (0=naught)

## Syllables

E L m n s v x z

### 1 Syllable Words

b (be); c (sea, see); i (I, eye); o (Oh); p (pee, pea); q (cue); r (are); t (tea);  
u (you); y (why): 1 (won); 2 (to); .4 (fore); 8 (ate).

### 2 Syllable words

Bd (beady); b4 (before); b9 (benign); b10 (beaten); cd (seedy); ez (easy); e10 (eaten); L8  
(elate); mt (empty); ne (any); pt (pity); qt (cutie); rt (arty); sa (essay); xl (excell); XS (excess);  
nv (envy); c= (sequel)

### 3 Syllable words

Mn8 (emanate); ne1 (anyone); nme (enemy); nrg( energy)

### 4 Syllable words

Od4s (odiferous); Fmn8 (effeminate); U4Ea (euphoria)

## Phrases

S A 4 U= (essay for you)

E Z 4 u= (easy for you)

R U O K= (are you OK)

U R A QT= (you are a cutie)

2b 0 2b= (to be not to be)

2 B E10 0 B10= ( to be eaten not beaten)

I 8 U= ( I ate you)

I 8 2 XS= (I ate to excess) (great T shirt for fat people)

EZ 2 C Y I NV U= (Easy to see why I envy you)

B10 2 B E10= ( beaten to be eaten)

B10 B4= (beaten before)

O 2 B U= ( Oh to be you)

B9 NV= (benign envy)

I NV NE1 = ( I envy anyone)

I PT NE1= ( I pity anyone)

I O U= ( I owe you)

U R 2 MT 2 NV= ( you are too empty to envy)

U R 2EZ 2 B B10= (You are too easy to be beaten)

I, B10 NME, PT U= (I, beaten enemy, pity you)

NE1 C Y U R EZ 2 B B10= (anyone see why you are easy to be beaten)

NE1 C Y U R E10= (anyone see why you are eaten)

EZ 2 C Y U 8 2 XS= (easy to see why you ate to excess)

EZ 2 C Y U XL- XS NRG= (easy to see why you excel- excess energy)

