

# TYPE RITES



Gregory J. Furman

1970



Once upon a time long and long ago there was a metal contraption for transferring individual letters from a revolving ribbon of black or red ink on to a sheet of paper to convey thoughts to others in sentences, paragraphs and pages.

Now, all but forgotten by new generations. Arcane, quaint as quill-feather pens and ink wells, this contraption, with piano-like keys and a roller which allowed the person in control to put spaces between sentences and paragraphs was known as The Typewriter.

This once cutting-edge 'technology' led to the development of carbon paper which allowed the person selecting the letters to have those letters appear on two or three pieces of paper instead of one. It also inspired WHITEOUT (an opaque correction fluid) also trademarked as LIQUID PAPER (came in many colors for colored papers) which, once dry, corrected billions of mistakes made by the wandering, inaccurate fingers of addled, bored, daydreaming secretaries, once called "typists," and other perfectionist writers. Typewriters made a lot of noise. To enter an office with a 'typing pool' was to hear a thunder of machine-gunning fingers frantically sending messages on paper to be read by the universe.

Leave it with artists to mess with technology. And, VOILA! modern "concrete poetry" (an arrangement of linguistic elements in which the typographical effect is

more important in conveying meaning than verbal significance) is born.

Near catatonic and dying of boredom as a speechwriter for the Canadian Red Cross Society in Toronto circa 1970, using a rickety Remington Rand Manual by painstakingly manipulating a single sheet of paper in the roller, I composed these few concrete poems of my own. And nostalgically share them with you. For fun and what little they're worth.

## **TYPEWRITER**

1: a machine for writing in characters similar to those produced by printer's type by means of keyboard-operated types striking a ribbon to transfer ink or carbon impressions onto the paper

2: **TYPIST**

## **TYPE RITES**

5. Concert Score
6. Caterpillar
7. Whirlpool
8. Sausages
9. Bubbles
10. Candle
11. Sea Shore
12. Hercules and the Augean Stables
13. Fall
14. Fat Thin
15. Hiccup
16. Leaves
17. Peacock
18. Popsicle
19. River Lights
20. Sisyphus
21. Skip Jump
22. Spaghetti
23. Swiss Cheese
24. Tracks in Snow
25. Bowling Pins

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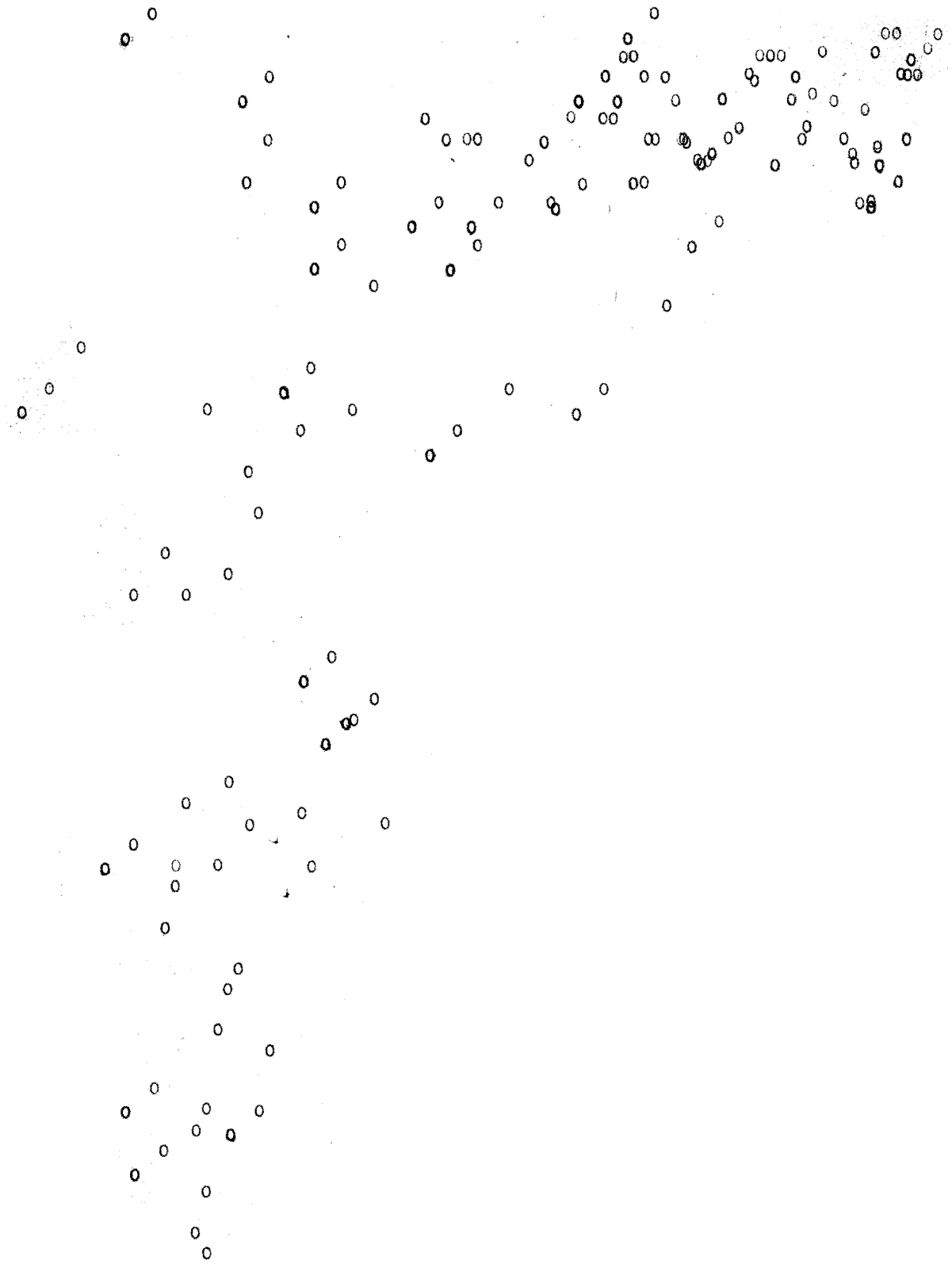
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