

ENGLISH CONVENT

You who enter here, know you are walking
through rooms of perfectly pruned piety.

Jan Alexander Arrazola de Oñata, chamberlain
of Albert and Isabella paid for this place.

Between hedges it whispers about brides
of Jesus who shrank to a handful of dust.

The nightingale mentions Mary Augustina More
Who fled the revolution in her carriage to Suffolk.

Later she sailed back to her people
of God, in her coffer the portrait
of Sir Thomas that Hans Holbein made.
The wooden frame turned out to be a holy shrine.

Kneeling and confessing the overseas girls
became holier than the pope. They slept
in their habits, firm and far from their fatherland.
Here their chaplain threw off his earthly shackles.

Together with the orchard finches
he whistled away from his last bed. Come into the garden
and listen to the songs of longing and sadness.
You don't see them, but they are hanging in the trees.

Cover your head with the cool of the dome
And look at the pendentives. Admire

how naked and old like Atlas, they carry
the roof on their frail shoulders.

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Peter Theunynck (translation Machteld Hardy)

Vrije stadsdichter Brugge / Free Citypoet Bruges

<http://petertheunynck.wordpress.com/stadsgedichten-voor-brugge/>

<https://soundcloud.com/petertheunynck/engels-klooster>

<http://www.regiobrugge.be/lappersfortpoets.php> www.poeziebos.be

Van zonsopgang tot zonsondergang www.poeziebos.be www.natuurenbos.be/lappersfortbos
<http://www.uitinwestvlaanderen.be/10235/het-hugo-clauspad-voor-poetische-wandelaars> U kan
dagelijks wandelen op deze rust- en stilteplek waar de muzes wonen en U ademruimte schenken
<http://www.deverenigdeverenigingen.be/themas/item/487-participatiewijzer-voor-brugge-2013>