

origin

if coffee's vitality to both poetry
and finance capitalism is comparable,
it follows that a consideration of the talismanic
properties of coffee will allow poetry (finally!)
a clear swipe at economy.
it is often speculated that the poet
drinks coffee as a commiseration for the consistency
of quality, texture and taste so often lacking
in their verse; whereas the economist drinks coffee
with an acute attention to its traces, like comet-tails,
through local and global systems. the economist fabulates
statistics both from and with the coffee, having no need
to compensate for the fluctuations he oversees.
such variations in quality
indicate, for him, a systemic health.
in order to understand the position of the economist
towards coffee, and thus his power, the poet must also
engage in a doctrine of imperfectability. the poet
must destabilise the ideology of 'the cup'
and abandon thoughts of holism, security and regularity:
a new blend must be tried every day!
conditions of production must be interrogated!
emotions of the barista must be imbibed!
circulation flows must be traced and thereby, like coffee-rings,
become aestheticised!
solidarity must be declared with crop-damaging pests!

In Memoriam:

the black twig borer

soldier flies

the coffee borer beetle

the coffee leaf miner

red flat mites

the coffee white stem borer

green scale

mealybugs

nematodes