

Speaking in Rectangles
(To Sherman Alexie and the Letterpress)

By Polly Summar

How many ways can you say rectangle?

broadside, quoin, chase, page

few circles nuzzle a letterpress

Even wrecked tangles of snakeskin

captured by boys

with hands that smelled deep roots

smooth into misshapen rectangles

to cover mud brown pages

indigo-stained parchment

How many ways can you see rectangles?

Boxy quoins wedged tightly

into the metal chase

so p's and r's don't escape

With hands that smelled deep roots, these

homespun printers followed words' muse

sprinkling lasting impressions

of chips 'n shavings, lead and ink

asking themselves

How many ways can I pay the rent?

Museum As Muse

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