

# CAM BRIDGE RELITERARY VIEW.

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**Richard Owens**

## **Four Ballads**

### **Bent Sae Brown**

gang and see tween my love & me  
bald sons I say gang & let us be  
my love long tall—built for speed  
he shout & cry my berry-brown steed

entreat win up get up off your feet  
be my brand this goddamn town  
my sweet baboo—am deeply sworn  
aye you're a good man Sally Brown

for a kiss o your lovely mouth  
auld sons way darna speak to thee  
forbid us rest o north & south  
broke your hame sae stole your me

## **Iroquois Steeplechase**

this wicked gallon of rye  
when a man loseth  
in his commodity for want

take like recompense dear  
by providence  
where there is scarcity for

for now is the hand of God  
upon the commodity  
infuriated by the light sum

of man—common coasters  
unprofitable fowlers  
armigerous families forsooth

more calibrated than colored  
beyond yon weari hand  
vast forces variously at war

saints deep in their ecstasies  
wrassle to extricate  
thousands of fencible goods

outward piety & inward purity  
subdivided ad infinitum  
like some kind of wild scripture

## **Baba O'Riley**

tangled up in foreign hands  
disband—this back into our living

unforgiven (loth themself to blame  
crepuscular mind for mercy

shiver to hilt the proper way  
riven—sway onward cross land

yonder view open plain to gain  
unredeemed—stand to be bleed

mount again a stronger steed bare  
check the rein—reign in

(apostolic in their own vile faith  
beckoning—might well forbear

who thundering comes round  
to scathe by brunt—the weight of it

advancing along the rocks  
let us flee the face of this trembling

## Steel Laying Holler

awright now—bow down  
they doin you a hoss

diminished resistance  
sleeping on byways

in anny kase a gelding  
—full liberty quoth

examine the work flow  
observe local custom

polarized patterns of use  
—magnetic metals

anything but accidents  
manage narrow lanes

& who to lick our sores  
this sack full of spurs

tractors bought at cost  
—eviscerated colts

measured in horsepower  
—graze on nostalgia

trace sweet muzzle & bit  
headless trade winds

picking the rodeo clean  
buck—gallop & break

traverse the course—see  
no deviation from the mean

## Author Info

Richard Owens is the author of *Delaware Memoranda* (BlazeVOX 2008) and *Embankments* (Interbirth 2009). He is currently completing a PhD in the Poetics Program at the University at Buffalo where he edits Punch Press and *Damn the Caesars*, a journal of contemporary poetry and poetics.

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