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Circleville, Ohio

*The great proper names used in America must commemorate
things belonging to America —Walt Whitman*

A circle

A mis-directed act
of homage

or a whim
a land promoter's fancy. We wish
to say Speak
collective memory. Speak.
Look with the tribal eye.

I, I. Aye! Aye! An endless round.
To believe the best and be all
ways disappointed
annointed with duplicity. I want to say
ecce homo
and present to you a figure
of a man at peace
with himself in a square
in a circle
a figure from Leonardo
instead I say behold that man
who so pleasantly allows
his tongue to be stung
by a frenzy of hornets.

They
“...placed the 8-sided courthouse in the center.”
Was this prescient?
That we now find ourselves

trapped
trapped in a lack
all roads lead to legalism
now (and Boone's ironic laughter
a legacy, cheated out of every acre
dead on his son-in-law's land). A circle

it comes to this it comes from this to this

Circleville

“The county seat of Pickaway county, takes its name
from the imposing earthworks which occupied the ground

on which the town is built.”
Earthwork means Indian mound. What do we mean?

circle / Circe
a pig-sty
It should be so easy!

2 dots for breasts.
a circle.
bellybutton.
an empty head.
circle.
a sun sign.
measurer.
a moon.
luna luna
a woman a measure.

It becomes a pleasant game of words and all the while
the earth erodes from a man's greed pressing itself
out of space and time.

“The blank left by words wanted but unspoiled,
has sometimes an unnameably putrid cadaverous
meaning. It talks louder than torques.” — Walt Whitman

The trails led here. At one time. At many times.
“The Circleville works comprised a square enclosure
connected with a circular one by means of parallel
walls. The circular work was unique in comprising
two concentric circles separated by a moat. The
diameter of the circle was one thousand feet and the
side of the square nine hundred feet. Although this
important group is now mostly obliterated portions
of it are still pointed out to visitors....”

From where the whiteman would build more towns
North from Portsmouth up the Scioto
South from Delaware and Columbus down the Olentangy
From Mingo Town down the Darby
From the west through Pickawillany on the Miami and Urbana
East along the Tuscarawas from Gosh-gosh-ing and across the
Licking and across the Hocking
and from across the Ohio up the Muskingum
and arcing through Lancaster
and South from Gallipolis

all to Circleville
spokes to a wheel
a vortex and a void
possessing us
North of Chillicothe the great mound center