

CROWN
AND
BRIM

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CROWN AND BRIM



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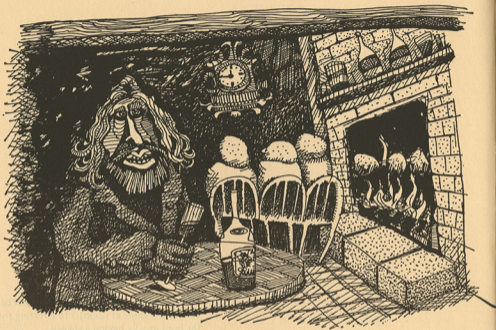


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AND
BRIM

*to David:
Provider of Opportunity*



hat /'hæt/ *n* [ME, fr. OE *baet*; akin to OHG *buot* head covering – more at HOOD] 1: a covering for the head usually having a shaped crown and brim.



CROWN AND BRIM



I approached the Inn with caution,
Foreign odors infiltrated my nose;
Xenophobia stained my decision,
Camembert stained some of my clothes.



The room was dimly lit and crowded,
With a din that served for posts;
Burl'd oak beams butted brick walls,
The fireplace gagg'd on roasts.



One round wooden table was vacant,
So I adhered myself to its chair;
"Qu'est ce que tu veux?" fell upon me,
For a second I felt like Voltaire.



Bottles of wine began collecting,
Like air to a vacuum-packed hole;
I munched on chunks of cheese and bread,
Onion soup watched from its bowl.



quid vides magis ante te sicut
color ludusq; amicus et of the
found him ready to submit to
faint of great indignation



Champagne moistened my rented beard,
White sauce became friends with my pants;
The clinking of glasses and dishes with forks
Molded the acoustic mesh of my trance.

When the waiter brought on the cognac,
I was drawing on my plate with a spoon;
He said it looked like a Picasso,
I was hardly in a mood to impugn.



The patrons together began singing,
As past the bar I meandered to the door;
It was then that I vaguely envisioned,
I had left my hat on the floor.



I searched around beneath my table,
Gained no more than crumbs and shoe views;
I gave up the search for departure,
What else did I have to lose?



 **COLOPHON** 

THIS YEAR, FEBRUARY was freakishly warm. **CROWN AND BRIM** grew from our thawed minds; minds usually dormant this time of year. C&B was warmly printed on Classic Laid paper using 12pt. Binny-21 and Garamond type. A tip of the hat to Tony for his fine poem and artwork --- a welcome subject for my second private press book; this one being copy number 21 of 50. 