

babel

(... sited in flanders) – so determine the others: “like all, that the langenscheidt ltd. does proffer, is the universal poem babel also most reasonably informed deemed. multi high esteem!” (the language and the damage done; cambridge) or else: “substantial contents with obscure structure render wonder pure.” (encrypted text; budapest); - still:

“who dares speak so of script, must indeed deliver it” (the new sceptic; maastricht) – do i detect an undertone there? honestly spoken i hear it crystal clear! thus please listener, take caution, when it bombards the tympanum – in twenty-three tongues. for some that goes too fast, comes over too brash – therefore one tiny interjection to check: verstaat u mij?

ja, als u niet te vlug spreekt! be costive, set to scribe: babel is lovely, home of wildest syntax, lo perpetual pentecost. here 'tis thus that one first perceives liberty and peu à peu desecrates the eucharist. this occurred where? in leopold zoo. so: one squandered noun (“toucan”) to orang-utan. kodak fixes false teeth here for free, wow. that's pretty much it. yet

morphemes hover menacingly over the squares. not little festers. a family from riga imbibe their beer near a belgian doorstep. crimean gothic hangs in the air. transylvanian saxon in the back zone. a trick? it's eclectic – even: babel aims, god's syntax to change. all at random. the people in babel with voice boxes cocked. tattoos in ugric, gaelic, in runic. i have, for instance

“schengen rules okay” plastered 'cross my chest. that was subsidised in those days. and directly under my knee a topographic map of wallony. proportion is the word, babel the navel, and what has been won is uniquely spun. then rest assured: deep under the zenne dwells the eel, on the fringe the frog - “they shall snatch everything back, swallowing those tongues and then?” (spectacular withdraw; warsaw).

ulf stolterfoht

translated to english by jodie hruby