

Lir at Sea and Ashore

—In memory of K.H.C.

Thomas Bonner, Jr.

Morse code and radios
file folders and ledgers
high seas and horizons
intersect on his calls
as Lir brings orders
to tug boats at their docks
on the Mississippi.
Deck hands drop down ladders
as he leaves the "com shack"
aboard his destroyer
racing through rolling waves.
A tug's hand takes the box
carried from his warehouse
as once a ship's captain
received signals from him.
On the cold Atlantic
now by the warm river
his muse still waits for him.
He looks across the bow—
sees her through rising mist
as seagulls swirl skyward.

Thomas Bonner, Jr. , Professor Emeritus at Xavier University of Louisiana, served twice as Distinguished Visiting Professor at the United States Air Force Academy. His most recent book is *Parterre: New and Collected Poetry and Prose*. In 2018 he co-edited *Celebrating Jesmyn Ward: Critical Readings and Scholarly Responses for Xavier Review*.