



William Beyer

Old Sailor: Canary
Islands

Rising at dawn,
opening a large east window,
he looks toward the vast
moving table
of an azure sea.

In a familiar rocking chair,
over a first cup
of strong Spanish coffee,
he remembers being young,
visualizes great cities
of the world,
recalls high
white masts
beating against the wind,
huge clouds,
nervous sounds
of hungry gulls;
the constant lure
of the open sea.

On his dark face,
through morning window,
the touch
of a hot wind
from Africa.

William Beyer lives in Belvidere, Illinois.