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SHEILA PETERS

birthday decorations

there are still few enough
 that i am enchanted by my own grey hair
 each seems as exotic
 as my childhood mother's
 high heels
 or lipstick
 i twitch them out as if they were
 birthday decorations
 bright steamers from yesterday's party

the first i remember
 a vagrant on my shoulder
 "whose could this be?" i asked out loud
 lifting it
 looking around for the culprit

my hair is long
 there was ample time to form this question
 before i felt the sharp tug on my scalp

Sheila Peters's poetry appears earlier in this volume.