

# Amputated Enigma

Cryptopsy

A silent forty-two years  
Nestled in the heart of Nova Scotia  
Marooned in Digby's Sandy Cove  
A legless man was found unconscious on the shore  
When he later awoke in the home of a local fisherman  
He obsessively muttered the same three words over and over again

The first was Jerome  
He repeated it so much so that it was decided it must be his name  
Colombo was the second  
Perhaps the name of the ship that abandoned him  
The mutiny he attempted to lead left him stranded

Cast off into the vast unknown  
After a ruthless Captain inflicted his harsh naval judgment  
By hacking off both of his legs just above the knee

The final word was Trieste  
Was this the land that he dreamed of  
As he screamed and moaned throughout his nights  
Conceivably it was visions of loved ones severed and distorted  
That motivated him to remain mute

Apart from these three words the man was soundless  
He moved slowly during his enduring years  
By scuffling forward on his hands and stumps

Canada's first melancholic welfare recipient  
Died on April 12th 1912

Broken fragments of his past have emerged  
But the truth was never unveiled  
A stone marker is all that's left now  
As a memory of this nation's amputated enigma