

## POETRY

### The New Dolphins

A smaller, lighter breed  
and almost as intelligent,  
they live close to shore  
walking on long legs  
with webbed feet,  
a curious amphibious animal  
whose skin is made of rubber  
smooth and black

except for a silver dorsal fin  
with anthropoid fingers,  
while an oval glassy eye  
extends from ear to ear  
somewhere below the head,  
and a long nose  
protrudes from the mouth  
sideways and upwards.

Awkward on land, they move  
with agility and grace in water  
propelled  
by five radial appendages,  
their blowholes  
bubbling the surface  
as they dive lower and lower  
guided by signals.

New dolphins in old oceans  
they feed on all sorts  
of strange fare: fish, shells,  
shipwrecked treasures...  
all are stored in a pouch  
outside the stomach  
to be absorbed and digested  
later in dry light.

Born to a late history  
they may be able to survive  
the fate of extinction  
since they do not breathe  
the noxious air or drink  
the polluted water.  
A new specie, they seem best fit  
for natural selection.

*Elizabeth Bartlett*