

Inscribed Thoughts, 1993-94
by Dudley Duncan

18 Feb. 1993: I'm interested in questions for which "not really" is a better answer than "no."

20 Feb. 1993: The day after you discard something because it is out of date, it begins to have historical value.

9 Mar. 1993: We accumulate knowledge rather by subtracting error than by adding truth.

9 Mar. 1993: Poetry is about the part that matters.

27 Mar. 1993: I need a path to follow, but the least-traveled one, if you please!

5 May: 1993: Facts are answers to questions no one asked.

25 May 1993: Two numbers are enough to make a story.

6 June 1993: If you want to walk straight, take only one step.

10-21 June 1993: One of those few experiences that make me glad I took the trouble to live this long.

23 June 1993: The next year of your life is a larger fraction of your life remaining than was the previous year. (True, False?)

23 June 1993: I don't write down a sentence because I believe it is true; I write so that I can decide whether to believe it. Maybe I believe the one just above, but perhaps not this one.

23 June 1993: Telling a story to a born story-teller is a losing proposition.

6 July 1993: Many things benign in small quantities are fatal in large -- take me, for example.

8 Aug 1993: The prisoner quickly learns all details of the cracks in the floor of his cage.

8 Sept 1993: A life has meaning as a fraction of time. As a fraction of infinity ---... none.

10 Sept. 1993: ASTROLOGY – As if the stars could care!

12 Sept. 1993: Borges's father taught him that what we recall are our memories of events, not the events.

16 Sept. 1993: If there's no reason to change it, don't change it. If there's no reason not to change it, change it. Discuss. Discuss? If there's no reason to discuss it

19 Nov. 1993: She said, "There's a world of difference . . . " to which I could only add, ". . . of sameness, too."

19 Nov. 1993: You know you're old when there's no future, but only a lingering present.

29 Jan. 1994: The hardest question to answer: What would it take to make you change your mind?

31 Jan. 1994: How long do you have to profess an article of faith before it becomes the truth?

13 Feb. 1994: Concrete poetry is full of optical allusions.

22 Feb. 1994: If the old man wishes he were young again, there are but two explanations: he has forgotten what it was like, or he knows the wish will not be granted.

30 Mar. 1994: What you know here gets you nowhere hereafter.

7 Apr. 1994: All it takes is a little more history to prove you were wrong – whatever you claimed before.

12 Apr. 1994: Whether they call it suicide depends on how long it takes you to take your life.

9 June 1994: Every exit is an entrance.