



Christopher Bernard

Between Two Cups of Time

During the late nineteenth century, when I was young,
crinoline and albatross took wing,
a captain's pipe made jokes with a frock coat,
and Pince-nez paraded proudly in his yellow waistcoat.
Schooners warmed politely to locomotives,
wellingtons deferred to pinafores in a tub.
Bustles bustled. A whalebone muslin fling
waltzed between two parasols, two hats,
twenty garrisoned shakos, a palette, and a warm cravatte.

I would walk down dreaming boulevards,
a dancer in my stunned and frail bouquet,
my mouth a half-dead tea rose, all my eyes
staring over whitened canvas seas
at clouds of flaming butterflies, the coming century.

Christopher Bernard is author of the novel *A Spy in the Ruins* and *The Rose Shipwreck: Poems and Photographs*. He is co-editor of *Caveat Lector*.

Image: "Nantasy Fantasy Victorian Style Pince-Nez Eyeglasses Miniatures for Dollhouse" (eBay).