

1935 "The present situation in quantum mechanics" in *Naturwissenschaften*, 23, pp. 823-828.

All reading shall be fully warranted or deregulated by fair use laws. A friend of mine, Tom Newlin, is an amateur farmer and professor of Russian. In 2001, he wrote a book on the Russian graphomaniac Andrei [Timofeevich] Bolotov who is best known for writing three books in a single 24-hour sitting, for writing the equivalent of 350 volumes of mostly unpublished work during his lifetime, and for writing an individual poem to every plant in his garden and when he ran out of plants, every non-plant in his house. Over the course of his life, he wrote "To Thee, O Grass Settee," a sonnet to Bolotov's favorite sod sofa (he had three), and "Verses to the Stand for my Pocket Watch." My friend Tom is actually the opposite of Bolotov. For Tom, getting two or three words down can take a week and so Tom is actually a reader of an altogether more diffident and cumbersome sort: he is the opposite of a graphomaniac, i.e., he is a very very slow serial reader. One might say his reading practices are highly residual, as if everything he was reading were a code or compressed object. To understand something he has to read it two or three times over the course of many months. Sometimes a reading, which is really the rehearsal for a reading, can transpire over years. Tom says he picked up this practice in childhood when he lived in a part of Philadelphia called Secane (pronounced SEE-CANE) and grew up on what was basically a farm enclosed by suburbs: 16 acres of dilapidated farm and unused pasture, with a number of animals, mainly cats, that were old and blind and incontinent. Because books were scarce and the cats would run in and out of the rooms with birds in their mouths, Tom would read books over and over again. It is a very beautiful experience when you read and read and read and read a book so slowly and methodically and recursively that all you do is keep waiting for something to repeat like a plant or an animal that comes into the room you are reading in. But of course a book never does come in like that, in the same way that your childhood never repeats childhood until you become an adult. As any child can tell you, you should never have to put down a book to read it. Everyone loves to see a plant become another plant or an animal become another animal. Nothing is slower or lovelier than a book that knows how to reproduce.