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Karl May, et al.

Holly Case

Consider Karl of Ernstthal

A. k.a. Kara Ben Nemsi

Who'd never been

To Ottoman Turkey

And only posthumously

Bore the Wild West

Clear to South Dakota

Where a Shatterhand

Would as soon kick aside

As make a sidekick

Of a Lakota (Sioux)

Or of a Winnetou

And the day is not saved

To be savoured

By a Hitler

Who eats whole countries

For breakfast, or dinner

Or Jause

Like Yugoslavia

In whose canyons the Germans and partisans

Made a war playing cowboys and Indians

(As a 35 millimeter

And a 50 caliber

Clicked away)

Inspired by the self-same

Karl Friedrich May

And in the time of May

Personalities multiplied

Each with a name,

But the sickness they

Collectively implied

Had no name at all

Until later, D.I.D.,

In the tamed West
Where to be
Many people
Is unnatural
And where the danger of losing yourself
Or being lost by another
Quite real

In fact,
We do it
All the time

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