

## Two Poems · *Michael Heffernan*

### ANGELOLOGY

When Robert Grosseteste comments on the angels  
and whether more than one might coexist  
in the same place or body, he seems to think  
such fine points are important because they test  
the seriousness of our preoccupations,  
in this case with the business of the spirit,  
of spirits generally, and the spirit of God.  
The main idea posits medial forms  
between God and ourselves, and furthermore  
appropriates the model of the soul  
as mover of the body, coextensive  
as the body and the soul appear to be,  
supposing here the soul's reality,  
which was hard to question in the 13th century,  
though equally impossible to prove,  
yet Robert argues the relationship  
of angels to material elements  
as casually as a man walking his dog,  
showing us angels everywhere at once,  
numberless angels all over the place  
impinging on this world from the other world,  
as the eye receives a vision of bare trees  
mantled with mist, or the nostrils catch the savor  
of a loved woman's delectable inner thigh  
from mounds of mown grass in a stranger's yard.