

# Free!

---

Volume 1  
Number 2 *Free!*

Article 10

---

5-1973

## Photograph [car]

John Seddon  
*University of Northern Iowa*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/free>

 Part of the [Art and Design Commons](#), [Fiction Commons](#), [Literature in English, North America Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

*Let us know how access to this document benefits you*

Copyright ©1973 Student Board of Publications, University of Northern Iowa

---

### Recommended Citation

Seddon, John (1973) "Photograph [car]," *Free!*: Vol. 1: No. 2, Article 10.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/free/vol1/iss2/10>

This Art is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Publications at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Free! by an authorized editor of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uni.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uni.edu).

**Offensive Materials Statement:** Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.



## The Transcript Incident

by Roy Behrens

Carl has left for the shop, and I am to entertain. I make quick sketches of Old Masters' drawings on the front of index cards; I use the blue lines as guides instead of drawing squares. I have marked my file box OM in green letters with serifs and a line which looks spontaneous. Tomorrow I'll check the mail.

I have a B.A. in physics, but the dog has pissed on my transcripts. It is Carl's dog, and when he goes to the shop, it follows. The dog piss is disconcerting, but the incident did not make me angry. I am always trying to temper my emotions with reason, and I took it as an opportunity: I reasoned that the animal had been trained to go on paper, that the transcripts did indeed consist of paper, and that Carl had not taught the dog to distinguish one kind of paper from another. Further, the stain is only on one page of the transcripts and when they are photocopied, it does not show very much. Even if it did, it is not a bad design, though a design by nature as I realize. Since then, I have in fact viewed the stain with some interest, and in a manner not so different from the way that Leonardo viewed the stains on damp walls (so I am told), or as one might look at an inkblot. I sometimes smile now and refer to the dog as "Rohrschach." Carl calls it "Bob", and when he goes to the shop, it follows. Carl has already left for the shop this morning, and so has the dog, leaving me to entertain.

The dog's bed is stored in the kitchen, about three feet from the sink and just a bit left of the stove. It is probably not the best place, because if we eat anything at night,

the dog is bothered. It is especially bothered by the refrigerator light and the garbage disposal, and we have thought of moving it. It would probably be better to place it somewhere else where the dog would not be bothered at night. I have thought about this quite a bit, and on many occasions it has kept me from eating at night.

Also, I have tried to make the dog a bit happier in other ways, and it was with this in mind that I hung the drawing of Albrecht Durer's rabbit above the dog. It was my thought that dogs liked rabbits, and that perhaps the dog would like the drawing. Carl does not think so, and he has said so many times and in very subtle ways. I clearly remember one such instance which was not so subtle when Carl and I were discussing the characteristics of dogs in general. I remarked that Bob (I call the dog "Bob" when I am talking to Carl) had a tendency to circle in his bed before retiring in the evening. Carl quickly questioned whether this was a characteristic of all dogs, and then went on to say that this may be the result of some nervousness which the drawing of the rabbit had caused in Bob. I knew then that this was a point of some disagreement between Carl and I, and I reasoned that either he did not like the drawing of the rabbit, or perhaps there was some jealousy on his part about the dog. Nevertheless, I have left the drawing there for two reasons—first, I have often observed the dog looking at the drawing of the rabbit, and its reaction (I think) appears to be one of contentment and pleasure