

# We Must Be Carefully Taut

*by* Bill Yarrow

Courage. Coraje! There's nothing behind  
Puerto Numero Tres. Pay no attention  
to the cabeza in the transom. In the dread  
of night, navigate by the sliver moon, pero  
cuidado: no road leads to magnetic north.

Do you remember, amigo, how to give change  
for a dollar? Six nickels and seven dimes.  
Three quarters, two dimes, and one nickel.  
Sixteen buffalo nickels and two liberty dimes.

Or a boxful of slugs and a pair of brass  
knuckles; a leather sap, a gravity knife,  
and mercury gloves. El mundo es un lugar  
peligroso, the earth is a fearful domain.  
Remember, gringo, you used to live there.

