

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.

