

Counting (1,2,3,4...100...1000...1000000)

## Calico



Moo moo

By

**T**homas

**B**ogner

**WHY I LIKE IT:** *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...How could you not love a man who knows every other word there is for piebald. Just when you thought the male of the species had no redeeming qualities. You've just got to read Thomas Bogner's 'Collecting Calico Cows' He'll restore your faith in all things variegated, "I then start to count the vast tortoiseshell herd, / Mottled and dappled, multicolored assured." An ode to ochre, a sonnet in sepia--starbursts of earthtones--a triumph of neutrality.*

### Counting Calico Cows

The sweat, it drips steadily over my brow,  
Looking out the window at calico cows.

An old rock medley on the radio plays;  
A piebald collection from prior young days.  
I then start to count the vast tortoiseshell herd,  
Mottled and dappled, multicolored assured.  
Variegated hues of orange, brown, white;  
A patchwork of color, right here in my sight.  
Grazing on clover, fresh-cut hay and green grass,  
Varicolored also; the color scheme crass.  
On this I contemplate, not saying a word,  
Mesmerized am I by the calico herd.

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *The inspiration for my poem, Counting Calico Cows, comes from living in the agricultural states of Illinois and Nebraska, where cows are basically part of the landscape. Growing up, our neighbors had a field with cows that abutted our backyard. We kids would occasionally pet the cows and hand feed them clover.*

*My influences were poetic greats such as Tennyson, Kipling, Poe, Nash, and Wordsworth, among others. I consider myself a slave to meter and rhyme, as I find writing in this style really taxes the mind. Trying to have all lines with the same number of syllables and yet perfect rhyme (if possible) is quite a challenge, and fulfilling when everything comes out well.*

*I believe that poetry is important, as it can be quite entertaining, and helps develop the use of the mind to visualize what the poet is trying to convey. Although free verse is not my “cup of tea” so to say, I recently read the poetry book, “The Faith of Fragile Things” authored by Kevin Shyne (Kelsay Books, 2022), and realized after reading it that free verse, if applied correctly, can bring images and feelings to mind possibly better than the traditional style that I currently prefer.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Tom Bogner is from Henry, Illinois, an Illinois river town with the motto, “Best Town in Illinois by a Dam Site”. He is a retired veteran, having spent twenty years in the Air Force/Air National Guard, and also is a retired Industrial Technology instructor. He currently is the sexton/caretaker of four cemeteries, and spends his spare time playing racket sports, gardening, reading and writing.