

DEGENERATE
ART

Poetry

GROTTO

*(follies; flute
and fan)*

by Anne Rouse

An outsized conch-shell blown
by wealth, by history's men,

it glistens with a light cargo
washed up from planetary distances

---abalone, flute and fan, king crab---
to the city wharves, and set in mortar

on the great estate by local girls
who were nameless even then,

and whose mosaic lines converge,
unbroken mother-of-pearl,

a giver's cup, forever running over.

Anne Rouse lives in East Sussex, England.

The Upshot: New and Selected Poems was a Times Literary Supplement Book of the Year in 2008. Her next collection, *Ox-Eye*, will be published by Bloodaxe in the spring of 2022.

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