

A Notebook Sketchbook 6.1 Jan Feb 2011

The famous paperless office isn't,
and stationery shops have become
mini computer stores with
a few school notebooks and crayons.
Apologies for what they once were.

I wanted a good notebook
to write in with my fountain pen,
without the ink bleeding through
and ghosting on the other side
or staining paper veins around letters.

Not for ballpoint or roller ball,
or gel or felt or any other such,
but for a pen, ink and gold nib.
One of writing's pleasures,
a once modern replacement
for an iron nib and an inkwell.

I found a foolscap, graph-ruled,
black-boarded note book. The only one
with polished paper for writing,
for writing over and under and polishing.
for crossing out, writing above and correcting.

It had black covers and a spiral,
not bound. But that's
a small concession to make
for paper and pen and nib,
and ink that does not bleed,
through one side of life to another.

Previously published in ***Speed Poets*** April 2010