

ANTHONY MOORE

Transactional Fluctuations 2

“Reflections on Sound”

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This being the second part of a collection of quotations and reflections bundled towards something like an encyclopaedia of sound, a short explication might be called for. The interruption of Transactional Fluctuations 1 (TF1) was, by design, sudden to say the least—“to be continued...” is written there. For those readers alighting on these pages first, and thus to some extent unforewarned, here then is the similarly abrupt, mid-chapter restart. In addition, there is a singular device employed throughout the entire oeuvre. Those passages (including this one) interjacent with the citations, are conceived as transcriptions of a ‘heard voice’. This thinking-out-loud is rendered in italics, adjudged to better give the impression of sounding speech. Contrarily, the actual quotations compiled into this fragmentary genealogy of sound appear in normal script! The quotes are numbered with corresponding sources listed at the end of the text.

Alphabets and Tape Recorders (continued)

It turns out that the reading of the Greek alphabet as a tape recorder, with its unique introduction of signs for vowels among its unbroken ribbon of characters, has arisen more than once. The conceit came to mind in July 2003 and was imagined, unthinkingly, to be original. It is included at the end of TF1 and evidently gives rise to the title of this very chapter. Recently, however, the selfsame metaphor leapt out from the pages of a book published some years earlier in 1967.

(1a) “In other words, our classical texts were never intended by their authors to be read only by the eye and brain like algebraical formulae or Chinese ideograms. Written words were more like memory-aids to remind readers of certain sounds. As Quintilian puts it: “The use of letters is to preserve vocal sounds and to return them to readers as