

## HOLLYHOCKS PAS DE DEUX

I

Can I send you some hollyhock seeds?  
If they grow this year, you can think of me  
They might return biannually,  
so now and then you can think of me

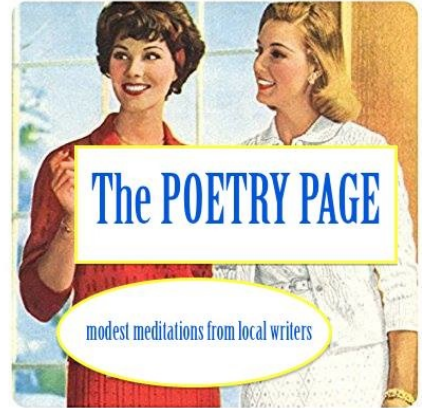
They grow on a stalk several feet high  
They need little care but some shelter nearby  
Near a wall, or a fence away from the wind  
Good in the background and otherwise shy

Can I send you my hollyhock seeds?  
Maybe a place in your garden has a particular need  
A spot that is sunny six hours a day  
For a bloom that will mark my passing your way

- Steven Levin



photo: S. L.



II

I am beginning to start my seeds indoors.  
I planted the hollyhocks first,  
A mixture of yours and mine.  
One type tall,  
one type dwarf.  
Can't wait to see them sprout  
to leaf  
to bloom  
their colors in the Alaskan sun  
bridging the miles between us.

- Leah Aronow-Brown