
Pro Rege

Volume 27
Number 2 Arts Issue 1998

Article 9

December 1998

Treasures I Should Not Have

Lorna Van Gilst
Dordt College

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Van Gilst, Lorna (1998) "Treasures I Should Not Have," *Pro Rege*: Vol. 27:
No. 2, 11.
Available at: https://digitalcollections.dordt.edu/pro_rege/vol27/iss2/9

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the University Publications at Digital Collections @ Dordt. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pro Rege by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Dordt. For more information, please contact ingrid.mulder@dordt.edu.

Treasures I Should Not Have

Lorna Van Gilst

The black hand-painted tray
splashed with brilliant Ural Mountain reds,
Rests now on the ledge against my kitchen wall—
not in the tiny kitchen in Ukraine
where we ate bliny and strawberry jam.

The wedding photo in my memory book
shows not my parents in their sacred pose,
but wide-eyed Nina and stern Alexander,
binding their two lives.

The tinkling, round-based plastic doll,
wobbling in a gentle musical roll,
Snatched quickly from Karina's office desk—
pressed firmly into my unwilling hands—
Oh, yes, you must—it is a gift.

A plastic heart-shaped keychain inscribed
with a dark-eyed child's full, round face
kept in her mother's pocket
Until the child found the need to give away
some part of herself.

A polished stone, red-marbled,
a tiny smooth half-dome,
from Angelica's great granny's ring
Slipped gently from an angel's hand to mine—

Offered in love—
Taken in guilt—
Kept in the grace
of no returns.