Palindrome-Sestina
for Arnaud Daniel

Anthony Etherin
...In which the 12th century Occitan troubadour (and inventor of the sestina) becomes lost one misty evening....
Go from face tales or deeds. Drab, stir a fog.
Part aria in owned esteem, raw dew.
Pure Venus, we desire to morph, self-trap.
Go, fall or edit, mid some maestros, won.
Part pun-war, Daniel fits demand, net up.
‘Push to me,’ he began. ‘I part, lutes’ bard....’

Drab riser! Occitan, a fate spins, bard,
no web. Loops tier. I fret familiar fog.
We don’t age by art’s names. Pale strider, up!
We dome, gel cyclic nets, erupt far dew.
Drab tenet, met in Italy, be won.
Partite mist—lover-set, is six a trap?
Go from rot, sad ellipse! Do peek a trap.
I put it far: Can its esteem, damned hard,
now sun one poet-age—sum, axis won?
No wiser, act. Nail prose born in a fog.
Go, frosts! I'm met in opuses or dew.
Drab atlas, misery... Lo! Sails, all up.

We drone, peruse. Soon, late pariahs, up,
part one dirt sadness—send a stride no trap.
Push air, a petal noose, sure pen or dew.
Pull alias: O, tyrers! I'm salt, a hard.
Wed roses upon item, mists or fog:
Go, fan in robes, or pfiant cares I won....
Now, six a muse, gate open, onus won, drab, ‘den-mad’, meet sestina—craft it up. I partake—epode spilled a storm or fog. Part axis, sites, revolts I met, I trap. No, we, by Latin, item tenet, bard. We draft pure stencil, cycle gem. O, dew!

Pure dirts elapse. Man, stray, begat no dew. Go frail: I'm after fire, its pool. Be won, drab snap! Set a fanatic core, Sir Bard! Drab, set ‘ultra’, pin age, behemoths up. Put end-named stifle in a drawn-up trap. Now, sort sea-memos. Dim tide, roll a fog...

Part flesh, promote: Rise, dew! Sun, ever up! Wed, war meets Eden, Won, I air a trap. Go far: Its bard's deed rose late calm or fog...
Calligraphic flourishes by Clara Daneri.

Cover linocut by Clara Daneri, after a detail from *Recueil des poésies des troubadours, contenant leurs vies* (via Bibliothèque nationale de France).

Anthony Etherin is a UK-based writer of experimental poetry, prose, and music. His poems have been published by No Press, Spacecraft Press, and The Account Magazine, among others. He has several e-books available online. Find him on twitter, @AnthonyEtherin, and via his website, songsofinversion.com.