

WHAT XENOLOGISTS READ

Semiotics, linguistics,
biology, epistemology.

Transcribed transmissions
accidental or intentional—

messages sent by radio wave
across an interstellar gulf.

Pleas from friends, family,
therapists to stop forthwith

this futile esoteric crusade
to decode the inscrutable:

what sense in understanding
those we will never meet?

Erratic communications
from human colleagues

likewise discombobulated
by the oracular epiphany

of decrypting alien words,
the euphoria of revelation.

—Mary Soon Lee

