The Business of Poetry

The Poet doesn’t write poems.

The poet shakes hands at local readings.
The poet stays in the poet-loop
for fear other poets will forget about her.

The poet sends out work.
The poet self-addresses envelopes and
discovers new literary websites.

The poet’s budget is small, so the poet writes for
newspapers for extra cash. The poet writes
about poetry.

The poet writes thank you letters and cover letters;
the poet takes workshops.

If an out-of-state poet is coming, the poet
cancels her plans—
for won’t those other poets be there, with
their business cards and
offers to share wine?

The poet enters poetry contests
so she can add the word recipient
to her bio.
The poet’s last poem was one year ago.