

***SPANISH FLU,  
A PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS***

*You have made us offscouring of the nations.  
Lamentations 3:45*

If this is to be a prayer  
asking forgiveness  
for misnaming a pandemic  
during the Great War,  
it is flawed from its first word  
by our acute insincerity  
as well as our readiness  
to recommit the sin  
of placing blame  
anywhere else but here.  
Better to identify the origin  
of this appalling scourge  
as a backwards nation  
lax about washing hands,  
than to admit it might have  
started in Kansas.