

I was lent a manual (which I quite gladly took),
Though now I am ambivalent: I like the vexing book.
It's full of lovely tricks: the sort of mental acrobatics
that constitutes discrete (i.e. my favourite) mathematics.

“A graph,” I read, “is but a set of vertices and edges
and can be used to model many things,” the book alleges.
“We'll designate the set of edges by the letter E ;
by V the set of vertices we find in our graph, G .”

“We say G has an *Euler trail* if you can trace a line
that visits every edge in E just once,” the book defines.
I read a while; fear not, I'll not list everything I learn.
The difficulty rises, though, with every page I turn.

Then, suddenly I stumble on the phrase that should be banned—
The phrase that only follows things that I don't understand.
I read that fateful line and set the book down, feeling bitter.
“The proof,” it says, “we will omit; we leave it to the reader.”