

The sheets of toilet paper on which Pound wrote the revised opening of *The Pisan Cantos*

EZRA POUND THE PISAN CANTOS

EDITED AND ANNOTATED
WITH AN INTRODUCTION
BY RICHARD SIEBURTH



A NEW DIRECTIONS BOOK

POETRY

E Z R A P O U N D THE P I S A N C A N T O S

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Ezra Pound's *The Pisan Cantos* were written in 1945, while the poet was being held in an American military detention center near Pisa, Italy, as a result of his pro-Fascist wartime broadcasts to America on Radio Rome. Imprisoned for some weeks in a wire cage open to the elements, Pound suffered a nervous collapse from the physical and emotional strain. Out of the agony of his own inferno came the eleven cantos that became the sixth book of his modernist epic, *The Cantos*, itself conceived as a *Divine Comedy* for our time.

The Pisan Cantos were published in 1948 by New Directions and in the following year won the Bollingen Prize for poetry, awarded by the Library of Congress. The honor came amid violent controversy, for the dark cloud of treason still hung over Pound, now incarcerated in Washington's St. Elizabeths Federal Hospital for the Insane. Yet there is no doubt that *The Pisan Cantos* display some of the finest and most affecting writing in his long poem, marking an elegaic turn to the personal while synthesizing the philosophical, economic, and political themes of his previous cantos. They are now available for the first time as a separate paperback, in this fully annotated edition prepared by Richard Sieburth, who also contributes a thoroughgoing introduction, making Pound's masterwork fully accessible at last to students and general readers.

Richard Sieburth, a prize-winning translator and authority on literary modernism, is a professor of comparative literature at New York University. He is the author of *Instigations: Ezra Pound and Remy de Gourmont* (Harvard, 1978) and also edited *A Walking Tour in Southern France: Ezra Pound Among the Troubadours* (New Directions, 1992). His translations include works by Hölderlin, Benjamin, Scholem, Scève, Nerval, Leiris, and Michaux.

"It is in *The Pisan Cantos* that we can approach Pound most closely as a person. He has had his turn of fortune and he is fearful of the future, but he isn't giving up. Birds perched on his telephone wires remind him of notes of music. He enjoys the humor of the prisoners and guards. The gods of Greece are with him in his dark hour."
—James Laughlin, *Pound As Wuz*

Cover photograph: Open cages at the Disciplinary Training Center near Pisa, where Pound was held (far left) in 1945, courtesy of Omar S. Pound; design by Sylvia Frezzolini Severance

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P I S A N C A N T O S

POUND, EZRA
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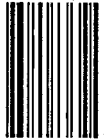
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LXXIV

THE enormous tragedy of the dream in the peasant's bent
 shoulders
 Manes! Manes was tanned and stuffed,
 Thus Ben and la Clara *a Milano*
 5 by the heels at Milano
 That maggots shd/ eat the dead bullock
 DIGONOS, Δίγονος, but the twice crucified
 where in history will you find it?
 yet say this to the Possum: a bang, not a whimper,
 10 with a bang not with a whimper,
 To build the city of Dioce whose terraces are the colour of stars.
 The suave eyes, quiet, not scornful,
 rain also is of the process.
 What you depart from is not the way
 15 and olive tree blown white in the wind
 washed in the Kiang and Han
 what whiteness will you add to this whiteness,
 what candor?
 " the great periplum brings in the stars to our shore."
 20 You who have passed the pillars and outward from Herakles
 when Lucifer fell in N. Carolina.
 if the suave air give way to scirocco
 ΟΥ ΤΙΣ, ΟΥ ΤΙΣ? Odysseus
 the name of my family.
 25 the wind also is of the process,
 sorella la luna
 Fear god and the stupidity of the populace,
 but a precise definition
 transmitted thus Sigismundo
 30 thus Duccio, thus Zuan Bellin, or trastevere with La Sposa
 Sponsa Cristi in mosaic till our time / deification of emperors

but a snotty barbarian ignorant of T'ang history need not deceive
one

nor Charlie Sung's money on loan from anonimo
that is, we suppose Charlie had some
and in India the rate down to 18 per hundred
but the local loan lice provided from imported bankers
so the total interest sweated out of the Indian farmers
rose in Churchillian grandeur
as when, and plus when, he returned to the putrid gold standard
as was about 1925 Oh my England
that free speech without free radio speech is as zero
and but one point needed for Stalin

you need not, i.e. need not take over the means of production;
money to signify work done, inside a system
and measured and wanted

" I have not done unnecessary manual labour "
says the R. C. chaplain's field book

(preparation before confession)

squawky as larks over the death cells
militarism progressing westward

im Westen nichts neues
and the Constitution in jeopardy
and that state of things not very new either

" of sapphire, for this stone giveth sleep "
not words whereto to be faithful
nor deeds that they be resolute
only that bird-hearted equity make timber
and lay hold of the earth

and Rouse found they spoke of Elias
in telling the tales of Odysseus

OY TIS

" I am noman, my name is noman "
but Wanjina is, shall we say, Ouan Jin
or the man with an education

OY TIS

First
mention
of finance
- the economic
- the state that
shall control
money

35

45

50

55

60

65

and whose mouth was removed by his father
because he made too many things

whereby cluttered the bushman's baggage
vide the expedition of Frobenius' pupils about 1938
to Auss'ralia

Ouan Jin spoke and thereby created the named
thereby making clutter

the bane of men moving
and so his mouth was removed
as you will find it removed in his pictures

in principio verbum
paraclete or the verbum perfectum: sinceritas
from the death cells in sight of Mt. Taishan @ Pisa
as Fujiyama at Gardone

when the cat walked the top bar of the railing
and the water was still on the West side
flowing toward the Villa Catullo
where with sound ever moving

in diminutive poluphloisboios
in the stillness outlasting all wars
" La Donna " said Nicoletti

" la donna,
la donna! "

" Cosa deve continuare? "
" Se casco " said Bianca Capello
" non casco in ginnocchion "
and with one day's reading a man may have the key in his hands

Lute of Gassir. Hooo Fasa
came a lion-coloured pup bringing fleas
and a bird with white markings, a stepper
under les six potences

Absouldre, que tous nous vueil absoudre
lay there Barabbas and two thieves lay beside him
infantile synthesis in Barabbas
minus Hemingway, minus Antheil, ebullient

70

75

80

85

90

95

100

and by name Thos. Wilson
 Mr K. said nothing foolish, the whole month nothing foolish:
 "if we weren't dumb, we wouldn't be here"

105 and the Lane gang.
 Butterflies, mint and Lesbia's sparrows,
 the voiceless with bumm drum and banners,
 and the ideogram of the guard roosts

el triste pensier si volge
 ad Ussel. A Ventadour

110 va il consire, el tempo rivolge
 and at Limoges the young salesman
 bowed with such french politeness "No that is impossible."
 I have forgotten which city

115 But the caverns are less enchanting to the unskilled explorer
 than the Urochs as shown on the postals,
 we will see those old roads again, question,
 possibly

but nothing appears much less likely,
 Mme Pujol,

120 and there was a smell of mint under the tent flaps
 especially after the rain

and a white ox on the road toward Pisa
 as if facing the tower,

125 dark sheep in the drill field and on wet days were clouds
 in the mountain as if under the guard roosts.

A lizard upheld me
 the wild birds wd not eat the white bread
 from Mt Taishan to the sunset

130 From Carrara stone to the tower
 and this day the air was made open

for Kuanon of all delights,
 Linus, Cletus, Clement

whose prayers,
 the great scarab is bowed at the altar

135 the green light gleams in his shell

plowed in the sacred field and unwound the silk worms early
 in tensile

in the light of light is the *virtù*
 "sunt lumina" said Erigena Scotus

顯

140 as of Shun on Mt Taishan
 and in the hall of the forebears
 as from the beginning of wonders
 the paraclete that was present in Yao, the precision

145 in Shun the compassionate
 in Yu the guider of waters

Round's Easternisms/References

4 giants at the 4 corners
 three young men at the door
 and they digged a ditch round about me
 lest the damp gnaw thru my bones
 150 to redeem Zion with justice
 sd/ Isaiah. Not out on interest said David rex
 the prime s.o.b.

Light tensile immaculata
 the sun's cord unspotted
 155 "sunt lumina" said the Oirishman to King Carolus,
 "OMNIA,

all things that are are lights"
 and they dug him up out of sepulture
 soi disantly looking for Manichaeans.

160 Les Albigeois, a problème of history,
 and the fleet at Salamis made with money lent by the state to the
 shipwrights

Tempus tacendi, tempus loquendi.
 Never inside the country to raise the standard of living
 but always abroad to increase the profits of usurers,

165 dixit Lenin,
 and gun sales lead to more gun sales
 they do not clutter the market for gunnery
 there is no saturation

Second
 instantation
 of Pound's
 Dronome
 Cheng

170 Pisa, in the 23rd year of the effort in sight of the tower
and Till was hung yesterday
for murder and rape with trimmings plus Cholkis
plus mythology, thought he was Zeus ram or another one

175 Hey Snag wots in the bibl?
wot are the books ov the bible?
Name 'em, don't bullshit ME.

莫 OY TIS

a man on whom the sun has gone down
the ewe, he said had such a pretty look in her eyes;
180 and the nymph of the Higoromo came to me,
as a corona of angels

one day were clouds banked on Taishan
or in glory of sunset
and tovarish blessed without aim

185 wept in the rainditch at evening
Sunt lumina
that the drama is wholly subjective
stone knowing the form which the carver imparts it
the stone knows the form

190 sia Cythera, sia Ixotta, sia in Santa Maria dei Miracoli
where Pietro Romano has fashioned the bases

Prose
copy
was
being

OY TIS
a man on whom the sun has gone down
nor shall diamond die in the avalanche
195 be it torn from its setting

first must destroy himself ere others destroy him.
4 times was the city rebuilt, Hooo Fasa

Gassir, Hooo Fasa dell' Italia tradita
now in the mind indestructible, Gassir, Hoooo Fasa,

200 With the four giants at the four corners
and four gates mid-wall Hooo Fasa
and a terrace the colour of stars
pale as the dawn cloud, la luna

thin as Demeter's hair
205 Hooo Fasa, and in a dance the renewal
with two larks in contrappunto
at sunset
ch'intenerisce

a sinistra la Torre
210 seen thru a pair of breeches.
Cbe sublia es laissa cader
between NEKUIA where are Alcmene and Tyro
and the Charybdis of action
to the solitude of Mt. Taishan

215 femina, femina, that wd/ not be dragged into paradise by the hair,
under the gray cliff in periplum
the sun dragging her stars
* a man on whom the sun has gone down
and the wind came as hamadryas under the sun-beat

220 Vai soli
are never alone

amid the slaves learning slavery
and the dull driven back toward the jungle
are never alone 'HAION IIEPI 'HAION

225 as the light sucks up vapor
and the tides follow Lucina
that had been a hard man in some ways
a day as a thousand years

230 as the leopard sat by his water dish;
hast killed the urochs and the bison sd/ Bunting
doing six months after that war was over
as pacifist tempted with chicken but declined to approve
of war "Redimiculum Metellorum"

235 to the shame of various critics
nevertheless the state can lend money
and the fleet that went out to Salamis
was built by state loan to the builders

3rd
Mentioning
of the
state - need
money/
Paisanica
- connect
lead to
State is
comment
on business
- hence why
people
critic
think
of Pound's
ambt
ambt

*Boelets.
The person came
in this process
times compared*

240 hence the attack on classical studies
and in this war were Joe Gould, Bunting and Cummings
as against thickness and fatness

black that die in captivity
night green of his pupil, as grape flesh and sea wave
undying luminous and translucent

Est consummatum, Ite;

surrounded by herds and by cohorts looked on Mt Taishan

250 but in Tangier I saw from dead straw ignition
From a snake bite
fire came to the straw
from the fakir blowing
foul straw and an arm-long snake
that bit the tongue of the fakir making small holes
and from the blood of the holes
came fire when he stuffed the straw into his mouth
255 dirty straw that he took from the roadway
first smoke and then the dull flame
that wd/ have been in the time of Rais Uli
when I rode out to Elson's
near the villa of Perdicaris
or four years before that
260 elemental he thought the souls of the children, if any,
but had rented a shelter for travelers
by foot from Siria, some of them
nor is it for nothing that the chrysalids mate in the air
265 color di luce
green splendour and as the sun thru pale fingers
Lordly men are to earth o'ergiven
these the companions:
Fordie that wrote of giants

*Points to keep in with, compare the breaking
the two to hold them together as possible
10 But it isn't working. The repetition of "ITS press"*

270 and William who dreamed of nobility
and Jim the comedian singing:
"Blarrney castle me darlin'
you're nothing now but a StOWne"
and Plarr talking of mathematics
or Jepson lover of jade
275 Maurie who wrote historical novels
and Newbolt who looked twice bathed
are to earth o'ergiven.

And this day the sun was clouded
280 —"You sit stiller" said Kokka
"if whenever you move something jangles."
and the old Marchesa remembered a reception in Petersburg
and Kokka thought there might be some society (good) left in
Spain, wd. he care to frequent it, my god, no!

285 opinion in 1924
Sirdar, Bouiller and Les Lilas,
or Dieudonné London, or Voisin's,
Uncle George stood like a statesman 'PEI IIANTA
fills up every hollow
290 the cake shops in the Nevsky, and Schöners
not to mention der Greif at Bolsano la patronne getting older
Mouquin's or Robert's 40 years after
and La Marquise de Pierre had never before met an American
"and all their generation"

*Reduced to
something -
his world the truly
coming agent -
has at the East
with the bourgeoisie
a distance*

295 no it is not in that chorus
Huddy going out and taller than anyone present
on sont les heures of that year (Fragmentate)
Mr James shielding himself with Mrs Hawkesby
as it were a bowl shielding itself with a walking stick
300 as he maneuvered his way toward the door
Said Mr Adams, of the education,
Teach? at Harvard?
Teach? It cannot be done.
and this I had from the monument

*(found is long
something -
sanity perhaps -
but let's say
the down it will
it to go.)*

The man is reduced to copying out dates from a calendar as a way of celebrating his fragmentation

Haec sunt fastae

Under Taishan quatorze Juillet

with the hill ablaze north of Taishan
and Amber Rives is dead, the end of that chapter
see Time for June 25th,

310 Mr Graham himself unmistakably,
on a horse, an ear and the beard's point showing
and the Farben works still intact
to the tune of Lilibullero

and they have bitched the Adelphi
315 niggers scaling the obstacle fence | Back in the
in the middle distance | javier camp

and Mr Edwards superb green and brown
in ward No 4 a jacent benignity,
of the Baluba mask: "doan you tell no one

320 I made you that table"
methenamine eases the urine | Leaps
and the greatest is charity

to be found among those who have not observed | Found and
regulations | the other
prisoners

325 not of course that we advocate—
and yet petty larceny
in a regime based on grand larceny—
might rank as conformity nient' altro
with justice shall be redeemed

330 who putteth not out his money on interest
"in meteyard in weight or in measure"

XIX Leviticus or

First Thessalonians 4. 11

300 years culture at the mercy of a tack hammer
thrown thru the roof

Cloud over mountain, mountain over the cloud
I surrender neither the empire nor the temples plural
nor the constitution nor yet the city of Dioce

Collapsing of nothing State found way to finance

340 each one in his god's name
as by Terracina rose from the sea Zephyr behind her
and from her manner of walking
as had Anchises

till the shrine be again white with marble
345 till the stone eyes look again seaward
The wind is part of the process
The rain is part of the process

and the Pleiades set in her mirror
Kuanon, this stone bringeth sleep;
350 offered the wine bowl
grass nowhere out of place

χθόνια γέα, Μητέρα,
by thy herbs menthe thyme and basilicum,
from whom and to whom,
355 will never be more now than at present

being given a new green katydid of a Sunday
emerald, paler than emerald,
minus its right propeller
this tent is to me and ΤΙΘΩΝΩΙ

360 eater of grape pulp
in coitu inluminatio
Manet painted the bar at La Cigale or at Les Folies in that year
she did her hair in small ringlets, à la 1880 it might have been,
red, and the dress she wore Drecol or Lanvin

365 a great goddess, Aeneas knew her forthwith
by paint immortal as no other age is immortal
la France dixneuvième

Degas Manet Guys unforgettable
a great brute sweating paint said Vanderpyl 40 years later
of VlamincK

370 for this stone giveth sleep
staria senza più scosse
and eucalyptus that is for memory
under the olives, by cypress, mare Tirreno,

375 Past Malmaison in field by the river the tables
Sirdar, Armenonville
Or at Ventadour the keys of the chateau;
rain, Ussel,
To the left of la bella Torre the tower of Ugolino
380 in the tower to the left of the tower
chewed his son's head
and the only people who did anything of any interest were H., M.
and
Frobenius der Geheimrat
385 der im Baluba das Gewitter gemacht hat
and Monsieur Jean wrote a play now and then or the
Possum
pouvrete et ancienne oncques lettre ne lus
I don't know how humanity stands it
390 with a painted paradise at the end of it
without a painted paradise at the end of it
the dwarf morning-glory twines round the grass blade
magna NOX animae with Barabbas and 2 thieves beside me,
the wards like a slave ship,
395 Mr Edwards, Hudson, Henry *comes miseriae*
Comites Kernes, Green and Tom Wilson
God's messenger Whiteside
and the guards op/ of the . . .
was lower than that of the prisoners
400 "all them g.d. m.f. generals c.s. all of 'em fascists"
"fer a bag o' Dukes"
"the things I saye an' dooo"
ac ego in harum
so lay men in Circe's swine-sty;
405 ivi in harum ego ac vidi cadaveres animae
"c'mon small fry" sd/ the little coon to the big black;
of the slaver as seen between decks
and all the presidents
Washington Adams Monroe Polk Tyler

→ I love it. Pound so motivated to be
around black folks and motivated
by the thought of it that he thinks
he's on a slave ship.

410 plus Carrol (of Carrolton) Crawford
Robbing the public for private individual's gain ©EAFTEIN
every bank of discount is downright iniquity
robbing the public for private individual's gain
nec benecomata Kirké, mah! κακά φάρμακ' ἔδωκεν
415 neither with lions nor leopards attended
but poison, veneno
in all the veins of the commonweal
if on high, will flow downward all thru them
if on the forge at Predappio? sd/ old Upward:
420 "not the priest but the victim"
his seal Sitalkas, sd/ the old combattant: "victim,
withstood them by Thames and by Niger with pistol by Niger
with a printing press by the Thames bank"
until I end my song
425 and shot himself;
for praise of intaglios
Matteo and Pisanello out of Babylon
they are left us
for roll or plain impact
430 or cut square in the jade block

nox animae magna from the tent under Taishan
amid what was termed the a.h. of the army
the guards holding opinion. As it were to dream of
morticians' daughters raddled but amorous
435 To study with the white wings of time passing
is not that our delight
to have friends come from far countries
is not that pleasure
nor to care that we are untrumpeted?
440 filial, fraternal affection is the root of humaneness
the root of the process
nor are elaborate speeches and slick alacrity.
employ men in proper season

445 not when they are at harvest
 E al Triedro, Cunizza
 e l'altra: "Io son' la Luna."
 dry friable earth going from dust to more dust
 grass worn from its root-hold
 is it blacker? was it blacker? Νύξ animae?
 450 is there a blacker or was it merely San Juan with a belly ache
 writing ad posteros
 in short shall we look for a deeper or is this the bottom?
 Ugolino, the tower there on the tree line
 Berlin dysentery phosphorus
 455 la vieille de Candide
 (Hullo Corporal Casey) double X or burocracy?
 Le Paradis n'est pas artificiel
 but spezzato apparently
 it exists only in fragments unexpected excellent sausage,
 460 the smell of mint, for example,
 Ladro the night cat;
 at Nemi waited on the slope above the lake sunken in the pocket
 of hills
 awaiting decision from the old lunch cabin built out over the
 465 shingle,
 Zarathustra, now desuete
 to Jupiter and to Hermes where now is the castellaro
 no vestige save in the air
 in stone is no imprint and the grey walls of no era
 470 under the olives
 saeculorum Athenae
 γλαύξ, γλαυκώπις,
 olivi
 that which gleams and then does not gleam
 475 as the leaf turns in the air
 Boreas Apeliota libeccio
 "C'è il babao," said the young mother
 and the bathers like small birds under hawk's eye

shrank back under the cliff's edge at il Pozzetto
 480 al Tigullio
 "wd." said the guard "take everyone of them g.d.m.f. generals
 c.s. all of 'em fascists"
 Oedipus, nepotes Remi magnanimi
 so Mr Bullington lay on his back like an ape
 485 singing: O sweet and lovely
 o Lady be good"
 in harum ac ego ivi
 Criminals have no intellectual interests?
 and for three months did not know the taste of his food
 490 in Chi heard Shun's music
 the sharp song with sun under its radiance
 λεγύρ'
 one tanka entitled the shadow
 babao, or the hawk's wing
 495 of no fortune and with a name to come
 Is downright iniquity said J. Adams
 at 35 instead of 21.65
 doubtless conditioned by what his father heard in
 Byzantium
 500 doubtless conditioned by the spawn of the gt. Meyer Anselm
 That old H. had heard from the ass eared militarist in Byzantium:
 "Why stop?" "To begin again when we are stronger."
 and young H/ the tip from the augean stables in Paris
 with Sieff in attendance, or not
 505 as the case may have been,
 thus conditioning.
 Meyer Anselm, a rromance, yes, yes certainly
 but more fool you if you fall for it two centuries later
 . . .
 510 from their seats the blond bastards, and cast 'em.
 the yidd is a stimulant, and the goyim are cattle
 in gt/ proportion and go to saleable slaughter
 with the maximum of docilitv. but if

515 a place be versalzen,,,?
 With justice,
 by the law, from the law or it is not in the contract
 Yu has nothing pinned on Jehoveh
 sent and named Shun who to the
 autumnal heavens *sba-o*

520 with the sun under its melody
 to the compassionate heavens
 and there is also the XIXth Leviticus.
 "Thou shalt purchase the field with money."
 signed Jeremiah

525 from the tower of Hananel unto Goah
 unto the horse gate \$8.50 in Anatoth
 which is in Benjamin, \$8.67
 For the purity of the air on Chocorua
 in a land of maple

530 From the law, by the law, so build yr/ temple
 with justice in meteyard and measure
 a black delicate hand
 a white's hand like a ham
 pass by, seen under the tent-flap
 on sick call : comman'
 535 comman', sick call comman'
 and the two largest rackets are the alternation
 of the value of money
 (of the unit of money METATHEMENON TE TON
 540 KRUMENON

and usury @ 60 or lending
 that which is made out of nothing
 and the state can lend money as was done
 by Athens for the building of the Salamis fleet
 545 and if the packet gets lost in transit
 ask Churchill's backers
 where it has got to the state need not borrow
 nor do the veterans need state guarantees

550 for private usurious lending
 in fact that is the cat in the woodshed
 the state need not borrow
 as was shown by the mayor of Wörgl
 who had a milk route
 and whose wife sold shirts and short breeches
 555 and on whose book-shelf was the Life of Henry Ford
 and also a copy of the Divina Commedia
 and of the Gedichte of Heine
 a nice little town in the Tyrol in a wide flat-lying valley
 near Innsbruck and when a note of the
 560 small town of Wörgl went over
 a counter in Innsbruck
 and the banker saw it go over
 all the slobs in Europe were terrified
 "no one" said the Frau Burgomeister
 565 "in this village who cd/ write a newspaper article.
 Knew it was money but pretended it was not
 in order to be on the safe side of the law."
But in Russia they bungled and did not apparently
grasp the idea of work-certificate
 570 and started the N.E.P. with disaster
and the immolation of men to machinery
and the canal work and gt/ mortality
(which is as may be)
 and went in for dumping in order to trouble the waters
 575 in the usurers' hell-a-dice
 all of which leads to the death-cells
 each in the name of its god
 or longevity because as says Aristotle
 philosophy is not for young men
 580 their *Katholou* can not be sufficiently derived from
 their *hekasta*
 their generalities cannot be born from a sufficient phalanx
 of particulars

lord of his work and master of utterance
 585 who turneth his word in its season and shapes it
 Yaou chose Shun to longevity
 who seized the extremities and the opposites
 holding true course between them
 shielding men from their errors
 590 cleaving to the good they had found
 holding empire as if not in a mortar with it
 nor dazzled thereby
 wd/ have put the old man, *son père* on his shoulders
 and gone off to some barren seacoast
 595 Says the Japanese sentry : Paaak yu djeep over there,
 some of the best soldiers we have says the captain
 Dai Nippon Banzai from the Philippines
 remembering Kagekiyo : " how stiff the shaft of your neck is."
 and they went off each his own way
 600 " a better fencer than I was," said Kumasaka, a shade,
 " I believe in the resurrection of Italy quia impossibile est
 4 times to the song of Gassir
 now in the mind indestructible

 605 ΚΟΡΗ, 'ΑΓΛΑΟΣ 'ΑΛΛΑΟΥ
 Glass-eye Wemyss treading water
 and addressing the carpenter from the seawaves
 because of an unpinned section of taff-rail
 we are not so ignorant as you think in the navy
 610 Gesell entered the Lindhauer government
 which lasted rather less than 5 days
 but was acquitted as an innocent stranger
 Oh yes, the money is there,
 il danaro c'è, said Pellegrini
 615 (very peculiar under the circs)
 musketeers rather more than 20 years later
 an old man (or oldish) still active

serving small stones from a lath racquet
 Περσεφόνηα under Taishan
 620 in sight of the tower che pende
 on such a litter rode Pontius
 under such canvass
 in the a.h. of the army
 in sight of two red cans labeled " FIRE "
 625 Said Von Tirpitz to his daughter : beware of their charm
 ΣΕΙΡΗΝΕΣ this cross turns with the sun
 and the goyim are undoubtedly in great numbers cattle
 whereas a jew will receive information
 he will gather up information
 630 faute de...something more solid
 but not in all cases
 ΣΕΙΡΗΝΕΣ had appreciated his conversation
 ΧΑΡΙΤΕΣ possibly in the soft air
 with the mast held by the left hand
 635 in this air as of Kuanon
 enigma forgetting the times and seasons
 but this air brought her ashore a la marina
 with the great shell borne on the seawaves
 nautilus biancastra
 640 By no means an orderly Dantescan rising
 but as the winds veer
 tira libeccio
 now Genji at Suma , tira libeccio
 as the winds veer and the raft is driven
 645 and the voices , Tiro, Alcmene
 with you is Europa nec casta Pasiphaë
 Eurus, Apeliota as the winds veer in periplum
 Io son la luna " . Cunizza
 as the winds veer in periplum
 650 and from under the Rupe Tarpeia
 drunk with wine of the Castelli
 " in the name of its god " " Spiritus veni "

adveni / not to a schema
 " is not for the young " said Arry, stagirite
 655 but as grass under Zephyrus
 as the green blade under Apeliota
 Time is not, Time is the evil, beloved
 Beloved the hours *βροδοδάκτυλος*
 as against the half-light of the window
 660 with the sea beyond making horizon
 le contre-jour the line of the cameo
 profile " to carve Achaia "
 a dream passing over the face in the half-light
 Venere, Cytherea " aut Rhodon "
 665 vento figure, véni
 " beauty is difficult " sd/ Mr Beardsley
 and sd/ Mr Kettlewell looking up from a
 pseudo-Beardsley of his freshman composition
 and speaking to W. Lawrence:
 670 Pity you didn't finish the job
 while you were at it "
 W.L. having run into the future non-sovereign Edvardus
 on a bicycle equally freshman
 a.d. 1910 or about that
 675 beauty is difficult
 in the days of the Berlin to Bagdad project
 and of Tom L's photos of rock temples in Arabia Petra
 but he wd/ not talk of
 LL.G. and the frogbassador, he wanted to
 680 talk modern art (T.L. did)
 but of second rate, not the first rate
 beauty is difficult.
 He said I protested too much he wanted to start a press
 and print the greek classics....periplum
 685 and the very very aged Snow created considerable
 hilarity quoting the *φαίνε-τ-τ-τ-τ-τ-αί μοι*
 in reply to *l'aer tremare*

beauty is difficult
 But on the other hand the President of Magdalen
 (rhyming dawdlin') said there were
 690 too many words in " The Hound of Heaven "
 a moddddun opohem he had read
 and there was no doubt that the dons lived well
 in the kawledg
 695 it was if I remember rightly the burn and freeze that the fresh-
 men
 had failed to follow
 or else a mere desire to titter etc.
 and it is (in parenthesis) doubtless
 700 easier to teach them to roar like gorillas
 than to scan *φαίνεταί μοι*
 inferior gorillas
 of course, lacking the wind sack
 and although Siki was quite observable
 705 we have not yet calculated the sum gorilla + bayonet
 and there was a good man named Burr
 descendant of Aaron during the other war
 who was amused by the British
 but he didn't last long AND
 710 Corporal Casey tells me that Stalin
 le bonhomme Staline
 has no sense of humour (dear Koba!)
 and old Rhys, Ernest, was a lover of beauty
 and when he was still engineer in a coal mine
 715 a man passed him at high speed radiant in the mine gallery
 his face shining with ecstasy
 " A'hv joost.....Tommy Luff."
 and as Luff was twice the fellow's size, Rhys was puzzled
 The Muses are daughters of memory
 720 Clio, Terpsichore
 and Granville was a lover of beauty
 and the three ladies all waited

" and with a name to come "

εσομένων

725

aram vult nemus

Came Madame Lucrezia
and on the back of the door in Cesena
are, or were, still the initials
joli quart d'heure, (nella Malatestiana)

730

Torquato where art thou?
to the click of hooves on the cobbles by Tevere
and " my fondest knight lie dead ".. or la Stuarda
" ghosts move about me " " patched with histories "

735

but as Mead said: if they were,
what have they done in the interval,
eh, to arrive by metempsychosis at....?
and there are also the conjectures of the Fortean Society
Beauty is difficult....the plain ground

740

precedes the colours
and this grass or whatever here under the tentflaps
is, indubitably, bambooiform
representative brush strokes wd/ be similar
....cheek bone, by verbal manifestation,
her eyes as in " La Nascita "

745

whereas the child's face
is at Capogquadri in the fresco square over the doorway
centre background
the form beached under Helios

750

funge la purezza,
and that certain images be formed in the mind
to remain there
formato locho

755

Arachne mi porta fortuna
to remain there, resurgent ΕΙΚΟΝΕΣ C [ICON] (IMAGE)
and still in Trastevere

for the deification of emperors
and the medallions

to forge Achaia

and as for playing checquers with black Jim

760

on a barrel top where now is the Ritz-Carlton
and the voice of Monsieur Fouquet or the Napoleon 3rd
barbiche of Mr Quackenbos, or Quackenbush
as I supposed it,
and Mrs Chittenden's lofty air

765

and the remains of the old South
tidewashed to Manhattan and brown-stone
or (later) the outer front stair
leading to Mouquin's

770

or old Train (Francis) on the pavement in his plain wooden
chair

or a fellow throwing a knife in the market
past baskets and bushels of peaches

775

at \$1. the bushel
and the cool of the 42nd St. tunnel (periplum)
white-wash and horse cars, the Lexington Avenue cable
refinement, pride of tradition, alabaster

780

Towers of Pisa
(alabaster, not ivory)
coloured photographs of Europa
carved wood from Venice venetian glass and the samovar
and the fire bucket, 1806 Barre Mass'chusetts

785

and the Charter Oak in Connecticut
or to begin with Cologne Cathedral
the Torwaldsen lion and Paolo Uccello
and thence to Al Hambra, the lion court and el
mirador de la reina Lindaraja

790

orient reaching to Tangier, the cliffs the villa of Perdicaris
Rais Uli, periplum
Mr Joyce also preoccupied with Gibraltar
and the Pillars of Hercules

not with my *patio* and the wistaria and the tennis courts
 or the bugs in Mrs Jevons' hotel
 or the quality of the beer served to sailors
 veder Nap'oiiii or Pavia the romanesque
 795 being preferable
 and by analogy the form of San Zenò the
 columns signed by their maker
 the frescoes in S. Pietro and the madonna in Ortolo
 e "fa di clarità l'aer tremare"
 800 as in the manuscript of the Capitolare
 Trattoria degli Apostoli (dodici)
 "Ecco il tè" said the head waiter
 in 1912 explaining its mysteries to the piccolo
 with a teapot from another hotel
 805 but coffee came to Assisi much later
 that is, so one cd/ drink it
 when it was lost in Orleans and France semi-ruin'd
 thus the coffee-house facts of Vienna
 whereas Mr Carver merits mention for the
 810 cultivation of peanuts,
 arachidi, and the soja has yet to save Europe
 and the wops do not use maple syrup
 the useful operations of commerce
 stone after stone of beauty cast down
 815 and authenticities disputed by parasites
 (made in Ragusa) and : what art do you handle?
 "The best" And the moderns? "Oh, nothing modern
 we couldn't sell anything modern."
 But Herr Bacher's father made madonnas still in the tradition
 820 carved wood as you might have found in any cathedral
 and another Bacher still cut intaglios
 such as Salustio's in the time of Ixotta,
 where the masks come from, in the Tirol,
 in the winter season
 825 searching every house to drive out the demons.

Difficult beauty - difficult through fabrication

Serenely in the crystal jet
 as the bright ball that the fountain tosses
 (Verlaine) as diamond clearness
 How soft the wind under Taishan
 830 where the sea is remembered
 out of hell, the pit
 out of the dust and glare evil
 Zephyrus / Apeliota
 This liquid is certainly a
 835 property of the mind
 nec accidens est but an element
 in the mind's make-up
 est agens and functions dust to a fountain pan otherwise
 Hast 'ou seen the rose in the steel dust
 840 (or swansdown ever?)
 so light is the urging, so ordered the dark petals of iron
 we who have passed over Lethe.

John Adams, the Brothers Adam
there is our norm of spirit

our 中 chung¹

where to we may pay our
95 homage

Saith Micah:

Each in the name of...

So that looking at the sputtering tank of nicotine and
stale whiskey

100 (on its way out)

Kumrad Koba remarked:

I will believe the American.

Berlin 1945

the last appearance of Winston P.M. in that connection

105 e poi io dissi alla sorella

della pastorella dei suini:

e questi americani?

si conducono bene?

ed ella: poco.

110 Poco, poco.

ed io: peggio dei tedeschi?

ed ella: uguale, thru the barbed wire

you can, said Stef (Lincoln Steffens)

do nothing with revolutionaries

115 until they are at the end of their tether

and that Vandenberg has read Stalin, or Stalin, John Adams
is, at the mildest, unproven.

If the hoar frost grip thy tent

Thou wilt give thanks when night is spent.

NOTES

The first two systematic glosses of *The Pisan Cantos* were provided by John Hamilton Edwards' and William W. Vasse's *Annotated Index to the Cantos of Ezra Pound* (Berkeley: U. of Cal. Press, 1957) and by Achilles Fang's four-volume Harvard doctoral dissertation of 1958, "Materials for the Study of Pound's *Cantos*." The '60s and '70s saw further exegetical work, much of which was published in *Paideuma: A Journal Devoted to Ezra Pound Scholarship*, founded in 1972 and edited by Carroll Terrell. The latter coordinated a team of eminent Pound scholars and synthesized several decades of research in his monumental two-volume *Companion to the Cantos of Ezra Pound* (U. of Cal. Press, 1980-84)—to which the reader is referred for more detailed annotation. While ineluctably (and most gratefully) indebted to Terrell's indispensable labors, the notes to the present edition take into account the additional scholarship devoted to *The Pisan Cantos* over the past twenty years, while also drawing on further commentaries provided by Peter Brooker, George Kearns, Christine Froula, William Cookson, Anthony Woodward, Mary de Rachewiltz, Massimo Bacigalupo, and Ronald Bush. The Greek in the text has been transliterated and the Chinese romanized (in the old Wade-Giles system) to facilitate pronunciation. Canto cross-references are given in bold type by Canto number followed by line number, thus: 78.36. The text of these Cantos is that given in the 13th New Directions printing (1995), corrupt though it may be by purely philological standards. Richard Taylor's forthcoming variorum edition of *The Cantos* and Ronald Bush's study of the genesis and composition of the Pisans should clear up many questions.

CANTO 74

3. Third-century Persian founder of Manicheanism, flayed alive for his heretical teachings by the Zoroastrians. Rejecting all of the Old Testament and parts of the New, Mani (or Manes) claimed Buddha, Zoroaster, Hermes, and Plato as his predecessors and maintained he was the Paraclete promised by Christ.
- 4-6. After Benito Mussolini and his mistress Claretta Petacci were captured and summarily executed by partisans at Dongo, near Lake Como, on April 28, 1945, their bodies were brought to Milan and strung up by the heels in the Piazzale Loreto, thus "twice crucified." As a sacrificial victim, Mussolini (whose unofficial title, *Il Duce*, is often translated by Pound as "the Boss") evokes the symbolic slaying of Dionysus in the form of a bull (*bos* in Latin).
7. "Twice-born," Greek epithet for Dionysus, born once from his mother, Semele, and then from the thigh of his father, Zeus.
- 9-10. Pound's nickname for T.S. Eliot, whose poem "The Hollow Men" conceives the world as ending "Not with a bang but a whimper."
11. Deioces, the first great ruler of the Medes, built the city of Ecbatana in the sixth century B.C.; according to Herodotus it was encircled by seven rising concentric walls in a variety of colors. "Diocē" has been heard by some commentators to rhyme with "Duce."

12. Canto 74 originally began here, before Pound changed its opening in November, appending the previous 11 lines which were typed on a separate sheet and perhaps at first withheld on account of their explicitly pro-Mussolinian tenor.
14. I.e. the Confucian Way or Truth (*tao*⁴).
- 14-18. Citations from the Confucian Classics, *The Unwobbling Pivot* I, 1, and *Mencius* III, 4, xiii, later translated by Pound: "After Confucius's death, when there was talk of regrouping, Tsang declined, saying: "Washed in the Keang and Han, bleached in the autumn sun's-slope, what whiteness can one add to that whiteness, what candour?"
19. Formed from the Latin *periplus*, a circumnavigation; defined in Canto 59 as "periplum, not as the land looks on a map/but as sea bord by men sailing." Here, the circuit of Helios, the sun.
- 20-21. The cliffs along the Strait of Gibraltar, traditionally known as the Pillars of Hercules, through which Dante's Ulysses passes before drowning near Mount Purgatory, where Lucifer fell to earth. Cf. *Inf.* XXVI and XXXIV. More or less due west of Gibraltar, North Carolina was the site of a (Luciferian?) meteor shower in 1944.
22. In Italian, a hot Mediterranean wind out of the southeast.
23. "OU TIS," Greek for "No Man" or "Nobody," the name Odysseus adopts to trick the Cyclops in Book IX of the *Odyssey*.
26. "Sister moon," i.e. Artemis/Diana?, "cf. St. Francis of Assisi's "Cantico del Sole."
- 28-31. Sigismundo Malatesta (1417-68), soldier and patron of the arts, constructed the Tempio Malatestiano in Rimini as a pagan monument to his love for his mistress (and later wife), Isotta degli Atti (?1430-70). The sculptor Agostino di Duccio (1418-81) was commissioned by him to supply its marble ornaments. Further examples of "precise definition": the paintings of Giovanni Bellini (?1430-1516) and the mosaics in the church of Santa Maria in the Trastevere district of Rome evoking "La Sposa" ("the bride") or "Sponsa Cristi" ("the bride of Christ").
- 33-46. Charlie Sung (or T.V. Soong), named premier of Chiang Kai-shek's China in June 1945 (as reported in *Time* magazine) and presumably bankrolled by anonymous ("anonimo") sources. As chancellor of the exchequer, Winston Churchill returned to the gold standard in 1925, thus depressing the value of the Indian currency to eighty pence per hundred rupees. The primary tenet of Marxism was that workers should own the means of production, but Pound hoped to convert Stalin (whom he called "the best brain in politics today" in a May 8, 1945 interview) to his own economic views, which focused instead on the ownership of money or "the means of circulation."
48. A copy of the *Catholic Prayer Book for the Army and Navy / Pro Deo et Patria* was given to Pound by Father Aloysius H. Vath, the Roman Catholic chaplain of the DTC.
52. The original German title of Erich Maria Remarque's antiwar novel, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929).
55. For the paradisaic properties of sapphire, see Dante, *Pur.* I, 13.
- 56-59. A paraphrase of *Mencius* IV, ii, 11, with an etymological reading of the characters mentioned in Legge's note.
- 60-61. W.H.D. Rouse (1863-1950), classical scholar and translator of the *Odyssey*, discovered in his travels through the Aegean that tales similar to those surrounding Odysseus were still being told about Elias (or Elijah), the Hebrew prophet who tells of the coming of the redeemer.
- 64-75. In native Australian mythology, the god Wondjina (his name here rhymed with the Chinese "Ouan Jin" [or *wen*²-*jen*²], meaning "Man of Letters") brought the world

- into being by saying the names of things; fearing he had thereby created too many objects, his father had his mouth removed. Douglas Fox, a student of the German archaeologist Leo Frobenius (1873-1938) and who was in correspondence with Pound about his research among the Australian aborigines in the '30s, provided the following commentary on the legend: "As one old man explained, if Ungar [the father] had not very wisely done as he did, then the blackfellow would have been burdened with all the glittering claptrap of the white man's culture and would not have been able to devote himself properly to the important things of life: conversation, dancing, hunting and warfare."
- 75-76. "In the beginning was the Word/the Holy Ghost or the perfect Word: sincerity." Cf. John 1.1, included in the *Catholic Prayer Book* as "The Last Gospel." Cf. also the "Prayers to the Holy Spirit": "We beseech Thee, O Lord, that the Paraclete Who proceedeth from Thee may enlighten our minds and lead us, as Thy son hath promised, into all truth."
- 77-85. T'ai Shan, or Great Mountain, a sacred site in China's Shantung province, here visually rhymed with one of the mountains in the Apuan Alps to the northeast of the DTC—just as Fujiyama, the sacred mountain of Japan, is glimpsed in the Alpine scenery of the northern Italian Lake Garda, site of the villa where the Roman poet Catullus wrote his salutation to the promontory of Sirmio, the movement of whose waters evokes the onomatopoeic epithet "poluphloisboios" (or "loud-roarings") attributed by Homer to the sea.
- 86-91. Gioacchino Nicoletti, prefect of the town of Gardone Riviera, not far from Salò, provisional capital of the puppet Social Republic which Mussolini established in late September 1943 after having been dismissed by King Victor Emmanuel and replaced by Marshal Badoglio, who negotiated an armistice with the Allies. Pound visited Lake Garda in November 1943 in order to make contact with elements of the Salò regime. Translation: "The Woman. . . the woman . . . the woman!" [perhaps Clara Petacci, who had followed Mussolini to Salò], "Why must it go on?" "If I fall . . . I shall not fall on my knees," a defiant statement attributed to Bianca Capello (?1547-87), mistress of Francesco de' Medici, Duke of Tuscany.
93. The African legend of Gassire's Lute is recorded in Leo Frobenius' *African Genesis* (1937); cf. 198 below. The legend includes the apostrophe, "Hooh! Fasa!" or "Hail to the tribe of Fasa" (echoing the Italian *fascio*?).
- 96-97. "Under six gallows. . . Absolve, may you absolve us all." From the "Ballade des Pendus" of François Villon (1431-?65), whose poem *Le Testament* provides one of the models for *The Pisan Cantos*.
- 97-100. Barabbas, Christ's companion in captivity, here associated with two of Pound's companions in Paris in the 1920s, the writer Ernest Hemingway (1898-1961) and the composer George Antheil (1900-59), and with his fellow prisoners at the DTC, whose names follow.
105. Lesbia plays teasingly with her sparrow in Catullus 2.
- 107-10. "And the sad thought returns/toward Ussel. To Ventadour/goes desire, retrieving time." Pound's medievalizing Italian may echo *Pur.* VIII, 1-6.
- 109-19. Pound traveled through the troubadour country of southern France in the summers of 1912, 1919, and 1924, visiting, among other places, the towns of Ussel, Ventadour, Limoges, and Excideuil (where Mme Pujol kept an inn). Urochs are represented in the paleolithic cave paintings of Font de Gaumes, near Les Eyzies.

129. Marble from the nearby quarry of Carrara was used in the construction of the leaning tower of Pisa.
131. Japanese form of Kuan-yin, the Chinese goddess of mercy.
- 132-35. Bishops of Rome in the first century, among the list of Apostles and Martyrs invoked in the *Catholic Prayer Book*. The design on the back of the priest's chasuble at a mass held at the DTC may have suggested the image of the scarab at the altar.
- 137-38. Ideogram: *hsien*³, "manifest, display, be illustrious." Contains the radicals for sun and moon and silk and is sometimes translated by Pound as "tensile light descending."
138. "Virtue," glossed by Pound in his Confucian translations as "The *virtù*, i.e. this self-knowledge [looking straight into the heart and acting hence] is the root."
139. "Are lights." From the Latin of the medieval Neoplatonic philosopher (and heretic) John Scotus Erigena (?810-?77): "Omnia, quae sunt, lumina sunt." Cf. 155-57 below: "all things that are are lights."
- 140-45. Shun, Yao, Yu, three legendary early rulers of China, often referred to in the Confucian classics as paragons of virtuous statecraft.
146. Large guard towers at the four corners of the DTC stockade.
- 150-52. Cf. Isaiah 1:27: "Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness." As opposed, presumably, to the policies of "David rex," i.e. King David ("the prime s.o.b." omitted from the 1949 Faber edition).
155. The "Oirishman" is Scotus Erigena and "King Carolus," the Holy Roman Emperor Charles II, grandson of Charlemagne.
- 158-60. The body of Erigena was supposedly ("soi disantly") exhumed as part of a witch hunt against Manichean heretics—although there is no record of this (it was the bones of his disciple, Amaury de Bène, that were dug up and scattered in 1210). "Les Albigeois," or Albigensians, were persecuted and eventually destroyed in a crusade against heresy launched by Simon de Montfort in the 13th century.
- 161-69. Themistocles won the battle of Salamis in ships built by money loaned by the state of Athens and not by private banks—an early example of Social Credit. The Soviet statesman Lenin is quoted ("dixit Lenin") attacking the war-profiteering of the international arms industry.
163. "A time to speak, a time to be silent" (Eccl: 3:7), Malatesta's motto, inscribed on Isotta's tomb in the Tempio.
170. Pound observed the Italian Fascist calendar, in which all events were dated from Mussolini's March on Rome in October 1922. 1945 was thus year 23.
- 171-73. Louis Till, an African-American trainee at the DTC executed on July 2, 1945, here mythologically associated with Zeus's ram, whose golden fleece Jason and the Argonauts hunted in the kingdom of Colchis. Till was the father of Emmet Till, whose cold-blooded murder at age fourteen by two white men in Mississippi in 1955 sparked the Civil Rights Movement in the South.
- 176-77. Ideogram: *mo*⁴, "not, no," echoing the Greek "No man" and visually evoking "a man on whom the sun has gone down."
180. In the Noh play, *Hagoromo* (translated by Pound in 1916), the word refers to the "feather-mantle" left hanging by an "aerial spirit" (or *tennin*) on a bough, where it is discovered by a priest; in order to retrieve her magical cloak, the nymph agrees to teach him a dance symbolic of the daily changes of the moon.
184. Russian for "comrade" (referring to another trainee or to Pound himself?).
- 190-91. "Either Cythera [i.e. Aphrodite] or Ixotta [cf. 28 above] or in St. Mary of the

- Miracles." This Venetian church contains sculptures of sirens by Pietro Lombardo (1435-1515), much admired by Pound.
196. A quote from *Mencius* IV, 8, iv.
198. "Of Italy betrayed" (when Mussolini was replaced as head of the government by Marshal Badoglio in July 1943).
- 197-202. The Soninke legend "Gassire's Lute" recorded by Frobenius (cf. 93 above) tells of the four destructions (by vanity, falsehood, greed, and dissension) and four rebuildings of the mythical four-gated female city of Wagadu, a city "not of stone, not of wood, not of earth," but embodying "the strength which lives in the hearts of men and in the wombs of women." Its eventual fifth reconstruction in the future rhymes with Pound's eschatological dream of "city of Dioce" (cf. 11 above): "Should Wagadu ever be found for the fifth time, then she will live so forcefully that vanity, falsehood, greed and dissension will never be able to harm her."
204. Greek goddess of fertility.
206. "In counterpoint."
- 208-9. "That softens[Dante, *Pur.* VIII, 2]/to the left of the Tower [of Pisa]."
211. "Who forgets and lets himself fall," from the Provençal of troubadour Bernart de Ventadorn's "Lark Song."
- 212-13. Book XI of the *Odyssey* recounts Odysseus's descent (or *nekuia*) into Hades, where he sees the shades of Alcmena and Tyro. In Book XII, he must navigate his way between the whirlpool of Charybdis and the sharp rocks of Scylla.
219. I.e. hamadryad, or tree nymph.
220. I.e. "vae soli," from Eccl. 4:10 ("woe to him who is alone"), via Pound's translation of Jules Laforgue's "Pierrots: Scène court mais typique."
224. "HELION PERI HELION" ("The sun around the sun").
226. Epithet of Diana, the moon-goddess; also the name of the Roman goddess of childbirth.
- 230-35. Basil Bunting (1900-85), jailed as conscientious objector in 1918, conducted a hunger strike in prison. His collection of poems, *Redimiculum Matellarum* ("A Garland of Chamberpots"), was published in 1930.
240. Joe Gould (1889-1957), Greenwich Village bohemian, author of the apocryphal *Oral History of Our Times*. Edward Estlin Cummings (1894-1962), imprisoned by the French army at the end of WWI, as recounted in *The Enormous Room* (1922).
245. "It is finished, Go," Latin formula used at the end of mass, derived from Christ's final words on the cross.
- 247-63. Memories of Pound's 1908 stay in Gibraltar: Raisuli (1875-1925), a Moroccan brigand, kidnapped Ion Perdicaris in 1904 and held him for ransom, causing an international incident; Elson, a missionary with whom Pound stayed in Gibraltar.
265. "Color of light."
267. From Pound's 1911 translation of the Anglo-Saxon poem *The Seafarer*: "Grey-haired he groaneth, knows gone companions,/Lordly men are to earth o'ergiven."
- 269-76. An enumeration of shades: Ford Madox [Hueffer] Ford (1873-1939), English novelist, poet, and editor; William Butler Yeats (1865-1939), Irish poet; James Joyce (1882-1939), Irish novelist; Victor Plarr (1863-1929), British poet; Edgar Jepson (1863-1938), English novelist; Maurice Hewlett (1861-1923), English novelist and poet; Sir Henry Newbolt (1862-1938), English poet.
280. Colonel Goleysky, White Russian émigré and former tsarist military attaché, a friend of the Pounds in Paris in the '20s.

- 286-92. Restaurants remembered: Paris (Bouiller, Closerie des Lilas, Voisin's), London (Dieudonné), St. Petersburg (the cake shops on the Nevsky Prospekt), Vienna (Schöner's), Bolzano (Der Greif), New York (Mouquin's, Robert's).
288. George Holden Tinkham (1870-1956), isolationist congressman from Massachusetts whom Pound met in Venice in 1936. REI PANTA, "all things flow" (Heraclitus).
296. William Henry Hudson (1841-1922), naturalist and novelist.
297. Misprint for "Où sont les heures" ("Where are the joys,"), a variation on Villon's "Où sont les neiges d'antan" ("Where are the snows of yesteryear").
298. Henry James (1843-1916), the American novelist, and his housekeeper at Rye, England, Mrs. Hawkesby.
- 301-4. Henry Brooks Adams (1838-1918); the "monument" who relayed the anecdote was the Harvard-educated philosopher and Rome resident, George Santayana (1863-1952).
305. I.e. "Haec sunt fasti" ("Here then are the festivals listed in the calendar").
306. Bastille Day (July 14), 1945.
- 307-14. *Time* magazine of June 25, 1945: an obituary for the popular novelist Amélie Rives (1864-1945), whom Pound knew from London and later in Rome during his broadcasting days; a photo resembling the equestrian portrait of Scottish traveler Cunninghame Grahame (1852-1936); the German chemical factory I.G. Farben still intact, to the strains of the signature WWII song, "Lillibullero"—whereas the architecture of the old hotel Adelphi on London's Strand has been destroyed by remodeling (?).
- 317-20. Henry Hudson Edwards, the G.I. who made a writing table for Pound out of a packing box; his African-American features are associated with the Baluba (i.e. Biembe) masks from the Congo studied by Frobenius.
328. "Nothing else."
- 331-33. "Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment, in meteyard, in weight, or in measure" (Lev. 19:35). "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you" (1Thess. 4:11).
340. "For all people will walk every one in the name of his god" (Micah 4:5)—Pound extracting a tolerant polytheism ("temples/plural") from the Old Testament.
- 341-45. Terracina, site on Italy's western seacoast associated with the birth of Venus and, Pound dreamt, locus of a future shrine reestablished in her honor. Virgil's *Aeneid* (I, 404) records that Anchises, father of Aeneas, recognized Aphrodite from her gait when she approached him in human guise.
348. A cluster of stars said to be composed of the seven daughters of Atlas.
352. "Chthonia gea, Mèter" ("nether earth, Mother").
359. "TITHONOI." The goddess Eos transformed Tithonos into a grasshopper (or katydid) so that she might hear her lover's song forever.
361. "In coitus illumination."
- 362-70. Aphrodite-like Olga Rudge, henna-haired, dressed in the latest fashions of Drecol or Lanvin, like a figure out of Manet's painting of the bar at the Folies Bergère—the painterly tradition of 19th-century France ("la France dix-neuvième"), represented by Edouard Manet (1832-83), Edgar Degas (1834-1917), and Constantin Guys (1802-92), continuing on into the Fauviste work of Maurice Vlaminck (1876-1905), according to his friend the French poet and critic writer Fritz Vanderpyl (1876-1950).

372. "It would rest without further tossing" (*Inf.* XXVII, 63).
- 373-74. When seized by the partisans at his house at Sant'Ambrogio above Rapallo (overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea), Pound picked up along the hill path a eucalyptus pip which he kept with him at Pisa as a talismanic mnemonic device.
- 375-77. Memories of Parisian restaurants leading to memories of his walking tours in southern France (cf. 107ff.).
- 379-81. "The beautiful Tower" (of Pisa), associated with the so-called Tower of Hunger, also in Pisa, where Ugolino della Gheradesca (?1212-89), accused of treason, was imprisoned with his sons and grandsons. Dante (*Inf.* XXXII-XXXIII) pictures him starving to death.
382. Presumably to elude the military censor, Pound refers to Hitler and Mussolini only by their initial letters.
- 384-85. "Frobenius the privy councilor/who created thunder in Baluba." While exploring a remote region of the Congo in 1905, Frobenius' party came under attack; they were saved, however, when an enormous thunderstorm erupted. The local Baluba (i.e. Biembe) tribesmen therefore referred to him in their drum language as the "white rain-maker."
- 386-87. Jean Cocteau (1891-1963), French poet and playwright; T.S. Eliot (see 9).
388. "Poor and old never did I read a letter" (from Villon's "Ballade Pour Prier Nostre Dame")
390. From Villon's "Paradis peint où sont harpes et luths" ("Painted paradise where are harps and lutes") in "Ballade Pour Prier Nostre Dame."
393. "Great NIGHT of the soul."
395. "Companion[s] of misery," referring to Pound's fellow prisoners, here named.
401. Dukes Mixture, the name of the tobacco ration allotted to the trainees, bags of which served as the unit of exchange in commercial transactions among the prisoners.
403. "And I too in the pigsty," referring to Circe's transformation of Odysseus' crew into swine in Book X of the *Odyssey*.
405. "I went into the pigsty and saw the corpses of souls"
410. Carrol Crawford, a fellow prisoner, named after the revolutionary leader Charles Carroll of Carrollton (1737-1832), just as many other African-American trainees in the DTC bore the names of early American presidents.
411. "THELGEIN" ("to enchant, bewitch, cheat").
414. "Nor fair-tressed Circe, well!," "kaka phurgak' edôken" ("she had given them evil drugs"—*Od.* X, 213).
416. Misprint for "veleno" ("poison").
419. The son of a blacksmith, Mussolini was born at Predappio, in Romagna.
- 419-25. Allen Upward (1863-1926), cultural anthropologist and world traveler, wrote in a 1915 poem, "I withstood the savages of the Niger with a revolver;/I withstood the savages of the Thames with a printing press." The cover of his comparative study of religions, *The Divine Mystery* (1910), featured the seal of Sitalkas ("Prohibitor of Corn-Growing"); he committed suicide in the end. "Until I end my song"—cf. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, "Sweet Thames, run softly, till I end my song" (from Spenser's "Prothalamion").
427. Matteo da Pasti (d. 1448) and Antonio Pisano (?1397-1455) both made intaglio medallions of Sigismundo Malatesta and his circle.
- 435-44. Snippets from the Confucian *Analects*.

- 445-46. "And at the crossing of the three roads, Cunizza/and the other woman: 'I am the Moon.'" Reminiscence of a visionary encounter recorded in the drafts of the Italian Cantos 74-75 composed by Pound in January-February 1945 and later abandoned. In these drafts, standing at the *triedro* ("trihedron") or symbolic crossing of three paths near Sant'Ambrogio (in turn evocative of "Trivia," the Latin epithet of Diana as goddess of crossroads), Basinio Basini (1425-57), the court poet of Sigismundo Malatesta and *persona* of Pound, sees the apparition of Cunizza da Romano (1198-1279), lover of the troubadour poet Sordello and, because she freed her brother's slaves, symbol of Kuanon-like compassion. Dante places Cunizza in the Third Heaven of Love (see Cantos 6 and 29).
- 449-50. "Night of the soul," here associated with the wisdom addressed to posterity ("ad posteros") by the Spanish mystic St. John of the Cross (1542-91).
455. "The old woman in [Voltaire's] *Candide*" who, in a parody of the *Odyssey*, undergoes a series of Job-like misfortunes in the course of her travels.
457. "Paradise is not artificial," cf. Charles Baudelaire's study of drugs, *Les Paradis artificiels* (1860).
458. "Splintered."
462. Lake Nemi, site of the sacred grove and temple of Diana, guarded by a priest who held the post until killed by another who sought the office. Cf. Frazer, *The Golden Bough* (1890).
466. Either Nietzsche's Dionysian hero Zarathustra or Zoroaster, the religious teacher of ancient Persia. Both are obsolete ("desuet"), unless this also refers to Lake Nemi.
467. The "small castle," a hill near Pound's house in Sant'Ambrogio.
- 471-75. "Immemorial of Athena/glaux, glaukôpis" ("little owl, with glinting eyes/olive trees"). Pound was quite struck by the explanation given by Allen Upward (cf. 419 above) of the Homeric epithet *glaukôpis* ascribed to Athena: "The property of the *glaux* [owl] and olive leaf, to shine and then not to shine, 'glint' rather than shine. Certainly a more living word if one lives among olive yards."
476. "North Wind, East Wind, South Wind."
477. "There's the bogeyman."
- 479-80. "The Little Well/at Tigullio," beach at Rapallo.
483. "The descendants of Remus the magnanimous."
- 489-90. Cf. Pound's translation of the *Analects* VII, XIII: "In Ch'i he [Confucius] heard the 'Shao' (cf. 519 below) sung, and for three months did not know the taste of meat; said: didn't figure the performance of music had attained to that summit."
- 491-92. "Ligur," alludes to the "clear, shrill" song of the sirens in Homer. Pound glimpsed the combined processes of the sun and the legendary emperor Shun's song (cf. 520 below) in the components of the Chinese ideogram *shao*.
493. Japanese verse form of five lines.
495. In Pound's first Canto, Elpenor, the ill-fated member of Odysseus' crew who died falling off the roof of Circe's house, asks that he be remembered by the epitaph: "A man of no fortune and with a name to come."
- 496-97. President John Adams' fulminations against banks of discount struck a sympathetic chord in Pound—the most recent example of their financial machinations being the revaluation of gold from \$21.65 to \$35 an oz. during the Roosevelt administration.
- 500-8. Jewish financiers: Meyer Amschel Rothschild (1743-1812), founder of the House of Rothschild, Henry Morgenthau, Sr. (1856-1946), banker and real estate

- magnate, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. (1891-1967), Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury, Israel Moses Sieff (1889-1972), English banker and reputed anonymous owner of the *London Daily Mirror*.
507. Cf. H. Gordon Selfridge, *The Romance of Commerce* (1923).
514. "oversalted, spoiled."
- 515-16. Cf. 150: "to redeem Zion with justice."
- 517-31. Foundational moments of Chinese history (the *shao* or succession dances marking the peaceful accessions of the legendary emperors Shun and Y'u to the throne), here juxtaposed with the Old Testament, apparently in an attempt to reveal the foundations of Judaic law (betrayed by modern-day Jewish financiers?) in Leviticus 19:35 (cf. 331 above). Jeremiah 31:38-39 contains instructions for the rebuilding of Jerusalem after a new covenant has been established with the Lord ("the city shall be built to the Lord from the tower of Hananeel unto the gate of the corner"). In Jeremiah 32:8-9, the prophet, shut up "in the court of the prison" in Babylon-occupied Jerusalem, is inspired by the Lord to purchase a field "in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin" for seventeen shekels of silver, a first step toward the reestablishment of the destroyed kingdom of Judah.
528. Mount Chocorua in eastern New Hampshire, Olga Rudge's childhood summer home.
- 539-40. "If those who use a currency give it up in favor of another," from Aristotle's *Politics*, 1275b, 16.
546. Deleted in the 1949 Faber edition.
- 552-67. Pound was a proponent of the stamp scrip introduced in the Austrian town of Wörgl, which he visited in 1935. Called *Schwindgeld* or "disappearing money," this locally issued currency lost its value if not spent within a certain period of time—an incentive against the hoarding of money, designed to increase the circulation of goods and services.
570. The N.E.P. or New Economic Plan, launched by Lenin (in 1921) to reinvigorate the Soviet economy; it did not, however, include the Poundian nostrum of the work-certificate (credit extended to workers for work done) and was thus doomed to failure.
577. Cf. 340.
- 578-83. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, 1095a.
- 585-92. Confucian ethics, as embodied by China's legendary emperors. From *The Unwobbling Pivot* VI.
- 593-94. When asked what he would have done had his father been guilty of murder, Emperor Shun replied that he would have taken his father ("son père") on his back and retired into anonymity on the seacoast—an example of Confucian filial piety.
597. "Hail to Great Japan."
- 598-600. The title characters of two Noh plays translated by Pound in 1916, the former an old blind man vainly sought after by his daughter, the latter a ghost returning to praise his slayer.
601. "Because it is impossible." From the Church Father Tertullian's insistence on faith over reason.
605. "KORE, AGLAOS ALAOU" ("Daughter [i.e. Persephone], the radiance of the blind one [i.e. Tiresias?]).
- 606-9. Baron Wester Wemyss (1864-1933), monocled admiral of the fleet and signer of the WWI armistice on behalf of the Allies, here all wet.

610. Silvio Gesell (1862-1930), finance minister of the first (independent socialist) Munich Councils Republik in 1919, of which the anarchist Gustav Landauer (1870-1919) was the education minister before being arrested and assassinated by the Social Democratic authorities. Pound was a student of Gesell's radical monetary theories.
614. "The money is there," a statement made to Mussolini in 1943 by Gianpetro Pellegrini of the Salò Republic's Ministry of Finance when offering him a handsome monthly sum for his personal expenses (initially declined).
619. Persephone, goddess of the Underworld.
620. "That leans."
621. Pontius Pilate, Roman procurator of Judaea (c. 26-37).
- 625-26. Alfred von Tirpitz (1849-1930), German admiral who developed U-boat warfare against the allies in WWI, warning his daughter against the sirenlike ("SEIRENES") charms of high-ranking naval officers.
626. The solar swastika of Hindu tradition?
630. "In lieu of."
633. "CHARITES," in Homer, *The Graces*.
637. "To the coast."
639. "A white-colored shell" (cf. Botticelli's painting *The Birth of Venus*).
- 642-43. "The southwest wind blows." The Noh play *Suma Genji*, translated by Pound in 1916, climaxes with the "supernatural apparition" of its hero Genji ("a sort of place-spirit") on the seashore of Suma—here rhymed with the theophany of Venus.
645. Cf. 212.
646. "Europe and unchaste Pasiphaë." Europa was raped by Zeus in the form of a bull; Pasiphaë, wife of King Minos, was the mother of the Minotaur.
647. The Southeast and East Winds.
648. Cf. 445-46.
650. "The Tarpeian Cliff," a place in Rome where criminals and traitors were hurled to their death. At 76.45, it is a Roman restaurant.
651. Common Roman wine.
- 652-53. Cf. 577. "Come spirit/come."
654. Aristotle, native of Stagira.
- 655-56. The West and East Winds.
658. "Brododactylos," Aeolic form (via Sappho) of Homer's "rosy-fingered" dawn.
661. "Against the light." Evokes a photograph of Olga Rudge.
662. Cf. "Pisanello lacking the skill/To forge Achaia" [i.e. to recreate Greece] in Pound's 1920 poem "Mauberley."
664. "Venus, Cythera, or Rhodes" (cf. Horace, *Odes* I.vii.1)
665. "Ligurian wind, come."
- 666-75. Aubrey Beardsley (1872-98), English illustrator, associated with the Symbolists and Decadents; John Kettlewell, a student at Oxford in 1913, when Edward, Prince of Wales ("Edvardus") began his studies there; William Lawrence (1889-1915), younger brother of T.E. Lawrence (1888-1935), invited Pound to speak on Cavalcanti at Oxford in 1913. Lines 667-74 were deleted in the 1949 Faber edition.
676. A German-initiated project to build a railroad linking western Europe to the Persian Gulf, 1888-1904.
- 677-80. Pound may have been shown T.E. Lawrence's recent photos of the ancient cliff

- city Arabia Petraea by his brother William. T.E. Lawrence attended the 1919 Versailles Peace Conference with the Arab delegation, but was disgusted with the power politics played by the English prime minister, Lloyd George ("L.L.G."), and its French convenor, Georges Clemenceau ("the frogbassador").
- 685-91. Thomas Collins, lecturer in English at Oxford, took part in the discussion after Pound read his paper on Cavalcanti there in 1913, quoting a line of Sappho ("phanatei moi," or "he seems to me") to prove her superiority to Cavalcanti's line "causing the air to tremble." Magdalen, a college of Oxford University. "The Hound of Heaven," a celebrated poem by Francis Thompson (1859-1907), published in 1893.
704. "Battling" Siki, Senegalese in origin, heavyweight boxing champion of the 1920s.
- 711-12. "That guy Stalin," whose boyhood nickname was Koba, or "the bear."
713. Ernest Rhys (1859-1946), English editor.
717. I.e. "buggered."
720. The muses of history and dance, respectively.
721. Probably Harley Granville-Barker (1877-1946), English actor and playwright.
724. "Essomenoisi," cf. *Od.* XI, 76, "for generations to come."
725. "The grove wants an altar."
726. Lucrezia Borgia (1480-1519).
- 727-30. "A pleasant quarter-hour (in the Malestiana Library)." Located in the town of Cesena, the library was directed by Manlio Torquato Dazzi, who assisted Pound during the early '20s in his research into the life and times of Sigismundo Malatesta.
- 730-33. Quotes from earlier Cantos dealing with historical themes.
- 734-37. G.R.S. Mead (1863-1933), editor of a quarterly review devoted to occult subjects such as reincarnation. The Fortean Society was similarly dedicated to the investigation of unusual and unexplained natural phenomena.
744. "The Birth" (of Venus), by Botticelli.
- 745-47. The Palazzo Capoquardi Salimbene, Olga Rudge's residence in Siena during the '30s, contains a panel painting with a child's face which reminded Pound of their daughter, Mary.
749. From Pound's 1945 Italian translation of *L'Asse che non vacilla*. His 1947 English version (*The Unwobbling Pivot* X) runs: "The unmixed functions [in time and space] without bourne." Cf. 80.673.
752. "In a prepared place," from Cavalcanti's "Donna mi prega," also translated by Pound as "in a sacred place" or "the formed trace."
753. "Spider brings me good luck."
754. "EIKONES," pictures, images, icons.
- 755-56. Cf. 30 above.
- 759-81. Early memories of New York City: "black Jim," a servant at the boarding house on 47th Street run by the Weston branch of Pound's family, later replaced by the Ritz-Carlton. Among its residents in the 1890s: the architect John Fouquet, the real estate agent John Quackenbush, known for his goatee ("barbiche"), the musician Kate Chittenden. Other New York sights and sounds: Mouquin's, the French restaurant; former presidential candidate George Francis Train, now an urban vagrant; the various baubles Pound's Aunt Frank had brought back from her European voyages.
782. One of Pound's ancestors, Joseph Wadsworth, stole the Connecticut charter and hid it in the Charter Oak.
- 783-88. Various stops along Pound's and Aunt Frank's 1898 and 1902 grand tours of

- Europe, the visits to the Al Hambra in Granada and "the gallery of Queen Lindaraja" leading to Gibraltar and Tangiers. Cf. 247-63 above.
- 789-90. James Joyce located Calypso's island near Gibraltar and the Pillars of Hercules. His novel *Ulysses* ends with Molly Bloom's memories of her girlhood in Gibraltar.
- 794-803. "See Naples [and die]," Italian proverb in praise of the city's beauty, here contrasted with the loveliness of northern Italy: the romanesque Church of San Michele in Pavia, the romanesque church of San Zeno Maggiore in Verona (which contains the column signed "Adamo made me"), the frescoes in Verona's San Pietro Martire, Stefano da Verona's painting *Madonna in the Garden*, and the "Restaurant of the (twelve) Apostles" in Verona, where the headwaiter pointed out "Here is the tea" to the young busboy (the "piccolo").
- 799-800. "And 'make the air tremble with clarity,'" a signature line of Cavalcanti's, as given in one of the manuscripts Pound consulted at the Capitolare Library in Verona for his 1932 edition of Cavalcanti's *Rime*.
- 809-12. George Washington Carver (?1864-1943), African-American discoverer of many new uses for peanuts ("arachidi"). During the war, Pound tried to persuade a number of bureaucrats in Italy that the cultivation of peanuts would solve Italy's food shortages—just as he later had syrup-producing American maples planted near Brunnenburg Castle in the South Tyrol, but in the process only managed to introduce poison ivy into the region.
- 819-25. Pound's daughter, Mary, was raised in the Italian Tyrol; through her he met the Bacher family, whose wood carvings blended folk art with an intaglio technique worthy of Pisanello's medals of Malatesta.
828. Lines refracting the poems "Clair de Lune" and "Fountain Court (à Arthur Symons)" by the Symbolist Paul Verlaine (1844-96).
- 836-38. "And is not an attribute. . . it is an agent." Medieval scholastic distinctions found in commentaries on Cavalcanti's "Donna mi prega," a philosophical canzone that investigates the relation of memory to desire. Pound's full translation of Cavalcanti's poem provides the centerpiece of Canto 36 and its "light philosophy" suffuses the entire Pisan sequence.
839. Pound observes in his essay on Cavalcanti that the rose form made by the magnet in iron filings is a perfect example of energy realizing itself as pattern.
- 839-40. Cf. Ben Jonson's "Her Triumph" (in his 1624 *Celebration of Chans*): "Ha' you felt the wool of beaver/Or swan's down ever?/Or have smelt o' the bud o' the briar?/Or the nard in the fire?" John Dowland's setting of this poem was published by Arnold Dolmetsch (cf. 81.100-13).
842. The river of forgetfulness in Hades. In Dante's sacred geography, however, the stream is placed on the summit of Mount Purgatory. Cf. *Pur.* XXVIII, 127-31: "On this side it descends with virtue that takes from one the memory of sin; on the other side it restores the memory of every good deed. Here Lethe, so on the other side Eunoe it is called; and it works not if first it be not tasted on this side and on that" (Singleton). In the autograph draft of Canto 74, the final lines originally read: "We who have passed over Lethe/seeking Eunoe." Under the guidance of Matelda, Dante drinks of the waters of Lethe in *Pur.* XXXI and of Eunoe (from the Greek, "well-minded") in *Pur.* XXXIII.

CANTO 75

3. Gerhart Münch (1907-88), pianist, composer, and arranger, native of Dresden, Germany, recently fire-bombed by the Allies (hence the allusion to Phlegethon, the flaming river of fire in Hades!). Münch provided an "abbreviation" for the violin of Francesco da Milano's sixteenth-century version of "Le Chant des Oiseaux" by the French composer Clément Jannequin (?1485-1558), whose score (in Olga Rudge's hand) is given below.
- 5-6. Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707), German composer; Ludwig Klages (1872-1956), German anthropologist; Hans Sachs (1494-1576), German Meistersinger.
- 8-10. Notes: "Sidelights from Salassi [?]: —The Song of the Birds—Francesco da Milano (16th century)—Gerhart Münch (20th century) [by metamorphosis]—Violin Part—Part 1."
- Final ideogram. Chinese seal characters, perhaps a phonetic transcription of Münch's name (*mu-ch'i*). The 1933 date coincides with Pound's organization of music festivals in Rapallo featuring Münch and the violinist Olga Rudge.

CANTO 76

3. "Where memory liveth," from Pound's translation of Cavalcanti's "Donna mi prega."
4. Olivia Rossetti Agresti (1875-1961), daughter of Pre-Raphaelite William Michael Rossetti and broadcaster for Radio Rome, referring to Mussolini.
6. Wife of Amphityron, glimpsed by Odysseus in Hades.
7. Three tree nymphs.
9. Three muses: Walter Savage Landor's Dirce, Sigismundo Malatesta's Isotta, and Cavalcanti's Giovanna, referred to by Dante in the *Vita nuova* as "she who was called Primavera" [i.e. "Spring" or she who will "come first," i.e. before Beatrice].
- 11-31. Reprise of the visionary encounter on the *salita* (or "hill road") near Sant'Ambrogio recorded in the drafts of Italian Cantos 74-75; cf. 74.445-46.
13. "On the slope and at the crossing of three roads."
16. "Beneath our cliffs."
- 19-20. Rapallo lies on the via Aurelia, which runs along the coast from Rome to Pisa to Genoa. The older road ("la vecchia") runs below the church of St. Pantaleone at Sant'Ambrogio. In the drafts of Italian Cantos 74-75, Sigismundo Malatesta and his court poet Basinio are traveling along the via Aurelia toward Genoa when the vision of Cunizza occurs.
- 21-22. Three apparitions: "Cunizza there at the crossing of three roads,/and the barefoot woman." In the drafts of Italian Cantos 74-75, "la scalza" is a barefoot country woman who suddenly appears halfway up the hill path from Rapallo to Sant'Ambrogio, fleeing her home that has just been destroyed by bombs and seeking refuge in the church of St. Pantaleone; at 74.446 and 30 below, she declares "I am the Moon." The third apparition here ("and she who said") had also been evoked in the Italian Cantos of Jan.-Feb. 1945: she is Caterina Sforza, Countess of Forlì (1463-1509). Legend has it that while defending the fortress of Ravaldino against the Orsi, she mounted the battlements, defiantly raised her skirts, and boasted that she "had the mould for casting more children."
- 24-26. "This rotten wind," blowing over the city of Toulouse, north of Mount Ségur, the