

VISCOUS AND SONS had announced publication of *The Annotated Poems of Sean O'Shawn*, the great Irish poet, considered by many to be the most incomprehensible and hence the finest poet of his time. Abounding in highly personal references, an understanding of O'Shawn's work requires an intimate knowledge of his life, which, according to scholars, not even he had. Following is a sample from this fine book.

Beyond Ichor

Let us sail. Sail with
Fogarty's chin to Alexandria,
While the Beamish Brothers
Hurry giggling to the tower,
Proud of their gums.
A thousand years passed since
Agamemnon said, "Don't open
The gates, who the hell needs
A wooden horse that size?"

What is the connection? Only
That Shaunnesy, with dying
Breath, refused to order an
Appetizer with his meal although
He was entitled to it.

And brave Bixby, despite his
Resemblance to a woodpecker,
Could not retrieve his underwear
From Socrates without a ticket.
Parnell had the answer, but no
One would ask him the question.
No one but old Lafferty, whose
Lapis lazuli practical joke caused
A whole generation to take
Samba lessons.

True, Homer was blind and that
Accounted for why he dated those
Particular women.

But Aegnus and the Druids bear
Mute testimony to man's quest
For free alterations.

Blake dreamed of it too, and
O'Higgins who had his suit
Stolen while he was still in it.
Civilization is shaped like a
Circle and repeats itself, while
O'Leary's head is shaped like
A trapezoid.

Rejoice! Rejoice! And call your
Mother once in a while.