

Appendix IV

Sweeney Agonistes : concluding scene sent to Hallie Flanagan.*

Eliot wrote to Hallie Flanagan that the second fragment "should end as follows : There should be 18 knocks like the angelus, and then

Enter an old gentleman. He is in full evening dress with a carnation, but otherwise resembles closely Father Christmas. In one hand he carries an empty champagne bottle, in the other an alarm clock.

THE OLD GENTLEMAN. Good evening. My name is Time. The time by the exchange clock is now nine-forty-five (or whatever it is). I come from the vacant lot in front of the Grand Union Depot, where there is the heroic equestrian statue of General Diego Cierra of Paraguay. Nobody knows why General Cierra is there. Nobody knows why I am there. Nobody knows anything. I wait for the lost trains that bring in the lost souls after midnight. The time by the exchange clock is now 9:46.

SWEENEY. Have you nothing else to say?

OLD GENTLEMAN. Have you nothing to ask me?

SWEENEY. Yes.

OLD GENTLEMAN. Good.

SWEENEY. When will the barnfowl fly before morning?

When will the owl be operated on for cataracts?

When will the eagle get out of his barrel-roll?

* Quoted by Carol H. Smith, T.S. Eliot's Dramatic Theory and Practice, pp. 62-63, from Hallie Flanagan, Dynamo, pp. 82-83.

OLD GENTLEMAN. When the camel is too tired to walk farther
Then shall the pidgeon-pie blossom in the desert
At the wedding breakfast of life and death.

SWEENEY. Thank you.

OLD GENTLEMAN. Good night.

(As Old Gentleman leaves, the alarm clock in his hand goes
off.)"