

EXACTING—INEXACTITUDE

He was exacting,
wouldn't take "no" for an answer,
wouldn't take "yes" for an answer,
and held no trust in "the facts"
since the "eyewitness"
was just as blind as Justice
and the "eavesdropper"
deaf to all cries, like Mercy,—

never asked for "the world on a platter",
not "this world"
sliced into cross-sections
labelled: "suffer, little children";
or: "greed is your master",—

didn't want "the world of his dreams"
which he exposed as being "cheap" and "for sale"
("put them in a row
and there isn't one dream
you wouldn't betray for some other";
"who can think of a dream
of which there is no dream better"; etc.)—

wanted the impossible,
to step into another dimension
in which every pore of his yearning body
could bathe in the taste of very fine Claret.
But (and here he displayed the naivest trust)
it must be stamped *appellation contrôlée*
indicating that "quality of life"
which the French government
approves for intake by the human consumer.