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Dorothy L Sayers at Fifty

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Online Winter Seminar

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DOROTHY L SAYERS AT FIFTY

(For Nancy-Lou Patterson)

O felix culpa, those German rockets falling,
which drove me like a badger underground,
for there I read of Dante's ancient hauling--
down cave, up hill, from planet to planet bound;
what narrative pace! what humour light, delightful!
what meat within that paper shell is found!--
with woes and glories of this world it's quite full.
Cunizza I pray I am, and hope to be;
and may this island, from all its lessons frightful
of these four years, surviving, in its degree
then emulate the Kingdom Paradisal,
where artists serve the work in artistry--
as Dante did; as craftsmen must, a-whistle;
better the Celestial Rose, than Phlegethon's thistle.

--Joe R. Christopher