With dying eyes and lolling heads—those ashen-grey
Masks of the lads who once were keen and kind and gay?

Have you forgotten yet? . .
Look up, and swear by the green of the spring that you'll never forget.

EZRA POUND
1885-1972

The poem sequence Hugh Selwyn Mauberley (Life and Contacts), published by Pound in 1920, is a complex, often wryly comic, refraction of the bne sensibility of a bctional minor man of letters, but at one point, Pound darkens the poem as he contemplates the Great War and its meaning for his generation.

From HUGH SELWYN MAUBERLEY (LIFE AND CONTACTS)

These fought in any case,
and some believing,

pro domo, in any case . .

Some quick to arm,
some for adventure,
some from fear of weakness,
some from fear of censure,
some for love of slaughter, in imagination,

learning later ...
some in fear, learning love of slaughter;

Died some, pro patria,

non “duke” non “et decor”
waked eye-deep in hell
believing in old men’s lies, then unbelieving
came home, home to a lie,
home to many deceits,

home to old lies and new infamy;
usury age-old and age-thick
and liars in public places.

Daring as never before, wastage as never before.
Young blood and high blood,

fair cheeks, and fine bodies;

fortitude as never before
frankness as never before,
dissillusions as never told in the old days,
hysterias, trench confessions,
laughter out of dead bellies.

There died a myriad,
And of the best, among them.

For an old bitch gone in the teeth,
For a botched civilization.

Charm, smiling at the good mouth,

Quick eyes gone under earth’s lid,

For two gross of broken statues
For a few thousand battered books.

E. E. CUMMINGS
1894-1963

Like many college-age Americans, Cummings served in France in the Norton-Harjes Ambulance Corps.

i sing of Olaf glad and big
whose warmest heart recoiled at war:
a conscientious object-or