

The Formicary

*I discovered it by accident and knew
there would be an invasion in the morning I would take steps*

*that night's dream was crowded with soldiers explaining
they were only doing their duty without reward
and with workers begging to be spared since they could only
slave their grinding lives away without hope
the queens were proud and scorned the chance to pray
their lovers beat transparent wings in arrogance
I determined to save the humble and the faultless*

*but in the morning I saw the task beyond me impatience
pressed me to abandon justice I poured the gasoline
over the entire population and dropped the match*

-- Ottone M. Riccio

There Are Gamelaws

*For as long as I can say the old redhead moon will die
from laughter. Why? Because tonight and every night I have
crept like something little and stupid and afraid under the
bough of a linden tree -- do not uncover me, do not move the
chip for I am a baby quail and there are gamelaws*

-- Robert Lowry