

## Dr. Ashley Recalls A Dream

I suppose the thing I did on Pope  
Should find a home one of these days.  
They all said it was good, liked it  
Immensely, encouraged me, but with the load  
I've had here, well, revisions and all  
The new research — you've seen our  
Library by now I imagine. And yet  
One or two of the larger houses have  
Expressed interest. Keen, one of them.  
You might say I chose to teach instead,  
Leave the glory for the other fellow,  
Though I haven't seen anything on that  
Twickenham scoundrel to match it. One  
Day I'll give it to the world. Perhaps a  
Summer when I'm free. The work involved  
Isn't monstrous, just time-consuming.

But it is a dream, not unrealizable,  
And one day Pope shall immortalize  
Me. And then I'll be free to move on,  
Not that I haven't been well-treated  
Here, you understand, but the element  
Of time, and the hours here, well,  
Perhaps you'll see it too when you've  
Put in a dozen years. Naturally  
The houses want the proper auctorial  
Address. They have a private  
Prejudice which makes it doubly  
Difficult here, in our public  
Situation. But if it's good, if it's  
Really good they can't look the other  
Way. You make them see you. Loom so  
Large you're unavoidable. Any day  
Now something might break for me.  
But I wouldn't say anything now.  
Discretion, you know.

-- Lee Jacobus

New Milford, Conn.