

Remember he had made the test  
Finding the East by sailing West.  
But had he found it? Here he was  
Without one trinket from Ormuz  
To save the Queen from family censure  
For her investment in his venture.

There had been something strangely wrong  
With every coast he tried along.  
He could imagine nothing barrener.  
The trouble was with him the mariner.  
He wasn't off a mere degree;  
His reckoning was off a sea.

And to intensify the drama  
Another mariner Da Gama,  
Came just then sailing into port  
From the same general resort,  
And with the gold in hand to show for  
His claim it was another Ophir.

Had but Columbus known enough  
He might have boldly made the bluff  
That better than Da Gama's gold  
He had been given to behold  
The race's future trial place,  
A fresh start for the human race.

He might have fooled Valladolid.  
I was deceived by what he did.  
If I had had my chance when young  
I should have had Columbus sung  
As a god who had given us  
A more than Moses' exodus.