

## After the Fall

Created out of five and dimes,  
The Woolworth sums up better times:

A Flemish Gothic 1910  
Metropolis that might have been;

As, wholly 1932,  
The Empire State, forever new,

Foretells a city so far seen  
In drawings only, caught between

Prospectus and a backward glance  
Toward Babylon. As we advance

The future takes on more and more  
A look of follies gone before.

On every planner's mounting zeal  
Hell's Kitchen comes to put its seal,

And where the streets of Haussmann go  
Stood once the Walls of Jericho.

Above the airship mooring mast  
The TV aeriels broadcast,

Confirming that Count Zeppelin  
Is where our Captain Kirks begin.

In fiction--pulp or subtler art--  
In film, the silents at the start

And talkies after, Emerald  
Or Seven Gated, tightly walled

Yet welcoming, a citadel  
No actuality can quell,

Our future is that city, myth  
We are from childhood encumbered with.