

## Checking Birth Certificates

Into the fire that will renew  
Or will destroy, Ayesha goes.  
Her age, if she herself once knew,  
Now only ageless Kronos knows.

Fast forward: L.A. '38,  
And actresses have found the lie  
To be, in slowing down the rate  
Of aging, as worthwhile a try

As entering the flame. Born *when*?  
Well, 1904 will keep one still  
This side of forty, and has been  
The choice of those for whom the will

Is, aided by the lens, the way.  
A Juliet of thirty-six;  
An Ondine anything but fey;  
St. Joan a long way toward the Styx.

She-Who-Must-Be-Obeyed may be,  
Except by simple Time: the Wrath  
Of God emerging by degree.  
A menopausal Joan? Just do the math..