

Although A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN was written in 1943 and first produced (unsuccessfully) in 1947, it was not until the publication and production of Eugene Gladstone O'Neill's earlier play, LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO NIGHT, that the necessary key for its understanding became available. The revelation that O'Neill had used the name "Tyrone" for a family based on his own made it clear that the James Tyrone of A MOON FOR THE MISBEGOTTEN was also drawn directly from the playwright's own background and that the play represented later events in the life of his unfortunate elder brother.

"CYNARA"

"Last night, ah, yesternight, betwixt her lips and mine
There fell thy Shadow, Cynara! thy breath was shed
Upon my soul between the kisses and the wine;
And I was desolate and sick of an old passion,
Yea, I was desolate and bowed by head:
I have been faithful to thee, Cynara! in my fashion..."

-Ernest Dowson