

he wrote, 'gives me something that I need and at this moment of time'.¹ He most certainly appreciated Gogarty's gaiety and ebullience and it is possible, of course, that he referred only to these personal qualities. But after looking at Gogarty's poetry, there is good reason to believe that he was also thinking of the verse, the attraction of its themes, and the creative stimulus that it afforded.

¹ Preface in Gogarty's *Wild Apples*, 1930, p. 'i'.

The Burial of Scyld

(Beowulf 26-42 : 47-52)

Forth at the fated time fared Scyld,
 Passed into powerful protection of gods:
 Carried, as he commanded, by companions close,
 Led long by their loved king
 To seamarge the Scylding's protector.
 The harbour held the high ring-prowed ship,
 Icy, for outward trimmed: a hero's ship.
 Their loved lord they laid there,
 The giver of gold geared in the ship's bosom,
 Man mourned by the mast. Much treasure
 From far ways, freight, was put there;
 Nor heard I of keel more comely trimmed
 With war weapons, war armour,
 Blades and bright corselets; on his bosom lay
 Riches without reck that must needs with him
 Fare far into the flood's hold.
 Over the gold-giver a golden banner stood,
 High over head: him the sea must take,
 Given to the great flood; grieved their hearts,
 Mourning in mind. Men can not now
 Tell in truth, counsellors in hall
 Or men under sky, what grasped that gear.

A translation by KENNETH SEVERS