

WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS: IMAGES

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETEEN



Civil war, Dublin



The arrival of the Black and Tans

SAILING TO BYZANTIUM

O sages standing in God's holy fire
As in the gold mosaic of a wall,



enamel icon: the Archangel Michael, Constantinople,
12th century



Icon with Christ and SS Sergios and Bacchos,
Constantinople, 6th or 7th century.

<http://www.time.com/time/photogallery/0,29307,1853552,00.html#ixzz2Dr5x9O5F>

BYZANTIUM

Miracle, bird or golden handiwork,
More miracle than bird or handiwork,
Planted on the starlit golden bough



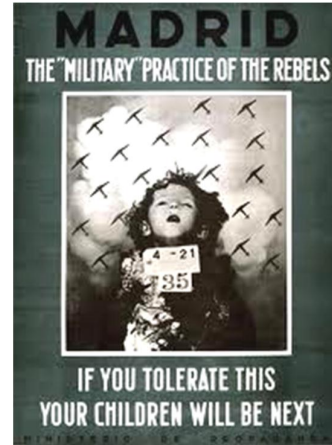
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The smithies break the flood,
The golden smithies of the Emperor
Marbles of the dancing floor
Break bitter furies of complexity,
Those images that yet
Fresh images beget,
That dolphin-torn, that gong-tormented sea.



LAPIS LAZULI

I have heard that hysterical women say
They are sick of the palette and fiddle-bow.
Of poets that are always gay,
For everybody knows or else should know
That if nothing drastic is done
Aeroplane and Zeppelin will come out.
Pitch like King Billy bomb-balls in
Until the town lie beaten flat.



Propaganda: Spanish Civil War 1936-39

Two Chinamen, behind them a third,
Are carved in lapis lazuli,
Over them flies a long-legged bird,
A symbol of longevity;
The third, doubtless a serving-man,
Carries a musical instrument.

Every discoloration of the stone,
Every accidental crack or dent,
Seems a water-course or an avalanche,
Or lofty slope where it still snows
Though doubtless plum or cherry-branch
Sweetens the little half-way house
Those Chinamen climb towards,



Lapis Lazuli Mountain, Ch'ien Lung Period, (1739-95)