II. Landscape with the Fall of Icarus

According to Brueghel when Icarus fell it was spring a farmer was ploughing his field the whole pageantry of the year was awake tingling near the edge of the sea concerned with itself sweating in the sun that melted the wings' wax unsignificantly off the coast there was a splash quite unnoticed this was Icarus drowning.

- William Carlos Williams

5. Peter Bruegel (or Breughel) the Elder (1527–1569), Flemish painter of often lively and boisterous peasant life. Pictures from Bruegel is a set of ten poems, each having as its subject a Bruegel painting.

6. In Greek mythology, Icarus's father, Daedalus, made wings for both of them to escape from Crete. Icarus flew too close to the sun, the wax on his wings melted, and he fell into the sea and drowned. In Bruegel's painting Fall of Icarus, the only reference to the myth is Icarus's pair of legs disappearing into the sea in a corner of the canvas. See also W. H. Auden's "Musée de Beaux Arts" (p. 797).