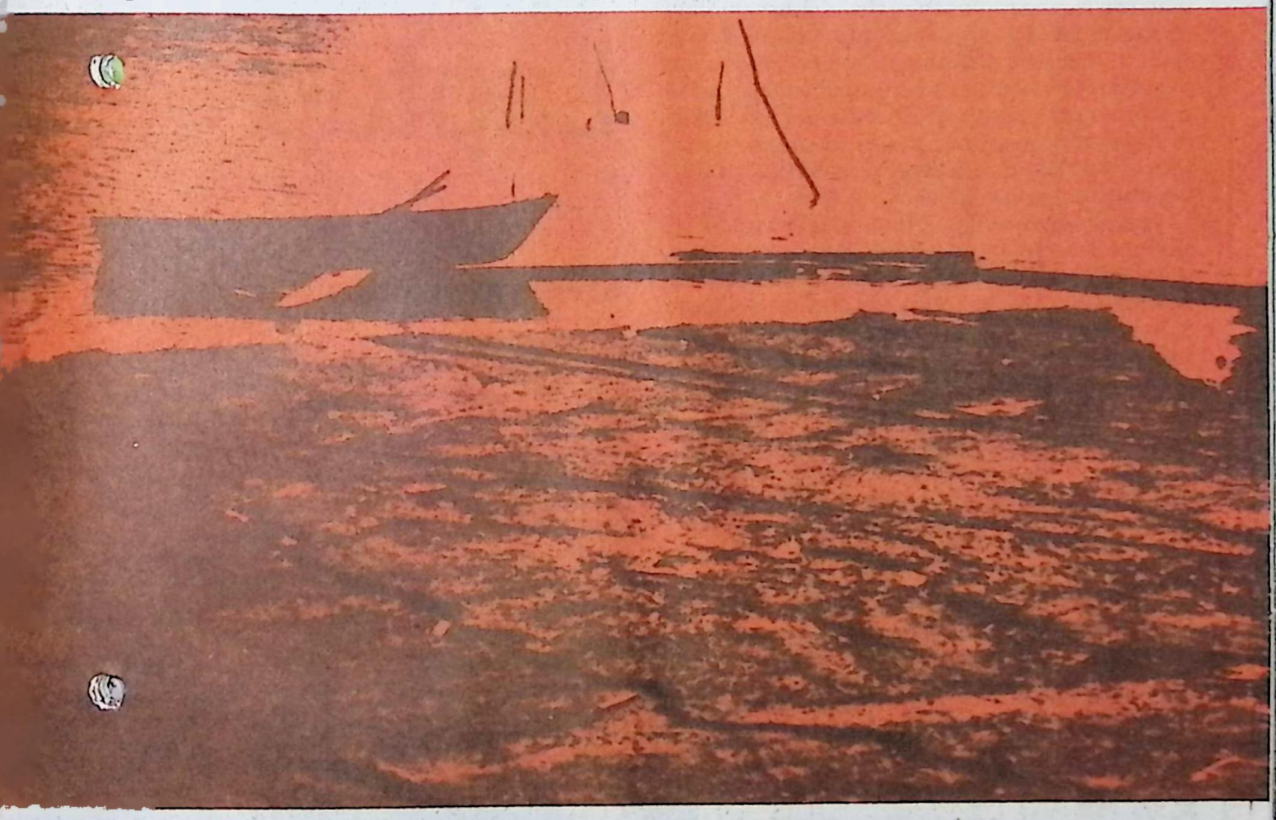
larly his relationship with his father was strained. In 1927 he converted to Anglicanism from Unitarianism. He had a history of nervous breakdowns and writer's block, but for The Waste Land his thoughts were in full bloom. He was young, only 33, the subject was close to his heart and Ezra Pound, his friend and editor, was at his side. The consummation was most befitting for the extraordinary gifts of T. S. Eliot.

Ezra Pound fully believed in the talents of T. S. Eliot and in fact, it is he who was the midwife to The Waste Land. He suggested Eliot refrain from using caustic remarks about London city from Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, in the epi-

lish language by T S Eliot. The Hollow Men is also in five parts. The first few lines are - ' *We are the hollow men / We are the stuffed men / Leaning together / Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!/ Our dried voices, when / We whisper together / Are quiet and meaningless / As wind in dried grass / Or rats'feet over broken glass / In our dry cellar'.*

Ash Wednesday is another remarkably resonant poem of T S Eliot. It belongs to the class of The Waste Land. The tale from the heart in Ash Wednesday is overpowering - *'Because I do not hope to turn again / Because I do not hope / Because I do not hope to turn / Desiring this man's gift and that man's scope / I no longer strive to strive towards*



graph. He obliged. In the text one finds, 'Unreal city'. Another great poet W B Yeats was critical about the enthusiasm for *The Waste Land*. One can however find similarity between W B Yeats' *Sailing to Byzantium* and T S Eliot's *The Waste Land* in the exploratory journey and use of symbolisms. In Yeats' journey the aesthetic element predominates while in Eliot's *Waste Land* the exploration is of a reflective and lyrical nature.

The Waste Land took T S Eliot to dizzying heights; many more great poems followed. There were seven plays, the notable one being *The Murder in Cathedral (1935). The Hollow Men (1925), Ash Wednesday (1930)* and *The Four Quartets (1945)* are also among the adored poems of Eng-

such things / (Why should the aged eagle stretch its wings?) / Why should I mourn...'

Thomas Stearns Eliot was not born with the best of physical health. He had double inguinal hernia that prevented him from taking part in sport. He overcame his limitation by devoting himself to books and learning. The gift was within him and the limitation spurred him on. He showed the promise in every stage of his educational career. The Eliots were a privileged family. But he charted his own course and rose to international acclaim. The Nobel Prize for literature came in 1948. The love for English poetry is the legacy of a band of a few illustrious poets, T S Eliot is fascinatingly endearing among them. ■