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Coals to Newcastle or Doggerel for a Poet: A Tribute to John Simon

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Guido Calabresi*

Coals to Newcastle
or
Doggerel for a Poet

Who with exacting mien
Almost 'til dawn, was seen
In the law school,
Which he did rule?
John Simon, Acting Dean!

For when exhausted Guid
Was from his duties freed,
Who in the gap
Stood all the crap?
John Simon, Acting Lead!

And who, with Steve's accord,
Borrowed from Guido's hoard,
Homeless to help,
(Though Guid did yelp)
John Simon, Acting Lord!

Who, with compassion rare,
Was just, supportive, fair,
To all who might
Show pain or fright?
John Simon, Acting Chair!

For those who must retire,
Who went through hell and fire,
In meetings long
With patience strong?
John Simon, Acting Sire!

Who when the Provost said,
Retreat; went on instead
With courage true
And good sense too?
John Simon, Acting Head!

* Dean and Sterling Professor, Yale Law School.
When women at a loss  
For clerkships grew quite cross,  
Who calm'd them all  
And strife controll'd  
John Simon, Acting Boss!  

Who, when reorder'd pecks  
M and P morale wrecks  
Said this miscue  
Will not go through?  
John Simon, Acting Rex!  

Old allegations lewd,  
The first term schedule screwed,  
Who conquers stoops  
Teaching small groups?  
John Simon, Acting Dude!  

Who, th' Auditorium wan,  
With gold from Levinson  
Ordered renewed,  
While funds accrued?  
John Simon, Acting Kahn!  

Once glorious, like the Taj  
Our crack'd gothic garage,  
Who says repair,  
Cash will be there?  
John Simon, Acting Raj!  

Nothing can fury bring  
Like turned down kinderling,  
Who on the phone  
Restored the tone?  
John Simon, Acting King!  

Silvan school's posture stiff  
Creates appointments' tiff,  
Who got Ms. Sen  
To try again?  
John Simon, Acting Iff!
Distinguished Alumn
Desired last hurrah,
Who, with Carroll
Prepared it all?
John Simon, Acting Shah!

Retirement dos are hard
And most by them are jarred
Who, Cohen's one,
Made joyous fun,
John Simon, Acting Bard!

In the Appointments race
Klevorick set the pace,
But in the Board,
Who struck the chord,
John Simon, Acting Grace!

Who when a colleague's beef
Caused other Deans deep grief,
Did them relieve
And peace achieve?
John Simon, Acting Chief!

When all the grades were late,
Which students did berate,
Who brought them in,
Sans fuss or din?
John Simon, Acting Great!

How could the clinic hope
With smaller staff to cope?
Who brought the brawn,
Of Solomon?
John Simon, Acting Pope!

Co-opting Peter Schuck's
Investigative looks,
Who, in between,
Took in Dineen?
John Simon, Acting Dux!
When Guido from afar,
Spewed fumets and catarrh,
Who, with no frown,
Just faxed him down?
John Simon, Acting Tsar!

Who, on Commencement day,
In quatrains bright and fey
Taught well the crowd
Of parents proud?
John Simon, Acting Bey!

With Claire's assistance bless'd
To strengthen him when press'd
No one can doubt,
And all will shout,
John Simon is The Best!