

1913

SALUTATION From Lustra

Ezra Pound

Pound, Ezra (1885-1972) - Controversial American poet, editor, and critic who had a major influence on 20th century literature. After making hundreds of broadcasts for the Italian Fascist regime, he was tried for treason, judged insane, and held in a mental hospital for over ten years. Salutation (1913) - First published in 1913 and later collected in "Lustra," this poem was set to music in 1922 by J. C. Holbrooke. Opening line: O generation of the thoroughly smug and thoroughly uncomfortable, .

SALUTATION

O GENERATION of the thoroughly smug and thoroughly uncomfortable, I have seen fishermen picnicking in the sun, I have seen them with untidy families, I have seen their smiles full of teeth and heard ungainly laughter.

And I am happier than you are, And they were happier than I am;
And the fish swim in the lake and do not even own clothing.

THE END