democratically elected government was attacked in a heavy military onslaught by the mutinous General Francisco Franco in collusion with invading Germanx and Italian armies: employing especially their air force
to strafe civilians; and their navies to bring in arms. The rest of Europe,
meanthile, including England and France, lifted not a finger to intervene.

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Canadian s reacted to these events with varying degrees of understanting. The Canadian Forum was the first to publish poetry which expressed frustration and anger. Poets of stature like E.J. Pratt, F.R. Scott and the classics professor Louis Mackay largely turned to satire to express their feelings. Of these poems Mackay's were the most terse and stringent:

Sottle hymn for the Spanish Rebals (under Franco)