

Pentimenti: What Young Ezra Pound Saw in The Prado

On the left the dusky great room

*Las Hilanderas* spinning flax

in beamed light. In the smaller room

*Las Meninas*: the young princess,

court ladies, dog, dwarf, mirror,

a glimpse of Velasquez by the far door, painting.

On the facing wall his self-portrait, the artist alone,

gimlet-eyed and wary, his swart moustache trained up.

Then *Don Juan of Austria*, more dwarfs;

many pale Virgins enthroned; that picture

of the woman running, a mastiff locked onto one

buttock. *The Surrender at Breda*

barred with many spears. And Philip, Philip, Philip:

pale Philip in black armor, Philip on foot

with his hunting gun and borzoi;

*Philip on Horseback*, the horse's fetlock

ghosting through the over painting

behind Don Juan and that fire --

two up-rushed brush strokes

from the master's hand showing through.

(see GK 110)