

7. For a complete treatment of the images of the New Testament in Voltaire's narrative work, see Alfred Bingham, "Voltaire and the New Testament", in *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, XXIV, pp. 183-218.
8. Few people even within the discipline of Romance Languages are aware that Voltaire wrote a complete commentary on the Bible called *La Bible enfin expliquée*.

TO AN ANTIQUE CHAIR

Janet Lloyd

You are like that old aunt who came to tea
 On Sundays when I was young.
 "Be polite to Auntie, and treat her with respect.
 She is old, and very precious to us all."

She was very fat, this aunt, and very rich,
 Hence, thinking back, the "precious" bit,
 And she always wore a dress of blushing
 Rose brocade.

Sitting exactly as you do: squat,
 Legs apart, her fat blush backsides
 Straining at their stays; her righteousness
 Inflating more her huge hard bosom,
 She would tell me vicious tales of hell.

So though I'm told you're "precious" you must go.
 You squat Victorian bitch in blushing
 Rose brocade.