

FAUSTUS IS US

by Alan Nordstrom

for Nicholas Maxwell

Faustus personifies our lust to know,
That science which we seek so avidly,
Since knowing leads to doing as we grow
In power to control our destiny.

But Faustus sold his soul for what he learned,
His bargain with the Devil granting him
A period of supremacy unearned
By merit, making his moral vision dim.

And so it is with us, so powerful
In realms of science and technology,
Who know so much of how, much less of why
Or what is wise, who rather play the fool
Than seek to earn the true supremacy
Of knowing how to live, not how to die.

Alan Nordstrom is Professor of English at Rollins College, Box 2672, Winter Park, FL 32789; e-mail anordstrom@rollins.edu.

[*Zygon*, vol. 39, no. 4 (December 2004).]

© 2004 by the Joint Publication Board of *Zygon*. ISSN 0591-2385