

Ovarian Epic: A Comment on 35 U.S.C. § 103  
17 IDEA 102 (1975)  
Thomas G. Field, Jr.

From the days of Ferdinand and Isabell' –  
When Columbus, he did sail,  
There comes to us of present day,  
A most enlightening tale.

It's told that when Columbus  
Made his trip across the sea,  
That jealous courtiers 'round the throne  
Did bleat discourteously.

On that gay and festive eve  
When all sat down to dine,  
They poked fun at that poor lad  
In a manner not sublime.

“Any fool could sail to far-off lands,  
The wind doth blow the boat;”  
Such feats of exploration  
Can be done by any goat!”

To this our hero gently said,  
“Thou dost surely pull my leg,”  
And asked a nearby maid go out  
And fetch him back an egg:

He put it on the table,  
Bowed low with courtly bend:  
“A cheer to any fellow  
Who can stand it up on end!”

“Of course, chaps, in so doing  
You must not break the yolk . . . ,  
But I needn't tell you that,  
You are such gentle folk.”

They all did try, to no avail  
(Of course, alas, alack),  
And after several hundred eggs  
To our hero gave it back.

He tapped it on its air-pouch  
And stood it up on end;  
Then he rose and bowed to them  
With his most courtly bend.

Then he quietly told them  
(When they ceased their awful row):  
“Any fool can do this trick  
When another's showed him how.”

... And now, dear lads and ladies  
If you should try this trick  
(One small word of caution),  
Take care which end you pick.