Orcadian Moment

We crawl on elbows and toes
   Into the ground.
   It closes round us.
   Earth’s aroma.
White sky and wind are shut
   Out of the mound.

Some found bones on this pressing
   Crawl to the dead.
Some took treasure.
   Just a flash as
We point the instamatic.
   Mind your head.

Everything is still here —
   Still — plus,
Mysterious too,
   Questioning thickly
The dark endless burial,
   The stones — us.

Jan Farquharson 1999
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