

## Martin Robertson

### Label

The objects in this case  
were taken from a grave:

a pair of ear-rings, gold, simple design;  
a bronze mirror, its shine a roughened green  
but on the back still, delicately lined,  
a leaf-fan on whorled stalks, above the tang  
which held it in the handle, doubtless of wood  
(no trace of that remained);  
two jointed dolls of clay;  
likewise of fired clay, half a dozen crocks,  
five of them black, prettily formed but plain,  
the sixth (small like the others) a masterpiece  
of shaping and drawing.

These were lifted from a girl's grave,  
put there by friends, by her parents probably,  
to be there always in the dark ground  
with the dead child.

Popular name for archaeologist  
is grave-robber.

Not without reason.

Still, might perhaps the master potter-painter  
like to have known his handiwork seen,  
shown, loved again?