

### how to build a serving man

take the boy before he is grown –  
his beginnings his tangled world of  
oakum & tar is already labelled he'll  
know he's trammelled

born without rules – his boyishness  
is soon disposed of by fist & thumped into  
humility – he'll seek a way out & learn to  
be meek

uniform will hide the lad he was & he'll  
become his clothes – invisibly useful as a  
broom in the machinery of great rooms

smooth as an egg & dead-eyed he'll brush  
his Master's coat & help him preen & aid  
escapes due to men of His rank & even  
enable japes

it's castration by collar-stud cufflink & tie  
he'll not mate nor marry & you'll tell him  
serving m'Lud is better than a short life –  
his vittles scratched from mud