

## 26 Treasures (2011)



Four national museums – London’s Victoria and Albert Museum, the Ulster Museum, the National Library of Wales and the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh – took part in this collaboration with the writers’ collective 26, to explore the responses of individual writers to individual objects.

*The Brief: Curators at the National Museum of Scotland chose 26 objects, from the ground floor right to the top, moving through successive periods of time. 26 writers were randomly assigned one of these objects to respond to in a sestude (exactly 62 words long).*

My object was a set of four metal links, part of the heavy Drag Chains used to slow down and control the launching of ships from the Glasgow dockyards. It can be found on Level 6 of the National Museum of Scotland: Scotland – A Changing Nation.

Learn more about the **National Museum of Scotland** at <https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

The book **26 Treasures** is available from Amazon as a hardback and on Kindle.

## Sea-Change: The Cry of the Drag Chain

you're so eager to be gone  
fly  
open-armed  
down the slipway to the careless sea  
suffer your sea-change joyously  
go  
where I can't follow  
you don't know  
what I see  
there  
beyond the smooth, safe harbour  
the rich-and-strange that calls to you  
I dread its fade, its knell  
hear me over the cheering  
don't go ...  
don't go ...  
don't go ...

