

NOTES

- ¹ W. D. Valgardson, "True Norse," *Books in Canada* (August-September 1982), p. 29.
- ² *Settlement Poems* contains a reference to the semi-human, with notes on how to detect one, and how to be safe with one, but the meaning of the superstition is not probed. The illustration is picturesque in intention, not metaphoric.

BROWN CUP, DIRTY GLASSES

George Bowering

fr George Economou

The white wolf hides in the snow,
a line away from blood belonging
to someone else. The flood of mutters
will find him there, betrayed by
a smart-alec scribbler with chilblains.
Whatever they are.

French novelists
treat life as if it were death, never
carry firearms, talk you to death
at dinner tables.

The white wolf hides under the trees
among the snowflakes, it is early autumn,
the earth tilts & does some people a favour.

A long female neck, now
talk about snow, a long neck like a penis,
full of blood.

Why do we let unpleasant images
push in where things were going nicely?

Why did your favourite family member
choke to death at Christmas dinner?

Why is death
so damned interesting?

The white wolf hates it
when you write black words all over him.