i never much cared
for icing
as a kid, but as far
as you’re concerned
i've already tasted your sweet
outer layer
and must restrain myself
when wondering
about the culinary
delights
which lie
inside
you.

hey, that’s how to say it:
when i’m with you, trying
to speak
i can see hitler
cursing
as his heavy armour
is bogged down
in another
frigid russian
(winter).

IAN HUGHES

INFLUENCES - A CELEBRATION
They were granite blocks
inside me
fitted together
Shaw Neilson, Judith Wright,
Bruce Dawe,
and Stevie Smith,
and others,
like a pyramid,
and at the zenith,
the keystone,
Voznesensky -
not so much a pyramid
as a sword
cutting an umbilical cord.

PETER ANNAND