

STEPHEN EDGAR

Greenland Shark

So Shakespeare lives on, but Elizabeth
Is dead at last. Click. To a cheering crowd
Danton's head is plucked from the fallen blade.
Click. Darwin's good idea is blazoned. Click.
La Belle Epoque yields to the Bolshevik
Embarrassment of history. Click. Dismayed,
Although enlightened, by the mushroom cloud,
"I am become," chants Oppenheimer, "death."

Through all these centuries the Greenland shark,
One single individual, may survive,
Almost unknowing how to die, its eyes
Half-blind from parasites, at times to rise
And scavenge at the ice floes, and then dive
Back to the freezing, deep and ageless dark.