... so much present because I believed, for a very long time, that his poetry could teach me what kind of thing ‘history’ is, and what one is up to when doing it. (‘Doing history’ is an activity, a making of something; ‘doing history’ encompasses the whole activity: thinking about it, the work of imagination in knowing where to look for material, visualising it; researching it, writing it.) The distinction between ‘history’ and ‘historiography’ is important for what follows here ...