## LITTLE OLD LADIES AND LITTLE OLD MEN

Little old ladies and little old men
Heads failen low on papery necks
Eyes paled with the watery glaze of age,
Hands laid limp on plump, permanent laps,
Their crumpled fingers stiffened from disease.
Faces are shadowed gray, the structure of fine bone Lost in folds of palloured skin
The little old ladies wear lipstick that runs
In tiny rivulets through wrinkled etchings surrounding
The mouth. The men wear hats that hide the baldness,
Freckled with ugly spots of age.
A tongue occasionally licks a weathered lip
Or slides across a toothless gum. Instinctive habit now.
A hand frequently kneads the arm of a chair.
A foot may shuffie. A head may nod
In a cough, coarse and stuttered.
The ladies sit with feet planted flat under
Swollen ankles; the men with swollen bellies under ribs
They suck on pipes; the tobacco no longer burns
Breath is sifted through ragged cracks
Between the tarnished teeth that yet remain,
And whistles an irritating note.
Joints ache distorted from arthritis, but the pain Is oblivious to minds soaked in neglect,
Loneliness blankets the body in a thick, stifling weight
It does not hover, but attacks. It clenches the body,
Squeezing out the sustainance of anger, joy, pain
Depression and love.
Their tears are only water pressured from the wind,
Their cries are only gutless babies in sleep
Their smiles have been set in place from
Practiced reactions of youth. They are not real.
Their reality exists not in human turbulence And confusion, but in a placid world, Drained of time, decisions, blood lusty energy. Their forced function is to sit. To sit in a Noiseless, deafening trauma, that they cannot Know to be traumatic. They have been shoved With quick relief into this world to perform their duty, They do not falter. They cannot falter
They are perfect old folks. Lumps of flesh molded into Litsle old ladies and little old men.


Scottish Countr Hall, Room 143 welcome.
Movie: "Shaft I at the gate. Me

Dr. John Hanso position for Yo Soprano Glori lecture-recital d'Avray Hall a

Opening tea f Club will be $h$ Waterloo Row.

Movie: Brian D Michael Caine

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