

## CHANGE OF SIGNATURE

The cigar and dark glasses  
are an impediment to a member

of the Battersea Mafia armed with  
his chewed-off biro. He who cannot spell

impediment must learn not to write  
clearly, must add the cosmetic flourish

to penmanship -- like a busy Chemist  
or tough surgeon poised to strike

for more pay. But Philpot feels humiliated  
at the questions, probing and insolent,

which greet his new initiative: he's like  
the eight-year old at the Post Office straining

for Adult Signature which doesn't match  
the voice. Or like a woman initialling

her new occupation by a man.

As he's made aware once again how complex

simple things tend to get (with calls  
to the S.S. and X-rays from his dentist)

Philpot reverts to his original X.,  
and turns up his collar for identification.