

Tanzania 1982

Oldavi Gorge

Wild sisal grows at Oldavi.
The Masai named this hole for it.
The canyon walls, red, brown and buff,
look charred like a waste heap.
They flicker through heat rays
and may flame again spontaneously.
Masai live here now, as other did before.
The Leakeys call them Austopithiecinines,
the southern people,
and *Homo habilis*, the handyman,
left his footprints in the ashes nearby
three million years ago.
You still see handymen at junk yards.