

Henry Raeburn: The Reverend Robert Walker Skating on Duddingston Loch, c.1790
Paul Waring

Face a picture in repose,
free from kirk flock, morning
prayers delivered to the sick
and dying

hoisted on glazed shoulders
of loch in bold black
and modish hat, contrast
to greyscale mist.

Trademark travelling position:
arms in wing-tight,
movement a hymn
of honed grace

precise as a Huygens clock –
each figure of eight etched
clean as a craftsman's blade
across glass.