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Summer 2016

Poetry Quarterly

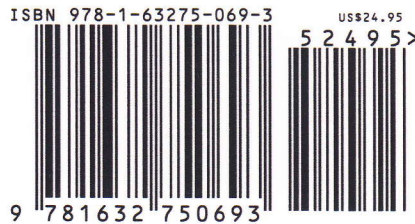
## **The Shape of My Absence**

On the day when I go from here, what shape will my absence take? Will it stretch large, an unbridgeable chasm that runs like a scar through the landscape of my past or yawn wide like a lion's jaw, frozen in a moment of silence before an eternal roar? Will it expand and deepen like a torrent that surges back on itself after a storm, an ever widening river that flows both ways where the sum of my life rushes on without me? Will it broaden into a sturdy passageway where the footfalls of those who follow, finally catch and overtake me?

Perhaps it will be nothing more than a mere pinprick in the shroud, an infinitesimal tear in the tapestry of existence, an imperceptible black hole where the things I longed for and the things I lost, the things I loved and the things I overlooked are drawn in and diminished until they disappear as if they never were. On the day when I go from here, tell me – what shape will my absence take?

# Poetry Quarterly

Featuring poetry by Lawrence William Berggoetz, Carl Boon, Roger Brezina, Jeremy Caldwell, Eve Chilicas, Bradley Civick, Neil Creighton, Gareth Culshaw, Katy D'Angelo, James Davidson, Deborah Davitt, Julie Dickson, Fritz Eifrig, Marc Frazier, Terri Greco, Michael A. Hammerle, Max Heinegg, Karli Henning, Gordon Hilgers, Matthew Horrigan, M.J. Iuppa, Christos Kalli, Lianne Kamp, Jocelyn Paige Kelly, Martin Knabe, Sandra Kolankiewicz, Toshiaki Komura, Matthew Laverty, Alec Lowman, Richard Luftig, John MacDonald, Blaike Marshall, Jackie Maugh Robinson, Seth McKelvey, Kelly McNeal, Joshua Medsker, Sem Megson, Vance Morgan, Aaron Morris, Greg Nelson, Sergio Ortiz, Adam Phillips, David Pring-Mill, Joseph Roberts, Patricia Rossi, Carol Rucks, Cat Russell, Linda Sacco, Carla Schwartz, Claire Scott, James W. Spain, Susan Speranza, John L. Stanizzi, Chris Stolle, Kailey Tedesco, Loreena Thiessen, Jeanie Tomasko, Mark Tucker, Denise Segal Umans, Robert Walton, Melissa Watt, and Jane Wiseman.



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