

## **Quaker Army Knife**

Today I give a boy  
His first knife and compass  
A soul weapon  
And portable stonehenge  
Useful in the treehouse

A folding knife for the spinning earth  
A slow initiation  
Into this club of roots and toys  
Four tiny tractors parked perfectly  
Beneath the ancient oak

A collection of shiny stones  
And two strange sacks of acorns  
Gathered carefully the season past  
In the boy's seventh year  
Of natural history

Tony D'Arpino's most recent book is Seven Dials. His poetry has appeared in Crossconnect, Pavement Saw, Poetry New York, and The Portable Californian. An excerpt from his novel, St Bonaventure's Island, appears in the current issue of Terra Incognita (Madrid). He was recently writer-in-residence at the Djerassi Foundation.