

## THE MOON REMEMBERS THE ASTRONAUTS

Neil Armstrong arrived first,  
Landing the lunar module of Apollo 11  
At the Sea of Tranquility  
On July 19, 1969.  
"That's one small step for man,  
One giant leap for mankind",  
He said  
And Edwin Aldrin stood next to him.

Later others came.  
In all a dozen men walked on the moon  
Perturbing her pristine lot with rhythmic dockings.  
Conrad, Bean and Mitchell,  
Scott, Irwin, Young and Duke were there,  
Strolling in moon dust, before Schmitt and Cernan  
From the crew of Apollo 17  
Touched down in the Taurus-Littrow valley  
On a December day of 1972.

But since then human foot did not step on the moon  
And she stares at the frail blue sphere of her neighbour  
With the abandoned hills of Hadley Appenines  
And a quiet Ocean of Storms.

She orbits the earth with desolate lunar craters;  
A convivial loner, shining unfrequented,  
Her arcane face keeps waxing and waning;  
And although forlorn, reclusive and remote,  
In her silent yellow solitude  
The moon remembers the astronauts.