

William's shoes

(In Memoriam: William M. Sackinger - My cousin, my uncle and my friend.)

Do they fit
these shoes?
No, they are too large;
beautiful though,
masterworks.
I would wear them,
walk them,
a king among men,
if only they would fit.

You can see they are sturdy
handcrafted with patience
care and compassion;
a unique character
tempered with strength and durability.
So refined, a vibrant lifetime;
surely costly, very skilful.
Still,
they are far too large.

Perhaps this is the correct way
to take the measure
of a man, who has gone...
How much must you grow,
to fit his shoes?

I see these shoes,
and part of me rejoices
I can admire and celebrate his life,
of so much accomplishment.
In truth, a small part weeps as well...
they are a treasure
never to be worn by me.

Despite it all,
I am still small,
and William's shoes
so very large.

Steven J. Sackinger
April 19th
MMXI