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Screech Owl

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Screech Owl

It calls nearby again,
 from forte to pianissimo,
a drunkard's yodel,
 the witch's stunt,

a shudder of the limbs
 before sleep dominates,
a rush of headlights
 paving the bedroom walls.

The incantation never tires,
 confounding the north
with panic attacks, jokes
 without rebuttal.

The jungle night's
 off-guard staccatos,
planetary static,
 October glossolalia.

Francis Blessington

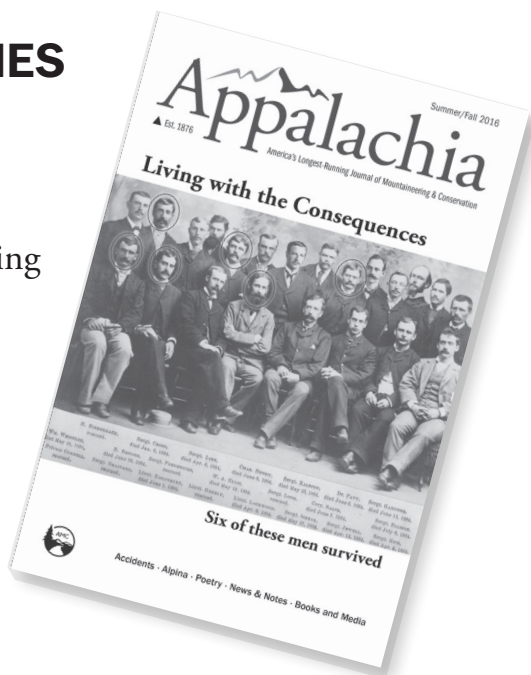
FRANCIS BLESSINGTON's poems have appeared in *Arion*, *Arizona Quarterly*, *Denver Quarterly*, *Harvard Magazine*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Yale Literary Review*, and *Yankee*, among many other publications.

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