



Memento Mori

by Billy Collins

There is no need for me to keep a skull on my desk,
to stand with one foot up on the ruins of Rome,
or wear a locket with the sliver of a saint's bone.

It is enough to realize that every common object
in this sunny little room will outlive me—
the carpet, radio, bookstand and rocker.

Not one of these things will attend my burial,
not even this dented goosenecked lamp
with its steady benediction of light,

though I could put worse things in my mind
than the image of it waddling across the cemetery
like an old servant, dragging the tail of its cord,
the small circle of mourners parting to make room.

The Broadsider, Copyright © 2010 by Poor Souls Press.
A Limited Edition Broadside from Poor Souls Press, Millbrae, CA USA,
of which 100 copies are numbered and signed by the author.
Memento Mori by Billy Collins
From *Questions About Angels* Copyright © 1991 by Billy Collins (William Morrow)

The Broadsider: **Volume Two, Series Nine**. Regular Issue

www.thebroadsider.com

ISSN 2154-4514