

Questions of Ownership

by Gary Hardaway

Who owns the moon? The stiff flag
points its arbitrary direction, windless.

Until they're smacked by incidental chunks
of deep space real estate, the moon boot prints remain.

Who owns the moon? What title search
could ever make a claim?

But were the premiums high enough,
Lloyds might write a policy

protecting you against the loss
to any counter claim.

Until you circle the pale companion
with armed satellites, no one

owns the moon. And were
there satellites around the satellite,

what greater swarm of weaponry
might come along to stake a higher claim?

What is our history but one
long bloody argument

over metes and bounds, receipts,
patents, copyrights, certificates of title?

Yours is what you claim
with force enough to hold.

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