

THE RAQUETTEUR AND TREES
 (In Quebec a raquetteur is a traveler on snow-shoes)

Tanya Beyer

The Raquetteur he touched the country—
 Mobbed by wildwood,
 Steeped in snowpack,
 Hiding aid about the shadows—
 Free for raquetteurs.

Ash youngsters, chosen, curved and fastened,
 Webbed with leather
 Fed from Alder,
 Made the Raquetteur his hare's-feet—
 Buoyant over leagues.

The Paper Birch wore clever fabric;
 Posing kindly
 White-bark tinder
 Which the Raquetteur by sunset
 Peeled to serve a flame.

And Balsam stood in windless woods-nooks,
 Rife with branches
 Lapped and latticed
 This as tent and rippling bough-bed
 Lodged the Raquetteur.

In noiseless hosts the Trees made offers—
 Humble hundreds
 For most cravings.
 Thus the Raquetteur in comfort
 Gave salute to Trees.

