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## Looking Back Over Our Lands—A Sonnet

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## Looking Back Over Our Lands—A Sonnet

In old age we look back over our lands—  
all our young lives we come across  
what we can't have; our eager hands  
refuse caution. Won't accept loss  
of each tempting prize. Wise commands  
of restraint, sanity, danger are set  
aside as our fingers try to grasp upon  
their hungry desires—a hunter's net  
around the prey—hoping for one  
more of those trophies stored high  
in the cabinet when winning's done.

But in our inner hearts, secret and shy,  
might we calculate morality by and by—  
power of conscience and its beady eye?

-Glen Phillips

**Glen Phillips** is an Honorary Professor at ECU, Director of its International Centre for Landscape and Language, Patron and founder of the KS Prichard Writers Centre and founding member of the Peter Cowan Writers Centre. Some 35 collections of his poems have been published and he is represented in more than 25 anthologies and in many national and international journals. His latest books of poetry include *Six Seasons: Poems of Australia and China* (2012), *Alpi e Prati: Poems of North and South Italy* (2013), *Tides and Groundwater* (2014) and *Land Whisperings* (2015).