

CUSTODIAN

No need to ask. I'll tell you what:
A true collector I am not.
No trunk or crate, no box or bin
needed to keep my keepsakes in.

While other fans save Scottie stuff
as if they'll never have enough
I have no more than one or two,
or at the most, a modest few.

Well-weathered souvenirs they are
and each a personal memoir,
small scattered bits of history
of trifling value, save to me.

A few are older, others new.
They came as my dog friendships grew,
collected at the easy pace
that old dogs use to scratch their place.

Each keepsake is a memory;
my job is keeping custody.
The value of their worth, I find,
is those old dogs they bring to mind.

by Lee Netzler