



### The Mushroom Expert

Bill is a mushroom expert,  
and Bill is a friend of mine,  
He has studied the amanita  
and all its ancestral line;  
He goes to the fields each autumn  
to harvest a dinner treat,  
For he knows which are deadly fungi,  
and which are the ones to eat.

Bill can talk by the hour on mushrooms  
and he laughs at my timid fears,  
He is still in the land of the living  
and has eaten the things for years ;  
He is wise in the lore of the meadow,  
the swamp and the dark ravine,  
And I'd say, of the mushroom experts,  
he's the best that I've ever seen.

If ever I gathered mushrooms  
I'd carry them back to Bill  
And ask him to look them over  
and pick out the ones that kill;  
I'd trust to his certain knowledge  
and bank on his judgment, too,  
For he is a shark on that stuff  
and can spiel it right off to you.

Bill knows 'em and loves 'em and eats 'em,  
and all through the days of fall  
He's out with his little basket  
in search of the snowy ball;  
And never I doubt his knowledge,  
I grant it surpasses mine —  
But during the mushroom season  
I don't go to Bill's to dine.

— Edgar A. Guest  
*The Passing Throng*, 1923