

*TOM PETSINIS*

## **Mathematician**

The scientific name had yet to spread  
(Nineteen is an unappreciated prime),  
Still, he was careful at the conference,  
Greeting all from abroad with a nod,  
Keeping workshops to fewer than ten –  
How did he fall victim to this scourge?  
In the weeks of isolation on his back,  
Breathless just thinking of his daily run,  
He followed induction and fuzzy logic  
To that textbook the visitor displayed:  
The fractal pattern resembling a crown,  
Its glossy cover crackling at his touch.  
A die-hard, Neo-Platonist from youth  
He'd thought maths impervious to life.