

## JULIA GRACE WALES

# TO A UNIVERSITY

Julia Grace Wales (1881-1957) was born in Bury, Quebec. She earned a bachelor's degree from McGill University in 1903 and a master's degree from Radcliffe College in 1904. She then taught English at the University of Wisconsin. She became active in the peace movement during WWI and proposed a conference of neutral countries to mediate peace, which became known as the "Wisconsin Plan." After the war, she briefly taught at the University of London and Cambridge University before returning to the University of Wisconsin, where she remained for the rest of her career. She continued to publish essays on pacifism, including the book *Democracy Needs Education* (1942), and she began to publish poetry, including the collection *Argenteuil Lyrics* (1935). The following poem was published in the summer 1954 issue.

One came a missioner from your grey towers  
That soar between green earth, blue heaven, to ply  
The teacher's task in one of those *high schools*  
(Fit words to hold the space and air of learning)  
Erected on the sightly hills of towns  
Above bright river reaches; with pointer moving  
Across the maps of the world, told the incredible  
Story of man's quest; opened the pages  
Of poetry and woke the inward ear.  
Crisp were our new books, lofty the windows.  
The morning light illumined the near page  
And whitened the far towers.

And still they rise

Between an autumn earth and darkening heaven,  
In fateful days a handhold of the spirit—  
Grey crags above the void, those granite towers.