

Contest Judges

Ritsuo Okada

Ritsuo Okada has been writing haiku since the 40's, and since 1991 he has been an active member of AKI, one of the major haiku groups in Japan. He was a principle organizer of the Japan-US haiku conferences in Chicago and Tokyo. His publications include *Over the Wave* (From Here Press, 1991).

Shokan Tadashi Kondo

Shokan Kondo has been studying haiku and renku since the 70's. He started Renku Performance, and founded the United Nations of Renku. His publications include *"The Principles of Universal Haiku Grammar."* He is head of the Isehara Renku Group, and professor at Seikei University in Tokyo.

Judge Kondo's Comment

There are the stress system and the syllabic system in the prosody of English haiku, and the syllabic system was first applied when haiku was introduced to the western world in the late 19th century. Later in the 1960s R.H. Blyth introduced the stress system with the 2-3-2 stressed rhythm. These two systems are actually compatible, but it is rare to have a good haiku that suffices both conditions. My attention was drawn to this point, and I tried to find haiku that used the syllabic form to advantage.

The Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest

This contest is for English-language haiku written in the traditional form in three lines of 5, 7, 5 syllables. Each poem is required to contain one and only one, season word (*kigo*) from an assigned list.

This year poets chose from among designated season words, as follows. New Year: old year turns to new, first dawn; Spring: slush, spring moon, planting seeds, dandelion, tadpole; Summer: silverfish, snapdragon, midsummer, scorching sun, wind chimes; Autumn: wild geese, autumn morning, Thanksgiving, persimmon, night of stars; Winter: depth of winter, winter narcissus, popcorn, owl, snowball fight.

The contest committee was Roger Abe, Carol Steele and Patricia Machmiller.

The contest committee and judges congratulate the winners and express their appreciation to everyone who participated.



Yuki Teikei

Haiku Society

Kiyoshi Tokutomi

Memorial

Haiku Contest

2003

judged by

Ritsuo Okada

Shokan Tadashi Kondo



*Kiyoshi Tokutomi
Memorial
Haiku Contest 2003*

Prize Winning Haiku

with judges' comments

First Prize--\$100

Early morning light . . .
puffs of dandelion clocks
gleam across the lawn

Robert Major

This haiku depicts the very moment when the morning sun hits the ground. The fluffs are still wet with dew, and soon the air will be warmed up and the wind will start blowing the dry fluffs.

Second Prize--\$50

drying persimmons—
this deepening of color
so deliberate

Alison Woolpert

Again, a keen observation. The word "deliberate" is well used.

Third Prize--\$25

the depths of winter
riding a horse with no legs
through an open field

Joan Goswell

This haiku is skillfully composed. Readers will see the horse going through deep snow or dry grass. Perhaps the poet wants us to see the snow covered field without saying so.

Fourth Prize—haiku book

if an ancient man
hadn't dreamt butterflies dream—
forgotten wind chimes

Ross Figgins

A charming combination of the dream of butterfly and forgotten wind chimes.

Fifth Prize—haiku book

that aging actress
admiring her reflection
,,, winter narcissus

Louise Beaven

A delicate combination of self-admiration and narcissus.

Honorable Mention Haiku

in the zen garden
the stones so utterly still
the depths of winter

Joan Goswell

cool autumn morning
abandoned in a bunker
the broken golf club

Patricia Prime

satellite passing
quickly through this night of stars
sound of the river

Christopher Herold

the depth of winter—
steam from the dishwasher fogs
a far galaxy

Robert Gilliland

farm-to-market road—
a young man with his thumb out
kicks dandelions

Robert Gilliland

home improvement store—
the saleslady points my way
with a snapdragon

Robert Gilliland

dares of the big boys—
a playground slide radiates
waves of scorching sun

Christopher Herold

the gap in the fence
where the old tom comes and goes . . .
winter narcissus

Robert Gilliland