

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 principal 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 Comments:

The Yuki Teikei Haiku Group has made a considerable contribution to the development of season words in the USA. Many of the entries in this contest prove that the group members are seriously studying the nature of each season word. It is a pleasure for a haiku poet to find a new season word, and I found a new one in the contest kigo list. *Hide-and-peek* is not included as a season word in Japanese saijiki, but it is certainly a growing culture among young people in the summer scenes. Another interesting thing from an international point of view is the difference of seasonal feeling. *Haunted house* is classified in the autumn division in the contest kigo list, but it is found in the summer section in Japanese saijiki. The American *haunted house* represents autumn festivals such as a county fair, while the *haunted house* in Japanese saijiki belongs to a culture that helps cool you down in hot summer nights.

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 the following:

New Year:

New Year's Eve
first laughter

Spring:

beach combing, wisteria
muddy fields, March wind

Summer:

tree shade, bats
strawberry, hide-an-peek

Winter:

winter ocean, flu
tangerine, bear

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*

2004

judged by

Ritsuo Okada

Shokan Tadashi Kondo



Kiyoshi Tokutomi

Memorial

Haiku Contest 2004

Prize Winning Haiku

with judges' comments

First Prize - \$100

**soldier's funeral . . .
a steady gust of March wind
tears at the color**

Richard St. Clair

This haiku reflects the severe global conditions that surround the USA. The color that designates something for which the soldier fought the battle is still exposed to a steady threat from the external world. The war is not over yet.

Second Prize - \$50

**Golden path of light
swiftly scans the muddy fields
face upturned, I wait**

Desiree McMurry

One feels the landscape where the clouds play with the sun. The poet is right on this dynamic stage where the heavenly actions take place, and there all he can do is just wait.

Third Prize - \$25

**this winter ocean -
following its shore until
I've reached my limit**

An'ya

We have the instinct to explore the geographical boundary, and usually we have the limit inside us.

Honorable Mention

**unripe tangerine
peeling it with his good hand
soldier on home-leave**

Roberta Beary

Here is a lucky soldier who is alive, but his hometown may taste as sour as the unripe tangerine.

**wisteria blooms
over his front door as if
my neighbor still lived
Elizabeth S. Lamb**

The neighbor is gone for some reason, but the wisteria simply follows the course of mother nature, stirring up the association with the good old face.

**mushroom gathering -
how many hues of off-white
there are to pick from!**

An'ya

White is a color just like any other colors in the world, and the world of mushrooms is rich with different hues of white.

no conversation...

**just the winter ocean surf
heard beyond the dunes**

Richard St. Clair

They just remain silent, while listening to the roaring sound of the winter waves. One scene in so many different kinds of unknown dramas.

**cerulean sky
torn clouds hurried by March wind
shadow-swept fields sleep**

Desiree McMurry

The winter fields need warm rains to wake up, and here comes the March wind, bringing the clouds and heralding the approaching spring.