

THE HAIKU CALENDAR COMPETITION 2002

WINNERS

January	'I rinse the rice'	Peggy Willis Lyles (USA)
February	'second day of snow'	Anne LB Davidson (USA)
March	'Mother's scarf'	Peggy Willis Lyles (USA)
April	'April dusk'	H. F. Noyes (Greece)
May	'broken easel'	Kathy Lippard Cobb (USA)
June	'news'	Alison Williams (England)
July	'midnight swim'	Rob Scott (The Netherlands)
August	'family picnic'	Carmen Sterba (Japan)
September	'indian summer'	Carolyn Hall (USA)
October	'autumn clouds'	Marian Olson (USA)
November	'bedtime story'	James Paulson (USA)
December	'the long night'	Carolyn Hall (USA)

Each of these haiku features prominently in *The Haiku Calendar 2003*.
The Prize Money of £360/US \$600 is divided equally between the 12 Winners.

RUNNERS-UP

odd gurre aksnes (Norway) 'freezing cold'	Robert Gilliland (USA) 'mockingbird' 'transplanting the sage' 'pale summer sky'	Mary Fran Meer (USA) 'shut tight'
Winona Baker (Canada) 'moss-hung trees'	Carolyn Hall (USA) 'winter pasture' 'first fine day' 'floor sweepings'	Pamela Miller Ness (USA) 'such heat' 'another hot day'
Ernest J. Berry (New Zealand) 'snow geese' 'winter' 'hospice window'	Lois E. Harvey (Canada) 'dreams scatter'	James Paulson (USA) 'deep breath of spring' 'first crisp morning'
David Cobb (England) 'autumn sowing'	Karen Hoy (England) 'crowded carriage' 'a new month'	Carmen Sterba (Japan) 'Halloween masks'
Kathy Lippard Cobb (USA) 'insomnia' 'lightning bugs' 'sleeping toddler'	Susan A. Holdridge (USA) 'october day' 'winter's beach'	Alan J. Summers (England) 'beer forgotten'
DeVar Dahl (Canada) 'morning dew' 'the narrow place' 'prairie wind'	kirsty karkow (USA) 'harvested fields'	Linda Jeannette Ward (USA) 'sultry afternoon'
Steve Dolphy (England) 'reddening sky'	Susan Marie La Valée (USA) 'autumn chill'	Michael Dylan Welch (USA) 'snow on the landing'
	Peggy Willis Lyles (USA) 'for her mother'	Peter Williams (England) 'evening breeze'
		Billie Wilson (USA) 'sea-heaved ice' 'May morning'
		Bill Wyatt (England) 'From a landrover'

All runners-up are published in *The Haiku Calendar 2003*.



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ADJUDICATOR'S REPORT

Many thanks to everyone who entered this 4th annual contest, and to those who generously helped to distribute leaflets and otherwise publicize the event. 479 entries were received from 74 entrants residing in the UK, USA, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Hong Kong, Greece, Norway, and the Netherlands.

As ever, in the initial stage of adjudication each poem entered faced one simple criterion – its quality as a haiku. At this point a particular relevance to the assigned month was ignored, as were replications of subject matter. By the end of July, when all entries had been carefully considered, 102 poems had made it onto the initial short list.

The poems were then judged according to their assigned months. As in previous years some months were far more popular than others, and a definite pattern seems to be emerging as to which times of year haiku poets are inclined to write haiku! Due to the nature of the contest I was ideally looking for poems with an appropriate seasonal reference, especially of an original nature, and in adjudicating a balance had to be found between these criteria and the overall quality and originality of individual poems. As in previous years haiku were generally preferred to senryu, unless these happened to have a distinct seasonal grounding. However, it was notable that many of the best haiku entered had a strong human connection, often of a deeply personal, and paradoxically universal, nature. However, dates which have been determined as seasonal by humans were largely ignored this year, the only examples featuring in the Calendar being Christmas, Halloween and New Year. An enormous spectrum of natural phenomena also remains unexplored. Whilst haiku should deal with everyday experience the scope for originality remains huge.

That said, the 52 haiku selected for the 2003 calendar cover an incredible range of subject matter, contrasting and complementing each other as they interconnect. This annual calendar, which can only be made possible through participation in this contest, is instrumental in ensuring that the use of seasonal references in English-language haiku remains fresh and viable. It is often argued that the urban 'seasonless' habitat of many haiku poets dispenses entirely of the need for seasonal references, but while these are far from necessary they can still be highly relevant. Several of the haiku in the 2003 calendar have 'natural' settings, on both vast and miniscule scales, yet many others are distinctly 'urban'. Others still give no indication of their physical environment, yet are genuinely apposite to their associated time of year. As such, *The Haiku Calendar* celebrates the honest manner in which haiku poets accept their own reality – whether this appears to be ordinary or extraordinary – and recognize that this reality is inextricably connected to their transitory yet repetitive environment.

Many thanks again to all entrants for making this competition a worthwhile, and ongoing, experience. I would like to congratulate all the winning poets, and hope that their haiku will be widely appreciated throughout 2003.

John Barlow

The Haiku Calendar 2003 will be published by Snapshot Press in October 2002, priced £6.50 (UK); £7.50/US \$13 (Overseas). Prices include postage and packaging. Orders may be sent on the slip below. Overseas orders received by the end of November will be dispatched in time for Christmas.

Details of next year's contest are available now at www.snapshotpress.co.uk/competitions/haiku.htm



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