The 7th International Tanka Festival Competition, 2012

                       By Japan Tanka Poets’ Society

There were 589 entries from all over the world for the above mentioned Tanka Competition. The judges are Jane Reichhold (U. S. A.), Beverley George (Australia), Yasuhiro Kawamura (Japan), and Aya Yuhki (Japan).

The results are as follows:

Certificate of Merit by the Japan Tanka Poets’ Society

     who knew that

an envelope of poems

could hold so much? ―

little boats, little hopes

sent out into the world                   by Joyce Wong (Canada)

Certificate of Merit by the Japan Times Co. Ltd.

often I’ve heard

wise old men declare

a gladness

to depart this life―

can it be they lie?

                                        by Michael McClintock (U. S. A.)

Certificate of Merit by the 7th International Tanka Festival Committee

     the news

when it came

shattered my day

a thousand scrambled pixels

to replace your missing face                  by Margaret L Grace (Australia)

Certificate of Merit by the Tankakenkyusha Ltd.

         part of me

knew they’d come

high clouds

darkening summer sunlight

 and your chest x-ray                         by Michele L. Harvey (U. S. A.)

Certificate of Merit by the Kadokawa Gakugei Shuppan Publishing Co. Ltd.

         Just a shooting star

disappears into nowhere

at our old window―

alone in this night in which

we could have talked about light            by Eduard Tara (Romania)

Certificate of Merit by the Honamishoten Corp.

     astride

a fault line in the bay

a sea star

one small splice

in this fractured world                by Lesley Anne Swanson  (U. S. A.)

Certificate of Merit by the Nagaramishobo Corp.

aged laughter

from three stooped women

fills the cloisters

in the Hospice garden

trees bow down with ripened fruit            by Anne Benjamin (Australia)

Certificate of Merit by the Tankagendai Corp.

nine autumns past

first trip to my homeland…

now in Taipei

drinking alone in moonlight

I still long for Taipei                   by Chen-ou Liu (Canada)

Certificate of Merit by the Irinosya Corp.

eight chicks

of Nipponia Nippon

hatch in the wild

―resilience―

so in Fukushima                  by Fusako Kitamura (Japan)

Certificate of Merit by Jane Reichhold

This trailer park,

with its throng of misfitting wrecks,

my mind―

will it lilac-free itself

will it daisy-poeticize              by Spiros Zafiris (Canada)

Certificate of Merit by Beverley George

I climb through

sunlight and alder woods

to find him

sleeping among blueberries

a dragon built of stones            by Kirsty Karkow  (U. S. A.)

Certificate of Merit by Yasuhiro Kawamura

     Seasons are out of order―

cherry and plum flowers

blossom side by side

behind the bright colors

hides a piece of loneliness            by Chiau-Shin NGO 呉昭新(Taiwan)

Certificate of Merit by Aya Yuhki

     sudden crack

as a bunya pine cone

splits open―

no way to prepare

for that kind of news                       by David Terelinck (Australia)

Here follow entries judged as excellent

i carry

borrowed moonlight

into the house…

only a translucent memory

of myself exists

   Pamela A. Babusci (U. S. A.)

this morning

pale white light shines

through the window

it’s snowing again

and mother is gone

     Margaret Chula (U. S. A.)

all my plans

come to nothing

but in the garden

of my mother’s home

the cherry tree still blooms

     Doreen King (England)

lately, these dreams

of the cheetah, pacing

back and forth

behind clouded glass

longing for open grasslands

Carole Macrury (U. S. A.)

childhood?

ah, yes

now I remember

a long dry journey

over uneven ground

     Susan Mary Wade (England)

the rains came

and from that day on

continued

throughout a lifetime

of floods and bridges

an’ya (U. S. A.)

those wild violets

you’d nurtured for me

bloomed brilliantly

in the early spring

our friendship died

     Amelia Fielden (Australia)

as dawn breaks

the song of a blackbird

in the silver birch

irritates the stark quiet

over the sleeping houses

     Patricia Prime (New Zealand)

little flags

planted in their neat rows

Father’s Day

he scatters white poppies

across his son’s grave

       Maxianne Berger (Canada)

my father died without

talking about his experience

as a soldier and

I have admired him for

his stubborn silence

     Yukiko Inoue-Smith (Guam)

Caw, caw the crows

looking down and ‘round

looking back to the nest

sometimes threatening

foot passengers around

     Seiho Hayashi (Japan)

Reflections on the lake―

now sparkling with happiness

now solemn and still―

you mirror my consciousness of

this evanescent world

     Rex Andrews (France)

A covey of ducks

alight on lake’s surface

diving for fish

take off with a flurry of wings―

drone of a distant plane

     Beatrice Yell (Australia)

my Christmas wish:

sleeping in each other’s arms

before

one of us forgets or dies

or the planet pops off

     Janick Belleau (Canada)

no abacus

for the task

ahead

where the mists part

I begin counting stars

     Brian Zimmer (U. S. A.)

musing

my pen lays idle

I sip tea

and watch buzzing bees

busy collecting pollen

     Marilyn Humbert (Australia)

so many dreams

end up this way

on my knees

I gather buds

that will never bloom

     Paul smith (England)

fire and water

good servants

as well as

bad masters

two sides of a coin

     Radhey Shram (India)

Insects

crushed―just to allay

my child’s fears

each life

a tally of worries

     Allen Reichert (U. S. A.)

labyrinth―

writing my way back

to your heart

I follow a trail

of cherry blossoms

          André Surridge (New Zealand)