



**AMBROSIA**  
JOURNAL OF FINE HAÏKU  
ISSUE 2     WINTER 2009

ISSN 1943-829X [Print]    ISSN 1945-8797 [Digital]

Edited by

Denis M. Garrison



MODERN ENGLISH TANKA PRESS  
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND  
2009

THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING.

*SOCRATES*

MODERN ENGLISH TANKA PRESS

Post Office Box 43717

Baltimore, Maryland 21236 USA

www.modernenglishtankapress.com www.themetpress.com

[publisher@modernenglishtankapress.com](mailto:publisher@modernenglishtankapress.com)

**Ambrosia: Journal of Fine Haiku**

**Issue 2 - Winter 2009**

Copyright © 2009 by Modern English Tanka Press.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means including information storage and retrieval systems without permission in writing from the publisher, except by reviewers and scholars who may quote up to six poems.

Front cover artwork Copyright © 2009

by Denis M. Garrison.

*Ambrosia: Journal of Fine Haiku*, a quarterly print and digital journal, is dedicated to publishing and promoting the finest of traditional haiku in English. Send all submissions and editorial correspondence to: [dmg@themetpress.com](mailto:dmg@themetpress.com)

*Ambrosia: Journal of Fine Haiku*

Issue 2 - Winter 2009

Published by

MODERN ENGLISH TANKA PRESS

PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. 2009.

Print Edition ISSN 1943-829X

Digital Edition ISSN 1945-8797 [PDF & HTML versions]

[www.ambrosiahaiku.com](http://www.ambrosiahaiku.com)

*Editor's Note.* In this Issue 2 of *Ambrosia: Journal of Fine Haiku*, we are pleased to present another 100 top drawer haiku from thirty-one leading poets. All these poets, while writing in English, respect the formal values of traditional Japanese haiku.

David Giacalone, on his *f/k/a* blog (Dec. 4, 2008) commented on *Ambrosia 1*: “In his Editor’s Note, Denis tells us: ‘*Ambrosia considers the traditional poetic aesthetics of Japan as necessary, not in order to pay homage to the tradition, but because without their understanding and skillful use, writing haiku worth reading is difficult, if not impossible.*’ At a time when some editors seem to mistake artifice for originality, unusual for unique, contrived for creative, and juvenile for rejuvenating, the *f/k/a* Gang applauds Denis Garrison for reminding us that the haiku genre does indeed have a recognizable shape and scent, and for insisting on standards of quality.” Thank *you*, David, for your kind words.

Remember, *Ambrosia* is looking for powerful haiku in tercets, in a natural, modern English idiom. [Please submit senryu to *Prune Juice* (Alexis Rotella, Ed.), not to *Ambrosia*.] So, please send us some of your best haiku!  
—*Denis M. Garrison, editor*

winter forest  
even now, the new . . .  
the fallen

Denis M. Garrison  
Baltimore, Maryland, USA



morning dawn . . .  
the harsh cough of  
shanties

Robert D. Wilson  
Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

out of the  
blue silence  
a heron

M. Kei  
Perryville, Maryland, USA

morning coffee  
watching the last drips  
from the eaves

Francis Masat  
Key West, Florida, USA

embers  
even the fireflies  
silent

Raffael de Gruttola  
Natick, Massachusetts, USA



All day their scent,  
the white carnations  
I didn't buy.

Alexis Rotella  
Arnold, Maryland, USA

cresting waves;  
horses' manes surfing  
offshore winds

Brenda J. Bechtel  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA

after the earthquake  
the pieces of the moon  
in my mirror

Jacek Margolak  
Kielce, Poland

a bald eagle  
cries a river of salmon—  
the ocean fills

Albert Schlaht  
Missoula, Montana, USA

Last camellia—  
it gives me  
tears.

Grace Cavalieri  
Annapolis, Maryland, USA

the gravel road  
has it all to itself—  
the short day

Jeffrey Woodward  
Detroit, Michigan, USA

blood test . . .  
a single red rose  
in the vase

Susan Constable  
Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, Canada

changing shadows  
the strength of  
forgiveness

Raffael de Gruttola  
Natick, Massachusetts, USA



disappearing  
into the red maple leaves  
the landlord

M. Kei  
Perryville, Maryland, USA

a cold moon  
at the window,  
a woman in bed

Jeffrey Woodward  
Detroit, Michigan, USA

a deer  
still in the field  
I approach

Brenda J. Bechtel  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA

The three of us  
dropping stones in a well.  
Where are they now?

David Pope  
Annapolis, Maryland, USA

staring through  
a whitefish's eye . . .  
Winter clouds

Robert D. Wilson  
Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

math class  
I count each snowflake  
on the window

Jacek Margolak  
Kielce, Poland

Autumn stillness—  
it doesn't matter  
if the fish don't bite.

Alexis Rotella  
Arnold, Maryland, USA

a crow vanishes  
in midair  
first snow

Francis Masat  
Key West, Florida, USA



tour guide lectures  
leading us through crowded streets  
orange butterfly

Deborah Finkelstein  
Santa Fe, New Mexico, USA

favouring wind . . .  
the grass leans with me  
toward home

Jo McInerney  
Boolarra, Victoria, Australia

icy morning  
a hot air balloon  
hangs in the mist

Elaine Riddell  
Hamilton, New Zealand

frosty morning  
the tips of pine needles  
sparkle with ice drops

Rafal Zabratynski  
Rzeszow, Poland

at dusk,  
a butterfly's wing  
recalls your absence

Gary Christopher Payne  
Yantis, Texas, USA

moonrise  
bare branches turn  
from black to silver

Francis Masat  
Key West, Florida, USA

boat-man fishing  
stillness cast toward  
a loon

Brenda J. Bechtel  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA

leaves fall  
autumn fire  
burns the ground

Janice Kinory  
Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, England



letting go  
a butterfly drifts  
into light

Jo McInerney  
Boolarra, Victoria, Australia

Crumpled leaves  
at my feet—  
soft as slippers

April Orr  
Boolarra, Victoria, Australia

summer dusk  
the seal's wake  
undisturbed

Susan Constable  
Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, Canada

autumn evening  
little girls catch a  
woolly caterpillar

M. Kei  
Perryville, Maryland, USA

while stars sleep,  
we make our own . . .  
morning rain

Robert D. Wilson  
Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

summer cottages  
offering up darkened panes—  
the first winter rain

Jeffrey Woodward  
Detroit, Michigan, USA

morning . . .  
an apple washing on the tips  
of wet grass

Tish Davis  
Dublin, Ohio, USA

above corn shocks  
a sculling hawk;  
I wade between rows

Brenda J. Bechtel  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA



scent of dawn . . .  
blossoms swooning  
upon blossoms

Keith A. Simmonds  
Macoya Gardens, Tunapuna, Trinidad & Tobago

smile for  
me sky, i'm tired of  
your dark moods

Robert D. Wilson

Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

after the storm  
cherry petals among  
the clouds

Jacek Margolak  
Kielce, Poland

spring mending . . .  
that crazy-eyed cow  
with a twisted horn

Michele L. Harvey  
Hamilton, New York, USA

graveyard  
a butterfly skims  
the stillness

Collin Barber  
Marion, Arkansas, USA

painting the walls—  
through the door winter blue  
above the slates

John Kinory  
Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, England

the garden  
has no limits  
to the snail

Jean LeBlanc  
Newton, New Jersey, USA

after the ice storm—  
my reluctance to climb  
out of a hot bath

Kirsty Karkow  
Waldoboro, Maine, USA



Quite alone  
in the parental house—  
snowdays

Vasile Moldovan  
Bucharest City, Romania

withered leaves  
in a crotch of the maple  
morning mist

Susan Constable

Nanoose Bay, British Columbia, Canada

Winter sun—  
some icicles dripping  
from the eaves

Magdalena Dale  
Bucharest, Romania

empty veranda  
a touch of frost caught  
in the dreamcatcher

Rafal Zabratynski  
Rzeszow, Poland

off the concrete barrier—  
the lighted eyes  
of the seagulls

Raffael de Gruttola  
Natick, Massachusetts, USA

Autumn—  
sweeter the voices  
of red-winged blackbirds.

Alexis Rotella  
Arnold, Maryland, USA

a strand of  
scattered pearls,  
the Milky Way

M. Kei  
Perryville, Maryland, USA

across the field,  
a snail pushing his  
weight around

Robert D. Wilson

Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines



bending to touch  
the wing-prints of an owl . . .  
Snow Moon

Michele L. Harvey  
Hamilton, New York, USA

Winter evening—  
the Black Sea lighted  
by the snowfall

Vasile Moldovan  
Bucharest City, Romania

the Pleiades  
a bright stone path  
rises above the snow

Francis Masat  
Key West, Florida, USA

getting older—  
frost on the last twelve inches  
of switchgrass

Tish Davis  
Dublin, Ohio, USA

late summer  
the half-moon silver tips  
a meadow

Adelaide B. Shaw  
Millbrook, New York, USA

a pelican dives  
into the green ocean  
dragging its shadow

Keith A. Simmonds

Macoya Gardens, Tunapuna, Trinidad & Tobago

a child runs  
through the stillness  
of his breath

Robert D. Wilson  
Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

leaf falling  
on the first one  
to rake leaves

Shawn Bowman  
Cleveland, Ohio, USA



February snow . . .  
the sweet heart  
of a maple

Michele L. Harvey  
Hamilton, New York, USA

morning rain—  
a bottle on a book  
on the bedside table

Collin Barber  
Marion, Arkansas, USA

finch calls to finch  
across the brook . . .  
I rest my briefcase

John Kinory  
Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, England

the sweet curve  
of an infant's skull  
cradle moon

Jo McInerney  
Boolarra, Victoria, Australia

a couple dozen sparrows  
becoming as one  
with the hedge

Jean LeBlanc  
Newton, New Jersey, USA

turned earth—  
time to put away  
my engagement ring

Kirsty Karkow  
Waldoboro, Maine, USA

A cold spell—  
the sparrows are chirping  
to warm themselves

Vasile Moldovan  
Bucharest City, Romania

Fresh blood  
over the trace steps—  
icy moon

Magdalena Dale  
Bucharest, Romania



snow in the air  
the barge turns on its mooring  
nudges the shore

Elaine Riddell  
Hamilton, New Zealand

blue jays clamor . . .  
in this noonday sun  
a brook's echo

Douglas Ryan  
Pembroke, Massachusetts, USA

biting cold  
the Milky Way  
even milkier

Rafal Zabratynski  
Rzeszow, Poland

the short night—  
a white button surrounded  
by sidewalk

Tish Davis  
Dublin, Ohio, USA

autumn sunrise  
on a halo of mist  
hitching a ride

Keith A. Simmonds  
Macoya Gardens, Tunapuna, Trinidad & Tobago

a lean-to  
made of cardboard . . .  
winter rain

Robert D. Wilson

Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

favorite coat  
the threadbare patch  
of wind-driven snow

Michele L. Harvey  
Hamilton, New York, USA

cold light  
through autumn leaves  
a marbled moon

Jo McInerney  
Boolarra, Victoria, Australia



in-laws . . .  
a hill and a hollow  
between our houses

Kirsty Karkow  
Waldoboro, Maine, USA

Deep footprints  
through the new snowbed—  
a lone wolf

Vasile Moldovan  
Bucharest City, Romania

By the fireplace  
a glimmering flame . . .  
winter wind

Magdalena Dale  
Bucharest, Romania

cacophony . . .  
a congregation  
of tree frogs

Keith A. Simmonds

Macoya Gardens, Tunapuna, Trinidad & Tobago

winter dusk . . .  
the charcoal seller  
disappears

Robert D. Wilson  
Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

making its own way  
in this world—  
a winding stream

Jeffrey Woodward  
Detroit, Michigan, USA

Tears on my window  
as the snow  
begins to melt

April Orr  
Boolarra Victoria, Australia

answering  
the blue moon . . .  
red fox

Tish Davis  
Dublin, Ohio, USA



in slanting light  
footprints disappearing  
in sand

Brenda J. Bechtel  
Cape Elizabeth, Maine, USA

a misty beach walk  
following the footprints  
of gulls

Adelaide B. Shaw  
Millbrook, New York, USA

a lantern  
over the village . . .  
full moon

Keith A. Simmonds  
Macoya Gardens, Tunapuna, Trinidad & Tobago

take a break,  
ant, you make me  
feel guilty!

Robert D. Wilson

Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

winter dawn  
treetops still dark  
with crows

Jacek Margolak  
Kielce, Poland

stopping  
at a park on the way  
migrating geese

Shawn Bowman  
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

yawning moon . . .  
another cockroach  
on the bed

Robert D. Wilson  
Veintereales, Valenzuela City, Philippines

summer house...  
the winter worn path  
of a woodchuck

Michele L. Harvey  
Hamilton, New York, USA



in the wake  
of a nightmare  
birdsong

Collin Barber  
Marion, Arkansas, USA

a whistling wind . . .  
between the jeans and her navel  
a freckle

John Kinory  
Steeple Aston, Oxfordshire, England

axe blow . . .  
something breaks  
in the silence

Jo McInerney  
Boolarra, Victoria, Australia

this smooth pebble—  
how many thousand waves  
did it take?

Jean LeBlanc  
Newton, New Jersey, USA

a leaf falls gently  
amid the bustle of ants . . .  
the north wind listens

Albert Schlaht  
Missoula, Montana, USA

no more regrets  
the last bits of ice float  
out with the tide

Kirsty Karkow  
Waldoboro, Maine, USA

A tattered flag  
at the mercy of the wind . . .  
the last leaf

Vasile Moldovan  
Bucharest City, Romania

the snow nearly gone  
a white horse grazes  
in a muddy field

Adelaide B. Shaw  
Millbrook, New York, USA





## *Index*

- Barber, Collin, 41, 62, 93.  
Bechtel, Brenda J., 6, 15, 27, 36, 85.  
Bowman, Shawn, 60, 90.  
Cavalieri, Grace, 9.  
Constable, Susan, 11, 31, 46.  
Dale, Magdalena, 47, 68, 79.  
Davis, Tish, 35, 56, 72, 84.  
de Gruttola, Raffael, 4, 12, 49.  
Finkelstein, Deborah, 21.  
Harvey, Michele L., 40, 53, 61, 75, 92.  
Karkow, Kirsty, 44, 66, 77, 98.  
Kei, M., 2, 13, 32, 51.  
Kinory, Janice, 28.  
Kinory, John, 42, 63, 94.  
LeBlanc, Jean, 43, 65, 96.  
Margolak, Jacek, 7, 18, 39, 89.  
Masat, Francis, 3, 20, 26, 55.  
McInerney, Jo, 22, 29, 64, 76, 95.  
Moldovan, Vasile, 45, 54, 67, 78, 99.  
Orr, April, 30, 83.  
Payne, Gary Christopher, 25.  
Pope, David, 16.  
Riddell, Elaine, 23, 69.  
Rotella, Alexis, 5, 19, 50.  
Ryan, Douglas, 70.  
Schlaht, Albert, 8, 97.  
Shaw, Adelaide B., 57, 86, 100.  
Simmonds, Keith A., 37, 58, 73, 80, 87.  
Wilson, Robert D., 1, 17, 33, 38, 52, 59, 74, 81, 88,  
91.  
Woodward, Jeffrey, 10, 14, 34, 82.  
Zabratynski, Rafal, 24, 48, 71.

## Also from MODERN ENGLISH TANKA PRESS

Jack Fruit Moon • Robert D. Wilson

Meals at Midnight • Poems by Michael McClintock

Lilacs After Winter • Francis Masat

Proposing to the Woman in the Rear View Mirror • Haiku & Senryu by James Tipton.

Abacus: Prose poems, haibun & short poems • Gary LeBel

Looking for a Prince: a collection of senryu and kyoka • Alexis Rotella

The Tanka Prose Anthology • Jeffrey Woodward, Ed.

Greetings from Luna Park • Sedoka, James Roderick Burns

In Two Minds • Responsive Tanka by Amelia Fielden and Kathy Kituai

An Unknown Road • Haiku by Adelaide B. Shaw

Slow Motion: The Log of a Chesapeake Skipjack • M. Kei

Ash Moon Anthology: Poems on Aging in Modern English Tanka • Alexis Rotella & Denis M. Garrison, Eds.

Fire Blossoms: The Birth of Haiku Noir • Denis M. Garrison

Cigarette Butts and Lilacs: tokens of a heritage • Tanka by Andrew Riutta

Sailor in the Rain and Other Poems • Denis M. Garrison

Four Decades on My Tanka Road: Tanka Collections of Sanford Goldstein • Sanford Goldstein. Fran Witham, Ed.

this hunger, tissue-thin: new & selected tanka 1995–2005 • Larry Kimmel

Jun Fujita, Tanka Pioneer • Denis M. Garrison, Ed.

Landfall: Poetry of Place in Modern English Tanka • Denis M. Garrison and Michael McClintock, Eds.

Lip Prints: Tanka and Other Short Poems 1979-2007 • Alexis Rotella

Ouch: Senryu That Bite • Alexis Rotella

Eavesdropping: Seasonal Haiku • Alexis Rotella

Tanka Teachers Guide • Denis M. Garrison, Ed.

Five Lines Down: A Landmark in English Tanka • Denis M. Garrison, Ed.

Sixty Sunflowers: TSA Members' Anthology 2006-2007 • Sanford Goldstein, Ed.

The Dreaming Room: Modern English Tanka in Collage and Montage Sets • Michael McClintock and Denis M. Garrison, Eds.

Haiku Harvest 2000-2006 • Denis M. Garrison, Ed.

Eight Shades of Blue • Haiku by Denis M. Garrison

The Salesman's Shoes • Tanka, James Roderick Burns

Hidden River • Haiku by Denis M. Garrison

The Five-Hole Flute: Modern English Tanka in Sequences and Sets • Denis M. Garrison and Michael McClintock, Eds.

### *Journals*

- Modern English Tanka •
  - Atlas Poetica •
  - Modern Haiga •
- Ambrosia • Prune Juice •

