

*of souls and wings: some comments from the readership – 2010*

« I received your book recently and am enjoying reading it -- it is also a beautiful book.

I didn't know the history of especially the French women translators/writers of tanka -- that was important to know. And your own tanka is lovely -- I hope the book gets spread out to others, as it deserves to be. Take care, »

**PATRICIA DONEGAN, HAIKU POET & TRANSLATOR**

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« After a first reading of your book, I have to say that I am very impressed by your poems' subtlety and classicism. Much of contemporary tanka in English can be read through very swiftly and superficially. Your poems have a depth to them that requires a very thoughtful reading. Yet there is a lot of emotional honesty as well. »

**A. L., POET**

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« I've read the poems a few times it was a multiple pleasure (...) and, of course, there is the cumulative effect of the thematic groupings... I am particularly impressed with the section *Burning Fire*... the poems have, well, heat!

Each poem (has) its own way of exemplifying one of the most important aspects of a tanka, the final line must be the strongest one... and they do... and they are... (...) I'd single out is this one which is so utterly peaceful and 'summerly'. »

*pedal boat  
on the water lily lake  
a ballet of insects  
I let myself be carried  
into their silent world*

« And finally this poem (...) which so recalls the poems of ancient times... »

*Grillons silencieux  
soleil sous les nuages  
tout est secret  
une impression de vide  
plus personne ne m'écrit*

« It conveys isolation, aloneness, but just a hint of being lonely.

I must also comment on the photos which are so apt for the sections they illustrate... the heron (p. 93) is a particular delight... »

**MAXIANNE BERGER, TANKA POET, TRANSLATOR & CRITIC**

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next page

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« I love the fact that (the book) is in both French and English about a Japanese tradition.

(At the beginning,) the concise, clear explanation of what a tanka is is very good.

The whole book is *'composed with gentleness and sensibility... no matter how fearful a thing may be of itself, ...it is made to sound graceful and elegant'* (Fujiwara no Teika). (Your collection) is very loving and/or soulful (...). Some (poems) of course do reach me with no interruptions (...) Thanks for an excellent piece of work. I shall enjoy reading the book again. »

**ANNA VAKAR (AKA, AVA KAR), POET & ESSAYIST**

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