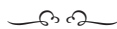


integrate. More writers should consider using this form.

Tsugigami covers mostly relationship type topics like romance, family, and homecomings with a few poems whose subject is mostly the natural world. It is thus more senryu than haiku leaning. This work took time to create and will in my opinion stand the test of time. Highly recommended for its unique mix of verbal and visual content and its in-depth exploration of human nature.



Alone on the Shortcut by Vasile Spinei and Ion Codrescu (2018, Bons Offices, Chisinau, Moldova) 255 pages, 5.5" by 8.5", Perfectbound ISBN 978-9975-87-426-7, No pricing provided.

Reviewed by Jay Friedenberg

Vasile Spinei is the author of eleven books of haiku and senryu. His book *The Monk's Smile* received a Special Award for its artistic presentation. His poems have been included in several international anthologies. Ion Condrescu founded The Albatross haiku journal and is the author of thirteen books of poetry, haiga, and essays. He has illustrated more than 100 books, magazines, and journals and his paintings are housed in both private and state collections.

Alone on the Shortcut contains poems written by Vasile Spinei and is illustrated with Sumi-e by Ion Condrescu. The artwork is nicely interspaced throughout and complements the haiku and senryu in terms of content. The page layout is superb with two haiku per page in Romanian (?) and spaced English translations with each brush painting occupying a full right side page. The paintings depict flowers, insects, fruit, and landscapes.

Many of Vasile's haiku are aesthetic interpretations of nature and fit in with classical Japanese modes of observation. They are quite lovely. Take for instance:

in the barrel
full of rain water
a morning star

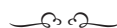
Others depict interesting and sometimes surprising scenes:

sparkling fish
among the last pieces
of floating ice

Much of the commentary here is on the quiet, subtle moments of the countryside. For example:

trembling moonlight—
the shadow
of the willow

This is a large collection of beautiful poems and illustrations. It is stock full of pleasant and nuanced haiku on blossoms, frogs, butterflies, dew drops, and the moon. These are certainly tried-and-true subjects but Vasile portrays them in a way that makes them seem fresh and unique. If you love traditional nature haiku with a gentle and soft feeling to them then this is the book for you.



Jianqing Zheng. Delta Sun by Jianqing Zheng, Winchester, VA: Red Moon Press, 2018, 100 pp. Free e-book available from the Haiku Foundation Digital Library (<https://www.thehaikufoundation.org/omeka/items/show/5505>)

Reviewed by John J. Han

Written by Jianqing Zheng, a Chinese American poet, scholar, and editor, *Delta Sun* is a collection of 56 haiku and 30 photographs set in the Mississippi Delta, also called the