

**Ban'ya Natsuishi:**

**EUROPE TAKES STRONG ROOTS**

World Haiku Festival, Pécs, 2010

We can say with absolute certainty that Haiku took strong roots in Europe and still blooming. In 2009~2010, the blooming has not stopped: the cultural capital of Europe had been a wonderful host of the World Haiku Festival, what's more, according to the official statement, even the EU's Chairman seems to enjoy haiku writing.

In this year, Europe's cultural capital is Pécs, located on the Southern part of Hungary. Being in its fully bloom as the link town of West and East since the ancient times, Pécs had been the host town of the *World Haiku Festival 2010*. The host organization was the *Hungary–Japan Friendship Society*. The festival's supporter was the World Haiku Association.

As the Hungarians are really open-minded and frank, being at this festival was such a pleasure, it felt like being in a big, kind, heart-warming family. And the Mother of this Haiku Family was Dr. Judit Vihar, the professor of Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, who organized the whole festival with her excellent skills.

On the 6th of August, the festival had been opened with the speech of Professor Vihar, at the Pécs University's Hotel, *Fogadó Hunyor's* conference room. There were exhibitions in this main room and also in smaller rooms too. *Toni Piccini* from Italy, made wonderful haigas for the festival, which had been exhibited on the main room's wall. In the side rooms, we could take a look on the nicely formed haikus of the Professor's students'.

After a splendid evening meal, the guest could go to a treasure-seeking adventure – finding everybody's own haiku in the shop-windows of Pécs's central. As a matter of fact –, brisk young people had the good chance to get their treasure firstly!

under every Heaven  
the gods have become  
the snails of incertitude

minden Menny alatt  
lakozó isten  
a kétség bíborcsigája

*Amelia Stanescu (Romania)*

Under oaks' deep sigh  
the squirrel trembles with fright  
and fear of the wind.

Tölgyek sóhaja  
alatt reszket a mókus  
félve a széltől.

*Hollós Roland (Hungary)*

This years' Haiku Festival's poster was set by *Natsuishi's haiku*, we could read it in the shopwindows in 3 languages, Japanese, English and Hungarian.

Fog breaks out  
from coiled unconsciousness  
it rains stones

Öntudatlanság  
kráteréből kitört a köd  
hull a kőeső

On the 7th of August, we could hear all the haikus that the writer guests wrote- 35 writers from 10 country! These poems had been published in the *Antology of World Haiku Festival 2010*, edited by the wondrous Judit Vihar.

Birds enter,  
the evening sun enters—  
the invincible cloud

Megtér a madár  
s alkonyatkor megtér a Nap —  
győzhetetlen köd

*Sayumi Kamakura (Japan)*

a spring morning -  
in a woman's nunnery yard  
twin penguins

tavaszi reggel –  
apáca kolostorban  
iker pingvinek

*Stjepan Rožić (Croatia)*

Just before leaving  
take a deep breath  
of his skin scent

Mielőtt elmész,  
szippants egy nagyot  
bőre illatából!

*Danièle Duteil (France)*

These haikus are all separate and special. Also the same day, Natsuishi Banya held a lecture about „The creative link and the Haiku” which had been published in 6 parts, in the *World Haiku Association*’s magazine’s 2005.Vol. 1 ~ 2010 Vol. 6. In these magazines, we can read really great valued poems, representing the identification of the link between humans and the nature, or the link between words. At night, everybody had been invited to a ceremony, so all of the guests went to the city centre, to a restaurant’s private room, where Ito Tetsuo, Japan’s ambassador’s welcoming speech greeted the haiku writers.

On the last day, there were a haiku writing contest called „Ginkou”. The Australian *Doc Drumheller* won the first price with this haiku:

a frog statue  
doesn’t jump into the pond  
the sound of silence

egy békaszobor  
nem ugrik be a tóba  
a csend hangja

Natsuishi Banya  
World Haiku Association’s President  
Professor of Meiji University

**Caption:**

**World Haiku Festival, Pécs, 2010 Conference Room**

**From the right:** Toni Piccini (Italy), Natsuishi Banya, Ito Tetsuo – ambassador of Japan in Hungary, the host –Professor Judit Vihar, Kamakura Sayumi, Ito Tetsuo ambassador’s Wife  
7th of August, Hotel Hunyor Conference Room

*Translation from Hungarian by Marianna Lázár*