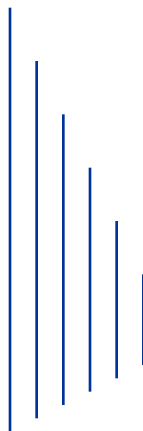


seven masonic haiku



by gordon charlton

Haiku is not a poetic form often associated with Freemasonry, but it seems to me that there are some strong relationships. Like the ceremonies they deal in simple, concrete truths but point towards deeper ideas, and in their three lines of variously five and seven syllables they echo numbers that are scattered throughout the Craft. The aim of haiku is to capture a special moment and examine it from several angles; in this sense they are analogous to the ‘time slice’ effect that is coming into vogue in television and film. Masonry is replete with such moments.

This selection (which I cheerfully admit is my first attempt at writing haiku) is arranged in a narrative sequence, structured around the Masonic 3-5-7 mentioned above; but in fact this is a false chronology – where the haiku refer to real events the actual temporal ordering has been ignored for the sake of the narrative, and fictional events coexist with real ones. Again, ironically, this is much like the ritual and, likewise, this should not distract from the truths that I hope the haiku encapsulate.

radio Mozart
evening dress at three o'clock
waiting for the lights

it's only a door
rolling your trouser leg up?
I have been there too

disoriented

the sun rises in the east

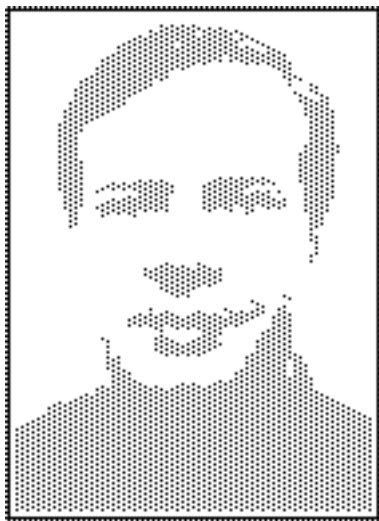
illumination

a chisel on stone...
to strive for perfection makes
the Temple Holy

tired in the desert
arise from your resting place
we find what we seek

calm within hubbub
the tyler is sleeping now ~
peach melba melting

dark tarmac, headlights
full belly and food for thought
“good evening, my love”



Gordon Charlton
gcharlton@internet.lodge.org.uk
June 1999