



## Tanka Waka Uta

By Dennis Holt

Mudborn Press. Paperback. Condition: New. 64 pages. Dimensions: 8.0in. x 5.0in. x 0.2in.(from the introduction) The tanka (or waka or uta) is a Japanese poetic form of great antiquity. It is believed to have originated as early as the 7th century of the current era and has been the preferred verse-form during much of Japanese literary history since then. Consisting of five lines with a 5-7-5-7-7 syllabic pattern, it is essentially an expanded haiku. However, historically the tanka is earlier, the haiku not having arisen until about the 10th century. I began composing both types of little poems in English ( and sometimes in Spanish) many years ago, with some efforts that I consider quite successful. My own policy and practice in creating these has been to keep to a strict syllabic count as in the Japanese models playing tennis with a net, as Robert Frost might say. Because English syllables are, on the average, inherently more meaningful than Japanese syllables, this naturally leads to poems that are richer in meaning over all than poems of the same structural type in Japanese. Seen from the other side of things, this also means that translators of Japanese haiku and tanka into...



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