

THIS SPACE HERE

TAKEO UJO NAKANO

From: Takeo Ujo Nakano with Leatrice M. Willson Chan, *Within the Barbed Wire Fence: A Japanese Man's Account of His Internment in Canada* (Toronto: James Lorimer & Company, 2012) (originally published 1980), pages 10, 13, 49, 71, 105.

Together, these five *tanka* speak to *the moment of his departure from his home in Woodfibre,*

Against such a thing as tears
Resolved,
When taking leave of home.
Yet at that departure whistle,
My eyes fill.

initial detention in the Livestock Building at the PNE grounds in Vancouver,

Reek of manure,
Stench of livestock,
And we are herded,
Milling –
Jumble of the battlefield.

leaving the CPR station in Vancouver for the interior,

Many passed this way,
My countrymen.
This train whistle
They must have heard, and passed.
Their feelings come to me.

at the road camp to which Japanese Canadian men were sent,

Primeval forest!
Feeling as though in violation,
Cutting down standing trees
Before watchful guards.
Cutting firewood.

and his decision two decades later to become a Canadian citizen.

As final resting place,
Canada is chosen.
On citizenship paper,
Signing
Hand trembles.*

*Nakano's daughter, Leatrice Nakano, explains that this poem was "one of twelve chosen from 46,886 entries in the annual Imperial Poetry Contest" to be read before the emperor and empress of Japan in 1964.

CHIE KAMEGAYA

From: Chie Kamegaya, *An Immigrant's Haiku Year: Seasons in New Denver*
 (*Imin no tsuzuru Nyū Denbā no shiki: Kamegaya Chie no Haiku*) (New
 Denver, BC: Twa Corbies, 1999), n.p.n.

行く春は
 移民史
 一人の
 足跡
 にく
 また

*Spring passes, and another pioneer
 whose memory we will hold
 in our history*

月今宵
見ずして人
を
移民わん

*Though an immigrant
and far away, I would not miss
this evening's moon*

節
ひ
し
露
り
茂
み
の
み
道
の
み

*Guided to her house
by the fuki growing lush:
an immigrant's garden*

Fuki is a mountain vegetable called butterbur.

釣りに来りて
熊に逃がす
かな

*Fishing, I run from the bear
to the car
This is Canada*

*Lingering
Snow*

残

雪

