

2015 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Poetry Category

Honorable Mention: “*Maria Antonia Josepha Johanna,*” by Amber Dimond

Down she stepped to native music humming

And with her trusting gait two nations’ hopes she tied

Hopes that sought not peace so much as numbing

But did she veer from the royal cavalcade?
Is it wrong for a Queen to walk where others trod?
How can diamonds and friends a house degrade?
And are not grander gardens than hers grown by God?

Up she stepped to the foreign sounds of drumming
Not by one falter was her flinty peace belied
Each stride promised the storm's end was coming
But her even gait crackled where the vines had dried

JUDGE'S COMMENTS

I applaud the writer's going beyond the stereotypes of Marie Antoinette. But the diction is too complicated. It gets in the way of the reader being able to experience the poem. I'd like to see it rewritten, much more simply and directly. Give us the benefits of your insights!

Catherine Frerichs is retired after many years of teaching writing, literature, and other humanities courses at Glen Oaks Community College, Albion College, and, most recently, Grand Valley State