

*The inaugural Poet Laureate of Mississauga (ON), Anna Yin is also an avid translator of English-Canadian poetry into Chinese, and she is herself a fine crafter of poems in English, though it is her second language. Her free-verse poems are based on the haiku, even though many of her lyrics exceed the 3-lines and 17-syllables of standard haiku. Even so, what she brings to her longer poems is the same attentiveness to imagery and the mysteries resonant in what may first seem superficial or self-evident that she presents in her haiku. Chinese poetry extends back more than 3,000 years, and so it is inspiring to note how poets like Anna Yin and Rita Wong are meshing this formidable tradition with Canadian English, thus following, so to speak, the lead of the 5<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary Poet Laureate, namely, His Poetic Excellency, Fred Wah.*

## **My Father's Temple**

When my father rebuilt his house,  
on each stair he carved  
his and my mother's names.  
My father is not a superstitious or rich man,  
with all of us grown up and living far away,  
his narrow tall four-floor building  
rose with our criticisms of its waste.  
My father rolled his eyeballs, broke his silence:  
"Find your own floor and stay longer."  
He winked at us,  
"At least none would buy."

My father's wisdom was defeated by the city plan.  
Officers came along with bulldozers and demanded he leave.  
My father climbed up to the roof, and refused to move.  
Holding his camera, my father shot his last photo  
among the knocked down neighborhood.

I received a copy of the photo in the local newspaper.  
My father looked so small on the top of the ruins,  
It was titled, "The Last Temple."

Anna Yin

Anna Yin was Mississauga's first Poet Laureate. She has published four poetry collections, including "Seven Nights with the Chinese Zodiac", 2015 and "Nightlights", 2017 (Black Moss Press). Anna won the 2005 Ted Plantos Memorial Award, two MARTY Awards and 2016/2017 West Chester University Poetry Conference scholarships etc. Her poems have appeared on Arc Poetry, The New York Times, China Daily, CBC Radio, World Journal, Literary Review of Canada etc. She has received two grants from the Ontario Art Council for her poetry projects. She teaches Poetry Alive at schools, colleges and libraries. Her website: [annapoetry.com \(http://www.annapoetry.com/\)](http://www.annapoetry.com/)

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