

## RULES

1. Poems must be original, have a title, be unpublished or not accepted for publication. They should be written in English and not exceed 50 lines.
2. Each poem must be typed, single-spaced on one side of A4 paper which must not bear the name of the author or any form of identification. The titles of poems and name and address of the poet should be clearly listed on the entry form or a separate sheet of paper.
3. The entry fee is £5.00 per poem, or 5 poems for £20.00. Current subscribers to *Acumen* (including those subscribing with entry) can enter one extra free poem.
4. Receipt of entry will be acknowledged if a stamped, addressed postcard marked 'Receipt' is enclosed with postal entries.
5. A list of winners will be sent if a stamped addressed envelope marked 'Prizewinners' is enclosed with postal entries.
6. Copyright will remain with the author, but the organisers reserve the right to publish any of the winning or commended poems up to one year after the end of the competition.
7. The awards will be announced at a Prize giving party in London. The winning poets will be notified in advance and invited to attend. All short-listed poets will be invited to read their short-listed entry.
8. The judge's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the results. The poems will not be returned.
9. The organisers reserve the right to return poems and entry fees if the need arises.
10. Neither the judge nor organisers are eligible to enter the competition.
11. The judges will read ALL the entries.
12. Cheques/POs should be made payable to **Acumen Publications** and sent together with the poems and author's details to:

The Administrator, c/o 6 The Mount, Brixham, South Devon TQ5 8QY, UK.

Envelopes should be clearly marked 'Acumen International Poetry Competition'

For on-line entry see [www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/competition](http://www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/competition)  
E-mail entries to arrive by 6.00pm 28 February 2020

## PRIZES

### FIRST PRIZE

**£1,000**

plus five years' subscription to *Acumen*

### SECOND PRIZE

**£400**

plus three year's subscription to *Acumen*

### THIRD PRIZE

**£200**

plus two year's subscription to *Acumen*

***SPECIAL PRIZE for best current subscriber's entry: £100***

**Additionally six highly-commended poets will receive £25 plus a subscription to *Acumen***

**and ten commended poets will receive a year's subscription to *Acumen*.**

***Closing Date: Saturday 28th February 2020***

## ENTRY FEES

**£5.00 per poem or 5 poems for £20.**

**Current subscribers can enter one extra poem free (including those subscribing with the entry).**

**It is easy to enter online at [www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/competiton](http://www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/competiton).**

Acumen Literary Journal

# INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION

with nearly £2,000 in prizes.

Judges:

**Nancy Mattson and Michael Bartholomew-Biggs**

**Deadline for entries:  
February 28th 2020**

# ACUMEN LITERARY JOURNAL

*Acumen Literary Journal* is an independently published poetry magazine which has been edited for thirty four years by Patricia Oxley. It publishes all poems on merit, not being influenced by gender, ethnicity, religion, fame or anything other than the quality of the poem.

## THE JUDGES



**MICHAEL  
BARTHOLOMEW-BIGGS**

**Michael Bartholomew-Biggs** is a retired mathematician who continues to write poetry and has published five pamphlets and four full collections since 1998. His most recent books are *The Man Who Wasn't Ever Here* (Wayleave 2017), a poetic exploration of the life of his Irish grandfather, and *Poems in the Case* (Shoestring 2018), a genre-bending volume which places poems within the framework of a murder mystery set in a writers' retreat. He has been poetry editor of the on-line magazine *London Grip* since 2011 and, with Nancy Mattson, has helped to run the Poetry in the Crypt reading series at St Mary's Church in Islington for nearly twenty years.



**NANCY MATTSON**

**Nancy Mattson** is a Canadian writer who moved to London in 1990. Her fourth full poetry collection is *Vision on Platform 2* (Shoestring 2018). Her previous books are *Finns and Amazons* (Arrowhead 2012), which moves from poems about early 20th century Russian women artists to a search for her Finnish great-aunt who disappeared in Stalinist Russia; *Writing with Mercury* (Flambard 2006); and *Maria Breaks Her Silence* (Coteau 1989), shortlisted for Canada's Gerald Lampert Award. Festival appearances include Torbay, Suffolk, Lancaster, Grand Finn-Fest in Sault Ste. Marie and Greenbelt in Cheltenham. She has spoken at universities in Canada, the U.S., Finland and Russia.

# ENTRY FORM

Closing date Friday 28th February 2020

- FIRST PRIZE: £1,000**, plus five years' subscription to *Acumen*
- SECOND PRIZE: £400**, plus three year's subscription to *Acumen*
- THIRD PRIZE: £200**, plus two year's subscription to *Acumen*
- SPECIAL PRIZE for best current subscriber's entry: £100**

## ENTRY FEES

£5.00 per poem or 5 poems for £20.

Current subscribers can enter one extra poem free (including those subscribing with the entry).

I agree to abide by the rules of the Competition:

Signature:.....

Name (block capitals).....

Address(block capitals)  
.....  
.....

..... Post Code.....

Titles of poems:  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Title of extra poem as an *Acumen* subscriber.....  
Please continue on separate sheet if necessary

I enclose a stamped addressed post-card for acknowledgement of receipt .....

I enclose an s.a.e. for list of prize-winners .....

I enclose a subscription to *Acumen* starting with the current issue (£15).....  
Please make cheques payable to *Acumen Publications*.

**It is easy to enter online at [www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/competiton](http://www.acumen-poetry.co.uk/competiton).**