

Un *tanuki* sui binari

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Abstract

A tanuki on the Railway Tracks

The themes of travel, displacement, and wandering have deep roots in Japanese art, and they occupy a prominent place in classical Japanese literature. However, in modern times, the charm of the train has affected many Japanese writers and poets who have interpreted the experience of travelling by train in different and personal ways. In particular, contemporary Japanese poetry transforms an “ordinary” experience such as travelling by train into a search for a particular atmosphere, into a state of mind, or into a means to reverberate an infinite number of onomatopoeias in order to highlight the rhythm and the musicality of words, that is, all the phono-symbolical elements that constitute the main ingredient of poetry.

Keywords: travel literature; train; contemporary Japanese poetry.