

# Silver Wire Denga . . .

By

*David Day*

**WHY I LIKE IT: Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes...** *David Day has got to be the most arcane artist on who's words I have ever laid eyes. A literati's literatus, he might likely have rendered the Algonquin Round Table, a vicious circle, mutely musing. In 'Silver Wire Denga,' "A copper kopeck slides across / the ancient streets of Rome, / which lacks the tangy dipping sauce / of Moscow onion domes." (Apparently a denga is a Russian coin, out of circulation, valued at half a kopeck, minted from silver wire--I am aware this is common knowledge for the rest of you lot.) Can't you just imagine his little scheming rhyme scrawled across the basement bathroom wall in the seediest pub you've ever found yourself? In his spare time, Mister Day idles as an attorney-at-law in Hawaii. As for me, within the limits of my vocation and purview, I rarely make time for polymaths. "Sobaka strikes a catty pose, / so Pushkin burns his doggy clothes." Apart from being notorious, the man is riotously uproarious. HS*

*Five Stars!*

## Silver Wire Denga

A copper kopeck slides across  
the ancient streets of Rome,  
which lacks the tangy dipping sauce  
of Moscow onion domes.  
Polushka loves her dengas small,  
and stuffed in velvet lemon balls.  
A wire hammered flat,  
but Ivan's looking fat.

A silver ruble glides atop  
a honeyed bumble bee,  
and when the Sputnik signal stops,

the owls disagree.  
Sobaka strikes a catty pose,  
so Pushkin burns his doggy clothes.  
The icon slays a dragon.  
A troika pulls a wagon.

A golden ruble spins along  
the backs of Baikal seals,  
as Peter sings a doleful song  
in bins of Donbas steel.  
Poltina lost her shine, opined  
that propaganda rots their minds,  
according to a duck  
with orb-and-scepter luck.

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *This poem is about how Russia's monetary system can speak to us about Russia's past, present, and future. Inspired by my personal collection of money from the Russian Empire, Soviet Union, and post-Soviet states, the characters in this poem are the various historical denominations of Russian coin and their distinct evocative symbols, which were used to soften or harden the country's image throughout the centuries as responses to the needs of the day. The rhyme and meter are inspired by Alexander Pushkin's poem "Жених" ("The Bridegroom").*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Dave Day is an attorney from Honolulu, Hawaii. Dave has published poetry in *The Ekphrastic Review* and *The New Verse News*, and extremely nonpoetic articles in the *Hawaii Bar Journal* and *Emory International Law Review*.