

Sonnet Scroll

The Martini

By Bruce Bennett

“The martini is the only American invention
as perfect as a sonnet.” —H. L. Mencken

“As perfect as a sonnet.” Mixed just right.
The dry vermouth, a hint but barely more.
The best, of course. The olive, with its bite
Adding that tang; that hand that made it, sure
And skilled from having crafted such perfection
A thousand times, all done with grace, aplomb,
And *savoir faire*, requiring no reflection,
Except upon that pleasure yet to come:
That first sip that transports the blessèd sipper
Straight to that realm where all is smooth warm joy,
As if upon a yacht, where now, as Skipper,
He issues the command that sends the boy
To bear the couplet in that will conclude
This reenactment of Beatitude.