

Editors
Kiyoshi & Kiyoko
Tokutomi
徳岡 九代子

President
Patricia Machmiller

Advisor
Edwin A. Falkowski

Monthly Newsletter

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11

Editors Commentary

UNIQUENESS IN HAIKU — 3 examples from Sol Markoff

To pull our heart strings,

- 1.) good haiku should be unique,
- 2.) the KIGO 季語 should not be shiftable,
- 3.) the haiku should express ideas which are not "common thought",
- 4.) ideas should be focused on a single point in time.

Judging from these points of view, the following haiku of Sol Markoff impressed us with their uniqueness:

For example #73

On this Spring night
wet lilacs and violets
smelling faintly pink

Even though this haiku has one problem to solve, the expression "smelling pink" is impressive. Actually there is no scent in color, but from wet lilacs and violets on the balmy spring night, the color of the flowers seem to be scenting by being said so. Actually lilacs and violets are purple, but the author said "smelling pink". Psychologically, purple is a cool color while pink is warm and bright color matching the feeling of a warm night in spring. So, he said "pink" instead of "purple". If we express the season in color, then spring could be envisioned as pink, summer as red, autumn, blue and winter, white. This kind of creation in composing haiku is important. Now there is one problem to solve in this haiku. Do we need "Spring" in this haiku? Lilacs and violets are already spring KIGO 季語. So, let's eliminate this word and replace it with the word "quiet"; then the night becomes more balmy.

#74

After the night rain
a trembling twin of the moon
lies on the wet street

This haiku also impressed us strongly. We sense that the moon is the half moon and there are rain pools on the street after the night rain with the wind still blowing. The author perceived the moment very well, as an artist.

#75

A child throws pebbles
into clear lake; I see
my face run away

We respect the uniqueness of this haiku, however, note that the haiku lacks a KIGO 季語. The haiku also introduces a question. Can the author really see his own face run away unless he is above the lake? So suggested alternative phrasing might be.

Haiku Journal

Patricia Machmiller



FIRST CLASS

Throwing a pebble
into the spring pond, I see
her face run away

Then, the haiku becomes more meaningful.

In conclusion, these haiku are examples of three techniques:

- #73 — Psychological sense (of smell imparted through visual color)
- #74 — Artist's sketch (See Mr. Yamagata's statement in Vol. 2, No. 2 1979 Newsletter)
- #75 — Implied meanings (through illusion of the disappearing force)

徳富 潔子
とくとみ

Kiyoshi & Kiyoko
Tokutomi

President's Column

On May 5, 1979, Chabot College at the Spring Arts Festival Awards Ceremony presented individual Special Awards of Recognition to Kiyoko and Kiyoshi Tokutomi for their work in promoting and encouraging the writing of traditional haiku in English. The letters of recognition enumerated their many accomplishments, including the founding of the YUKI TEIKEI Haiku Society and the office they have held; the publications for which they are responsible, the monthly GEPPPO and The Haiku Journal; and their current work on a SAIJIKI for the US Mainland.

I am sure the YUKI TEIKEI membership will be as proud and happy as I am for this recognition of the Tokutomi's which they so richly deserve.

Patricia Machmiller

Secretary's Column

April Meeting 4-7-79

Pat Machmiller reports that we are invited to participate in an international conference at San Jose State University regarding "International Awareness". We would prepare and man a booth there representing our interests. Should we support this? The consensus was "no"

The World Conference of Poets will be held in Souel, Korea, this year on July 2 through the 7th. If any one is interested, Pat Machmiller has the complete agenda.

An hour of discussion of SAIJIKI followed; should we give a long description of generic term? or more concise approaches? It was agreed to take the briefer route. Why not simply translate Japanese SAIJIKI to English? Much can be translated, but there are many KIGO which are related to the English only. In this context, we tackled the first of the seasons to be defined: SPRING. From there, we will try to work on SPRING EVENING and SPRING NIGHT. (Won't it be great when we can all make this distinction in our haiku?) Such things as defining "evening" and "night" whether "balmy" fits into the season, do we define "evening" in terms of clock? or behavior? (Japanese SAIJIKI seems to use behavior.) "Evening" begins with the waning of the light, until dark. Complicated? That is one very good reason why the English SAIJIKI is needed for our haiku.

Jerry Ball asked if there was any interest in having a Poet's Retreat in the future sometime, with a section relating only to HAIKU. Many of the members seemed interested, if there are any of you members who would like to attend or ask questions about retreat, we would be glad to hear from you, as to when, where, etc.

Edwin A. Falkowski awarded \$5.00 to Dave Wright for his one-syllable word haiku,

Dawn of spring, a snail
on a thick patch of moss, rides
his slick track... just so.

Haiku Exercise: TWO DIFFERENT TRANSLATIONS

Here are two different translation of a haiku by Chosho

1; Though it be broken
broken again- still it's there
moon on the water (Henderson)

2; Broken, and broken
again on the sea, the moon
so easily mends

Answer the question:

1. Which is the better translation and why?
2. Write your own translations.

Member responses
to #1:

1, because, it is more direct and literal; the last line gathers the moon into wholeness on the water... in keeping with "mizu no tsuki"; it is simple.

2, because, I like it; it is in the present.

Critique of #1: feeling poem is in the past, elicits sadness and futility,,, yes, misery is here to stay, yet, there is always a tomorrow, so many feelings!

Someone didn't like either one.

to #2: (some decided not to write on this one and wrote one of choice)

1st place: Even my tomcat
flicks his tail expectantly...
this warm spring evening... Jerry Ball

Even though it breaks again-- there it is!
the moon on the sea... Jerry Ball

2nd place: Children play hopscotch.
Spring evening lasts much longer
I sit contented. Nicolas Evans

Moon on the water Torn again, again,
broken again by the waves the sea moon --- still it's forming
mends itself again. repeating wholeness.

Broken, rebroken Cracked moon riding waves
on the sea, whole moon goes on so easily mended when
wake of wind and waves the wind stopped blowing.

Bobbie Leiser
Secretary

Members' Voices and Members' Comments

This month, the columns for "Members' Voices" and "Members' Comments" are omitted in order that your Editors may arrange for the Second Annual YUKI TEIKEI Haiku Awards program. The results of the contest open to poets residing in Canada and the United States will be announced in our June GEFFO 月報 Haiku Journal.

Second Annual YUKI TEIKEI Haiku Awards Program

Members and their friends are cordially invited to attend the ceremonies.

Date : June 2, 1979

Time : 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Place : Japanese Friendship Garden - Tea House
1300 Senter Road
San Jose, California

Early Summer - 初夏 - SHOKA and Others

- 1. Off the rocky shore:
The boat drifts on a red tide
Dark shadows below K160?
Dalton
- 2. In a milk bottle
On the kitchen windowsill
First pussy willows
- 3. Under the willows:
Water buffaloes wallow;
Eyelashes glisten
The three haiku above were omitted
from last month's GEPPPO.
- 4. Early summer fog
Floats from the duneland hollows -
a lone killdeer calls elliott
- 5. Rising capella
climbs the mountains of the sky -
nighttime in the dunes. K160?
- 6. Not just a greenthumb,
a handful of green fingers -
old horse chestnut tree.
- 7. Last year's ~~orange~~ still clings
midst blossoms and budding fruit --
an early summer
- 8. Gardening postponed,
my roses bloom still unpruned
-- early summer now
- 9. ~~the dust particle~~
~~drifting up a ray of sun...~~
~~watching it from bed~~ K160?
Bradly
- 10. a one legged gull
perched upon a lonely wharf -
the foghorn lowing
- 11. Early summer night:
Of a sudden, insect-still!
Who rapped for quiet?
- 12. Tall peaks; blowing snow.
In the valley cherries bloom --
petals on the wind
- 13. White yucca blossoms:
seeking their luring nectar
ten thousand insects
- 14. Early summer here?
It snuck up on me today... Liner
in my heavy clothes!
- 15. Farmer's old windmill,
rusted... groaning in the air.
I drink so deeply! K160?
- 16. Old swing squeaks slightly
in back yard... only grandson Liner
visits, now and then.
- 17. Color of the fire
blazing along the roadside
the golden poppies
- 18. Spring sunshine blooming
on the tips of the Ice Plant
late mother planted
- 19. In the wake of spring
sleepy ferns stretching their arms
as the sun rises
- 20. Early summer rain
awakens new leaves and buds
birds listen for worms
- 21. Exploring the field
baby mouse and ladybug
stare at each other
- 22. Black clouds gathering
and dotted over the lake
white sails coming down
- 23. The coast to gulf road,
bloody remains of... something -
greenness of pines. ugh?
- 24. Newly budding trees
in between the silences
an early bird song. Spring
- 25. Taking my first cup
into the room above where
lilacs are in bloom.
- 26. ~~Latent autumn leaves-~~
~~Surrender reluctantly~~
~~to early summer~~
- 27. Daylight Saving Time
resetting the clock ahead - E. F.
Falkowski
the cuckoo objects
- 28. Scribing Easter eggs
in the Polish tradition
so did my father
- 29. Street of old poet
forgetting the house number -
there - golden poppies E. F.
- 30. In the midday sun
The old white hen dusts herself;
In the flower bed K160?
Brida
- 31. Mother's faded quilt
hanging in the summer sun
still smells of cedar Brida
- 32. Lazy summer day;
Shadow of a chicken hawk Brida
Circling the barn yard
- 33. delicate fragrance
floating in folds of iris -
murmur of shadows
- 34. early summer day -
day-dreaming to the rhythm
of clouds drifting by... K1
- 35. Early summer dawn
the farmer surveys his field Lyon
(heard before)
then searches the sky
- 36. Early summer dawn
the glad whistle of a bird
high in the fig tree.
- 37. Small green balls glisten
under the hot morning sun
in old orange grove.
- 38. Snowflakes at the window;
by the flickering fire Lander
I read haiku.
- 39. A sudden snowstorm;
scribbled over with trivia
the new calendar Lander

40. Perhaps it arrives
After Equinox in June...
Perhaps not at all.

Youngdahl

41. Gift pussy willows,
Now grown into handsome bush...
Must pass on gift twigs.

42. Lilac bush budding,
Tells us it lived through fierce cold...
Blossoms follow soon.

43. In early summer
a brook whispering to me
of fish and flowers

Common

44. To silent music
gold butterflies dance, then die
and buttercups bloom.

9(6)

*Marblet **

45. (To Nina, Martha, John)
In its ancient way
a hidden bud emerges;
two souls become three

46. early summer day;
a small winter grave yet marked
by unhealed grass seams

1(6)

Laurer conflicting K160

47. old lady watching
young sunbathers frolicking
takes off her sweater

9(6)

Laurer

48. a swaying bluejay
last ripe plum just of of reach
loudly scolds the dog

49. Dew drops on cobweb
reflect April morning light
- many captured suns

50. Topsy robins spin
in acrobatic antics -
pyracantha drunk

*Falkowski? NO!
Biciche*

51. White-haired old man dies,
last snow melts from mountain peaks
- apple blossoms fall

*E.F. 7/9/68
"patch of white hair"*

52. Swift swooping hawk strikes,
shattered apple blossoms fall
- crimson stains on white

4(6)

Biciche

53. In early summer
the voice of the muted sea
awakens old dreams.

10(6)

Scher

54. The song of the wind
rattles palm fronds as they touch
lulling me to sleep.

K160?

55. In early summer
flowers leap from nature's womb
earth has given birth.

common

56. Early summer day:
blue climbing morning-glories
melt into the sky

6(4)

*conflicting
hugs
Dunlop*

57. The Mayday deluge -
our orchard earth moves again
without man or plow

7(6)

Dunlop

58. Early summer flash
of red and green, whirls past me -
the first hummingbird

3(6)

Dunlop

59. Early summer walk
Familiar form approaches
... It is a stranger.

2(6)

Fitzpatrick

60. Summer grasses move
Child with green colored playsuit
hops with grasshopper.

1(6)

Fitzpatrick

61. Seagull-filled sand bar
Wind blown dune grasses ripple
above quiet flock

2(6)

Fitzpatrick

62. Early summer day;
so soft the cooing of doves
sunning on the wires

9(3)

Linclair

63. Lonely, lonely night --
the glowing mosquito smudge
my sole companion

0(6)

Linclair

64. Early summer lake
carrying my motorboat
and a heart to break

Hayme

65. Even the woman
who is rather tone-deaf sings
our tea-picking song

9(3)

Rosling K160

66. For a whole minute
the steeplejack keeps trembling
in my soap bubble

2(6)

Rosling K160

67. A yellow leaf falls
upon the decaying stump --
early summer night.

9(6)

McGy

68. First morning in May:
A white butterfly visits
a shrivelled brown leaf...

69. Misty May morning:
Faint carillon music drifts
across the wide lake...

2(6)

McGy

70. Ivory morning:
sprays of saskatoon blossoms
in early summer

1(6)

Buckman

71. Beneath a cracked sky
crows ride the mint-scented breeze;
fresh summerfallow...

3(6)

Buckman

72. Distant meadowlark;
a muskrat spreads blue ripples
in a prairie slough.

73. Early summer storm
Dark clouds gather quickly
rain through slender birch

Ms K160

74. Remaining snow melts --
creatures leave tree and burrow
Spring plays April Fool?

1(6)

*Middle line
stem out ->*

75. Rooster greets the sun
sounds of day after short nite
nature's symphony

76. Delicate orange buds
perfume early summer day...
my heart skips a beat!

77. A pink dew-kissed rose
ultimate of perfection...
cheers my tears-stained eyes

78. One May morn I came
on divided grassy path...
Oh! could take just one

79. Early summer eve;
the air chill sends us indoors --
the still-warm door knob

9(4)

Murphy

80. Fresh from the garden --
round buds of thistle blossoms
among the shelled peas

9(3)

Murphy

81. The cool silent touch
of summer wind sweeping through
the hot humid day

82. Early summer path
little shoes and big--tramping;
mother birds on nests

83. The hummingbird lost
in nectar of the crowfoot
bending in sunlight

2(6)

*no
K160*

84. On the rotting branch
what a sudden show of life
sparks those wise old eyes

K160? * (9)

85. Peony petals
scattered by the cat chasing
a fleet butterfly.

Richard

86. Among the crosses
on short stems red, white, and blue
banners blossom out

87. The furrow's straight line
I follow with pea seeds... bends
where the onion's up.

? Richard

88. The sun hides behind
A rainbow of colored clouds ---
Early summer sky.

89. Pants hung in spring breeze,
Brown, blue, gray, plaid, check, striped,
None of them men's pants.

90. There the butterfly
Flits, and calls our attention
To the charm of spring.

91. A flicker filling
the early summer orchard
with "wake-up" "wake-up"

Stander

92. Cracks in the old steps:
an ant balances a crumb
from her birthday cake.

* 160? Stander

93. Memorial Day...
an old nest in the hedgerow
... just room for a child

Stander

94. Tangle of dark stems
Where last stone of burnt house stands
One yellow tulip

why yellow?

95. Not second sunset -
Boy's rising red kite flashes
Against fast dark clouds

Elizabeth Sallim? yes!

96. Whose pale unicorns
Run through tide and sand castle
On this spring evening

Elizabeth P

97. Lawn's fully dressed elm (?)
in early summer, muffles
half-clothed fledglings' cries.

Beth

98. Shadows of spring moths
dart in and out of driveway
pups chase unseen friends.

99. Riding crests and troughs
amid spring roar of deep waves
roller coaster gulls.

↓

100. A restless feeling
every year at this same time,
It's early summer.

Sauer

101. Traveling fever,
the open roads beckon me,
in early summer.

102. Farmer plows his field,
except for a small grass plot,
the family graveyard.

Sauer

103. Pink palms beneath clouds
floating atop Mount Fuji -
early summer dawn

?

104. Lacy tender leaves
swaying gracefully in wind -
willow-tree dancers

Stake

105. Passing through forests
the clop-clop of horses hoofs
in early summer

by author of horses in moonlight?

106. A goldfish swimming
gaily and gorgeously, and
awaking midnight

Your Votes (10% of the numbers):
Identify the 3 best haiku by
circling the number of the haiku
and comment briefly for your
selections, if any.

Your haiku assignment for
coming month.

#1.

#2.

#3.

Additional Comments:

Your Name:

Please write one haiku 俳句 with
the given KIGO 季語 for each month
along with two others with your own
choice of KIGO 季語.

KIGO 季語 for 1979

June: Short night - 短夜
MIJIKAYO

July: Suntan - 日焼
HIYAKE

August: August - 八月
HACHIGATSU

September: Autumn butterfly - 秋の蝶
AKI NO CHO

October: Red leaves hunting -
紅葉狩
MOMIJIGARI

November: Early winter - 初冬
HATSUFUYU or
SHOTO

December: Frost nipped - 霜枯
SHIMOGARE

1979

Results of April Evaluation

C. Buckaway *	S. Stone *	R. Stewart *	E. Dunlop *
(Y)(K) 1. --- 9 3	K 33. --- 1	K 65. --- 10 2	97. --- 11 2
2. --- 2	34. --- 7 2	66. --- 1 1	Y K 98. --- 2
3. --- 4	35. --- 3	67. --- 4 4	99. --- 3 1
K. Hale	G. Adams	L. Winder	J. Youngblood
(Y) 4. --- 5 2	K 36. --- 2	K 68. --- 5 1	Y K 100. --- 1
K 5. --- 3 1	37. --- 0	69. --- 0	101. --- 0
R. Sprigs	B. Leiser	S. Youngdahl	102. --- 0
6. --- 3	38. --- 6	K 70. --- 1	R. Spriggs
7. --- 4 2	K 39. --- 8 1	71. --- 0	103. --- 0
K 8. --- 11 2	40. --- 2	72. --- 0	104. --- 4 2
E. Falkowski	M. Lyon	S. Markoff	K 105. --- 0
Y 9. --- 1	41. --- 0	73. --- 1	C. McCord
10. --- 5	42. --- 2	(K) 74. --- 15 4	106. --- 0
K 11. --- 1 1	K 43. --- 2	75. --- 11 1	107. --- 0
O. Tranbarger	B. McCoy	T. Murphy	Y K 108. --- 4 1
K 12. --- 6	Y (K) 44. --- 8 2	76. --- 0	L. Schuck
13. --- 0	45. --- 11 3	77. --- 1	9. --- 15
14. --- 11 3	Y 46. --- 2	K 78. --- 4	110. --- 0
P. Machmiller	L. Cruciana	H. Evans	A. Tao
Y, K, 15. --- 7	47. --- 0	K 79. --- 4 2	111. --- 0
16. --- 2 1	48. --- 3	80. --- 0	112. --- 0
17. --- 10 1	K 49. --- 4 1	81. --- 1	K 113. --- 3
J. Sauer	R. Roseliep	J. Lamson	A. Tao
18. --- 0	50. --- 1	K 82. --- 3	(Y) K 114. --- 3
19. --- 1 1	51. --- 3 1	83. --- 1	115. --- 1
K 20. --- 2	K 52. --- 2 2	84. --- 2	T. Yamagata
D. Braida	J. Currier	E. Gilliam	116. --- 1
21. --- 3	K 53. --- 4 3	K 85. --- 1	117. --- 0
22. --- 3 1	54. --- 5	86. --- 0	K 118. --- 7 1
K 23. --- 4	55. --- 3	87. --- 0	P. Schuck
J. Ball	M. Eulberg	K. Fickert	119. --- 2
24. --- 5	56. --- 1	88. --- 3	120. --- 3
25. --- 0	57. --- 5 2 Y	K 89. --- 4 1	K 121. --- 3 1
(K) 26. --- 2	K 58. --- 8 2	90. --- 0	L. Giskin
M. Elliott	I. Wolfe	B. Sweeney	2 K 60's K 122. --- 0
K 27. --- 1	59. --- 4 2	K 91. --- 13 5	K 123. --- 1 1
28. --- 1	60. --- 0	92. --- 3	M. Richardson
29. --- 1	K 61. --- 3	93. --- 3 1	K 124. --- 0
M. Henn	R. Stewart	P. Scher	125. --- 4 1
30. --- 0	62. --- 6	94. --- 0	126. --- 2
31. --- 1	K 63. --- 10	95. --- 1	
K 32. --- 0	64. --- 1	K 96. --- 2 1	

Y indicates selection of Mr. Teruo Yamagata.

K indicates selection of Editors (one from each member).

* column indicates best selections by vote of members.

(Y) indicates Mr. Yamagata's three best choices.

(K) indicates the Editors' three best choices.

Mr. Teruo Yamagata's Comments - May KUKO

I think No. 1 expresses exactly the feeling of the spring evening. Although some people do not want to use the word "like", I feel No. 114 will be acceptable to all haikuists. "like" is GOTOKU (好口 <) in Japanese and one of the most popular words or expressions in haiku.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MEMBERS

1. Choose 10 haiku and identify the best 3 haiku by circling the number of the haiku, and comment on the reasons for your selections, if any.
2. Please write three haiku on a 8½ X 11 white paper as is indicated in the previous KUKO and send them to us by May 25, 1979. Please do not forget your name on your paper.