

月報俳句ジャーナル

GE P P O

H A I K U

J O U R N A L

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GEPPO EDITORIAL

SHIGATSU 四月 or April is the month temperatures rise suddenly and humidity goes down. The weather becomes pleasantly warm. Frogs emerge from hibernation. Everyone enjoys this balmy weather, the spring greenness, and wild flowers blooming on the hills. SHIGATSU gives us many subjects for writing haiku. Let's go out and enjoy beautiful nature and write many good haiku.

Readers' Reaction to Our Article in The March Geppo

In our March GEPPO, we mentioned about "17 syllable Count and Form" in contemporary haiku in Japan.

The words we used "Contemporary haiku in Japan is changing" were apparently somewhat confusing. The 5-7-5 syllable count haiku in Japan is not basically changing. Over 95% or more of contemporary haiku are YUKI TEIKEI form. However, the point we wanted to emphasize was that 5-8-4, 5-6-6, ... etc. syllable count haiku are now becoming permissible.

As many members know, haiku in Japan is generally written in one line, for example,

花野来た人間嫌ひ極まらぬ。

HANANO KITE NINGEN KIRAI KIWAMARERI

山県輝夫

Teruo Yamagata

When we translate this haiku into English, in one line, it becomes as follows:

Aversion for man reaches its depth coming through fields of wild flowers

This is a 17 syllable count haiku. However, when we read it in a straight line, very few of us notice that the haiku has a 5-8-4 syllable count. Of course, Mr. Yamagata's haiku is a perfect 5-7-5 syllable count haiku in Japanese. I loved this haiku so much that I translated it into English. Then, I noticed that the haiku in English became as follows:

Aversion for man
reaches its depth coming through
fields of wild flowers

Strictly speaking from the structural point of view, "fields" should be at the end of the second line.

Haiku Journal



FIRST CLASS

Patricia Machmiller

2.

This type of haiku is becoming permissible in Japan.

Now, we are so pleased to learn that many members wrote to indicate their preference for 5-7-5 syllable count... this was their reason for becoming members of our Society! We will maintain our YUKI TEIKEI form.

Should Haiku Be Written Outdoors Only?

We have stressed that haiku should be written outdoors in the midst of nature. This is a very important aspect in writing haiku.

Ways To Compose Haiku:

1. SHOKUMOKUGIN 瞻目吟
SHOKUMOKUGIN 瞻目吟 means looking at the subject(nature) and reading haiku.
2. SEKIDAIKU 席題句
SEKIDAIKU 席題句 means writing haiku with a given KIGO at a haiku meeting.
3. KADAIKU 課題句
KADAIKU 課題句 means writing haiku with a given subject(KIGO) at home just as members do, now.
4. KENDAIKU 兼題句
KENDAIKU 兼題句 means writing haiku with a given subject(KIGO) prior to a meeting and bringing them to the meeting on a set day for evaluation by others.
5. JIYU KADAIKU 自由課題句
JIYU KADAIKU 自由課題句 means writing haiku with a free subject(KIGO).

In other words, these are five ways of composing haiku.

Desk Haiku:

Now, when we write haiku at a desk, our haiku should be supported by the actual experience or a past experience. Sometimes, we can feel but we cannot write the haiku at the time we experience nature. However, in such a case, we should retain the mental impression and reconstruct the idea into a haiku later.

Haiku By Imagination:

We cannot write haiku solely by imagination without the possibility of errors. Here is a good example:

The waves of seagulls
at the quiet Pearl Harbor
December 7th

Mr. Yamagata and I thought this was a very good haiku but Mr. Darold D. Braida of Hawaii wrote to us that there were no seagulls in Pearl Harbor. This is a good learning experience for all of us because I must confess that I personally, sometimes, write haiku solely by imagination. Even Basho made this kind of error.

Common thought vs. Uniqueness

We also received a criticism from Mr. Braida about the haiku #23 in the February GEPPU.

Original

Postman does not stop
and February fourteenth
now a colder day

Revision

Postman does not stop
and February fourteenth
now a common day

Now, his point in the haiku #23 is as follows:

"I am afraid you missed the point. The day is cold because of the rejection not because it was cold outside. The heart is cold not the weather." First, I agreed with him that "the heart is cold not the weather." However, the word "cold" in this case is too direct and it made this haiku a common thought. We can cite an example from Issa's haiku.

Happiness
just about average,
my New Year

If Issa said his New Year was very happy or unhappy, then, the haiku becomes common. Instead, he said "average." Suddenly, this haiku becomes very unique and impressive. Now, back to the haiku #23, the author changed to "a common day." By saying "a common day", we can imagine how much she had expected. It gives us much stronger impression than a direct expression of

disappointment. The haiku, then, becomes very unique.

Spring Melancholy

Spring is the season when weather becomes warm, flowers bloom, birds chirp, and everything around us becomes bright and vivid. However, we sometimes, become lonesome, helpless, and melancholy in spite of being in these ideal surroundings. This is called "spring melancholy" in Japan. When we write haiku with this KIGO, we should express this kind of feeling indirectly. The following is my haiku:

春愁や対岸に石投げてみる
SHUNSHYU YA TAIGAN NI ISHI NAGETE MIRU

徳富 潔
Kiyoshi Tokutomi

Spring melancholy
I try to toss a pebble
to opposite shore

Spring Ocean or sea

As we have mentioned several times, the ocean changes from season to season. The spring ocean is mild and calm, the summer ocean is active, the autumn ocean becomes quiet and lonesome, and the winter ocean is severe. When composing haiku with "spring ocean", its mildness and calmness should be described indirectly. Here is an example haiku written by Buson:

春の海ひねもすのたりのたりかな
HARU NO UMI HINEMOSU NOTARI NOTARI KANA

蕪村
Buson

Spring ocean
rises and tumbles, rises and tumbles
all day long

Translated by Kiyoshi Tokutomi

徳富 潔
丸代子

The President's Column

- By Patricia Machmiller -

Upcoming Events:

- | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|---|
| May 3rd, | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Spring Arts Festival
Chabot College - Valley Campus
(Awards Ceremony starts at 1:00 p.m.) |
| May 10th, | 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | Monthly YUKI TEIKEI Haiku Meeting
California First Bank at First Street
and Young in San Jose |
| June 7th | 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. | YUKI TEIKEI Haiku Contest
Awards Ceremony
Governor's Room
Hyatt House
San Jose |

Note:

To avoid a conflict with the Chabot College Spring Arts Festival, the May meeting of the local Yuki Teikei Haiku membership has been changed to the second Saturday of the month.

Patricia Machmiller

KIGO: Spring Sea or Ocean and other spring KIGO

1. Heavy with blossoms
Windblown peach tree drops petals
On "House for Sale" sign *Bullman*
2. Cupless saucer set
Beneath wisteria vine -
And empty sea shell
3. Not leaves but raindrops
On branches where ten robins
Feed in bush by gate
4. Receding pale waves
tat turquoise lace on dark sand
pattern early spring
5. sweeping stroke of sea
cleans spring sand of old debris
clears room for castles
6. fragile rush of wave
nibbles at the edge of shore
nimble crab escapes
7. The clinging rose crowds
through the schoolground ivy, high
out of back-stop fence
8. Ash Wednesday crowd
after church with some smokers
wearing ash crosses
9. Snail high in branches
of the almond tree away
from the puddling ducks
10. The spring sea darkens...
the glass eye of the lighthouse
intensifies its gaze *L. Cruciana*
11. Solitary rocks
soar against the desert sky;
their serene faces
12. He closes the gates;
a lilac-scented rain falls
on the garden path *due L. Cruciana*
13. Across the prairie,
spring sea of blue irises
open in dawn's light.
14. At the coulee's edge
shadow under a tree stirs
in the April breeze.
15. Breaking silence,
a tribe of cheeky sparrows
taunt one another. *K160?*
16. Into the gift shop,
sea breeze, everything becomes
scented by Spring sea
17. The first day of Spring,
here in this concrete jungle
a bird is singing. *R. Spiggs*
18. This all day long rain,
it gives back to the dry grass
all of it's new green.
19. The western spring sea;
winding its sparkle freckled
on a thin lad's face *E. Dunlop*
20. Wading in spring sea
and gulping down its sparkle -
a brown pelican *E. Dunlop*
21. Parting the sky's dome
from the breadth of spring ocean -
the masts of a ship *E. Dunlop*
22. Inside the whiteness,
the spring ocean echoes on,
the fog horn wails.
23. Busy streets today,
visitors to the spring sea
riding in the rain.
24. Hammers, paint and saws,
fixing up the boardwalk shops,
seagulls watch.
25. ~~Ocean shiny green~~
~~turns ominous black in storm~~
~~sea shells line the shore.~~
26. ~~The sad cry of rain~~
~~large tears roll down window pane~~
~~birds hunt for new seeds.~~
27. ~~The earth wears light green~~
~~unfolding from a long sleep~~
~~curtains move softly.~~
28. April ocean waves
interweaving warm currents:
Japanese import!
29. Creek-side willow trees,
shielding the trout from my cast,
dangling rusty hooks!
30. My daughter's old swing
hanging lifeless and silent
until the wind blows.
31. In the grocery cart
hovering over brown bags
cyclamen petals
32. Spring melancholy
every weed in the garden
oh so tall and bright
33. Too early for leaves
yet the red-winged black bird calls
from the grey branches
34. Gulls patrol spring sea,
migrating fish just below --
one dive, one less fish!
35. Chocolate bunny
head bitten off and tail gone
small sticky fingers
36. Checking to be sure --
small boy tugs on long kite string
speck in sky obeys *C. Bower*
37. A sweet cherry tree,
traveller from Asia,
delights us --- and birds
38. Pluck one from the tree
(a pulpy, globular, drupe)
juicy red cherry!
39. Gnarled hands grab cherries
to thrust into gaping mouths
--- remedy for gout!
40. high winds whip peach tree
tossing its crown bough to earth
sky clear of scud clouds

41. Few blossoms this year
pinking out the old peach tree
but oh what a sight!
42. raging winds crack off
blossomed boughs from old peach tree
before their fruiting
43. Full-bodied new moon
like translucent soap bubble
floats on Spring's calm sea
44. Silver moon locket
dangles from star-spangled chain
reflects in spring sea
45. Thick fuzzy catkins
peek from smooth willow branches---
silver Persian kits
46. The green rush of Spring --
(My throat was filled with old leaves)
Now's the time to sing!
47. Now, the Spring ocean!
It seems to crash rocky shores
with new commitment
48. April First again...
Bringing out my fake Spilled-ink,
Fools one more student.
49. Stained glass Robin stands
Among patio flowers.
Spring Robins stare back.
50. Three-Year-Old laughs loud.
Her Easter-Birthday Bunny...
Bigger than she is.
51. The sad cry of rain
as it rolls down window pane
birds hunt for new seeds.
52. Ocean shiny green
ominous black in a storm
sea shells wash on shore.
53. The earth wears light green
in the distance a church bell
today is the day. K160?
54. in a lonely field:
an old gutted rusting car
filled with tumbleweeds H. Lawler
55. honed picnic table
here and there sparrow droppings
with almond petals
56. after long illness:
he peers outside at stranger
cutting his green grass H. Lawler
57. deep mud furrows down
to this Presence of spring sea
(once our stony creek)
58. monastery bells--
I jog the back roads at dawn--
Annunciation
59. butterfly kite
stalled dead overhead
you make me run and laugh again
60. Wind on the spring sea,
its green feeling for lovers
and the likes of me
61. Lighting votive oil,
she warns the moth to take care
on Buddha's birthday
62. Spring melancholy:
On waking, I ask the birds
to change their music R. Roseleaf
- 9(3)
63. Fishing fleet returns--
trailing through sunset ripples
upon the spring sea.
64. The wet sandy beach
with imprints of many feet
this spring holiday.
65. The outgoing tide:
People wading in the bay
searching for quahogs.
66. A gentle Spring sea ...
one pure white seagull sailing
past the distant ship. T. Fowler
- 6(1)
67. Sky and Spring sea hold
one lone swimmer between them
and now this seagull. T. Fowler
- 8(4)
68. Old man's white whiskers
mingling with foamy spindrift
floating a Spring sea. T. Fowler
41. K. 4(1)
69. A trawler anchored
On the crinkled, blue spring-sea
Click of mah jongg tiles H. Dalton
- 9(1)
70. Not a whiff of wind
but the old cypress bends low
spring sea rolling in
71. patching the old roof
no longer an urgent task
spring sun along eaves!
72. surfers rest on boards
where otters play in the kelp
spring sea waterbed
73. Spring ocean in fog:
Invisible waves and gull cries
Swelling together
74. Against scudding clouds
Just the catbird's lower beak
Wobbling with spring song
75. Gold dots and white rays
are dancing before my eyes--
Spring sun on bloodroot!
76. One swallow singing
breaks the silence as I sit
in contemplation.
77. Far from the seashore
the silence broken only
by a fish bubble
78. Near blooming Iris
two little ducks look around ...
so much to explore!
79. In the April sun
old lace curtains stretched on grass
absorbing new spring
80. Spring's bloom of Titan
Fear--Saint Helen's Mount novas
Earth's guts to ASGARD!
81. I feel the Spring flood
of the wide Mississippi;
train above chugs slow
82. My old cherry tree:
within its topmost thin twigs
a frayed spider web H. Craig
- K12(1)

- 4K! 9(2) 83. Even under the tread
of an old humpbacked heron,
spring sea... undisturbed *P. Schuch*
- 4K 8(1) 84. Curtains billowing
in and out at the window -
capricious spring sea *P. Schuch*
- 85. A wingspread gull in
solitary ecstasy
over the spring sea
- 86. Once you told me friend
about the blossoms falling --
I see them too ... now ...
- 10 87. This daisy I've picked --
from its broken stem there hangs ...
a drop of water. *G. Ball*
- 88. Having caught the mouse,
he wants to catch it again ...
March wind... How fitfull!
- 89. Strolling the shoreline
footprints pockmark moist beach sand
gulls skim spring sea foam
- 90. Wild orchids choke fields
of Hawaiian pineapples
pick a spray for me
- 91. by surging spring seas
wave-washed beach rocks wear white lace
mantillas of foam
- 92. Memorial Day
faded gold star on window
house unoccupied
- 93. Neighborhood children
wave flags this spring holiday
alien writes home
- 94. Legal holiday
children picnic in a park
named for war hero
- 4K 7(6) 95. This glass fish-net float
brings back the smell of limu
and spring ocean sounds *A. Branda*
limu Hawaiian: seaweed
- 96. Holly in the wind
semicircle of berries
red on the wet grass.
- 97. Waning Paschal moon
moves on the swollen river
against the current.
- 98. As each guest arrives
the candle flame changes shape--
Easter centerpiece.
- 99. on KARATSU shore
easing the fishermen's nets
spring sea with the breeze
- 100. from the mountain peak
surrounded by the spring sea
majestic pine trees
- 101. falling spring sunset
Okei far from homeland
on Colma hill

Okei: First immigrant from Japan
- 102. Out of morning mists
swells of the spring sea rising
-- gull cries fill the air

- 103. Fresh April sun glints from
pebbles and shells left by tide
on sea's scalloped edge
- 104. Spring tide at its peak
fills the harbor; lifts small boats
and my spirits
- 105. **Sea, a raging bull**
attacks acrobatic wind.
Tourists holiday.
- 106. A rollicking wind
shouts to the waves urgently
to enjoy high jinx.
- 107. Sea in fiesta
now bewitches water sports,
casting diamonds.
- 108. Up to my ankles
in the froth of the spring sea--
Ooh, the seventh wave!
- 109. Big waves leap and flow
Roll far up the beach then ebb
Frolic of spring sea.
- 110. No green leaf or stem
Ghostly little white flower
Indian Pipe in spring
- 111. Wee red-purple blooms
On each branch and twig now burst
Flowering Plum's gift.
- 112. Foggy spring ocean:
gulls calling and calling out--
before any forms--
- 21(5) 113. From the tour boat's deck
an old sailor gazes back
over the spring sea... *B. McCloy*
- 114. The first day of spring:
In his new, short coat, poodle
shivers and scampers...
- 115. Spring Sabbath morning:
Chimes awaken the hobo;
distant train whistle...
- 116. White water rushing
His kayak leaping, turning...
Riding fractious steed!
- 117. Foghorns through the night
Comfort Maytime's lonesome hours
Someone is out there
- 118. Night in Markleeville:
A cow lows ... a cock crows, cool
green pastures sleep sweet
- 119. On white sandy beach
listening to the ripples
Memorial Day
- 120. The worshipers come
in spite of heavy rain
for "Tea of Heaven"
- 121. Strange popular song
on old-fashioned gramophone
Cherry Festival

Please choose 12 haiku and identify the 3 best haiku by circling the number of the haiku.

Please write three YUKI TEIKEI Haiku only as is indicated in November GEPPPO.

Results of March Evaluation

J. Walker @ *	J. Sauer @ *	W. Fitzpatrick @ *	M. Henn @ *
1. --- 0	Y K 53. --- 4	K 102. --- 3	146. --- 0
Y K 2. --- 2	54. --- 4	103. --- 9 2	147. --- 1
3. --- 0	55. --- 3	104. --- 9 1	148. --- 0
F. Otter	H. Dalton	J. Youngblood	T. Yamagata
4. --- 3 1	56. --- 4	105. --- 1	149. --- 0
5. --- 0	K 57. --- 13 3	106. --- 0	150. --- 0
6. --- 5	58. --- 5 1	107. --- 0	K 151. --- 4
K 7. --- 3 3	R. Spriggs	E. Dunlop	152. --- 2
8. --- 1 1	59. --- 5 1	Y! K 108. --- 2	
9. --- 10 2	60. --- 2	K! 109. --- 4 3	B. Cameron
K. Chamberlian	61. --- 10	I. Wolfe	153. --- 4
10. --- 0	P. Machmiller	110. --- 5 1	154. --- 0
S. Helen	62. --- 0	111. --- 0	
11. --- 2	K 63. --- 7	112. --- 0	
K! 12. --- 10 2	J. Ball	R. Yarrow	Mr. Teruo Yamagata's
13. --- 5	64. --- 0	113. --- 1	Comments:
I. Edwards	65. --- 5 1	114. --- 3	In Japan we have the Doll
14. --- 2	66. --- 2	115. --- 7 3	Festival or Girls' Festi-
15. --- 5 2	M. Elliott	D. Braida	val on March 3rd. It is
16. --- 6	67. --- 7 2	K 116. --- 12 1	also called the Peach
S. Stone	68. --- 1	M. Sinclair	Festival or Peach Blossom
17. --- 0	K! 69. --- 6 2	117. --- 4 1	Festival, MOMO NO SEKKU,
K 18. --- 8 2	L. Cruciana	E. Holmes	(The Boys'
19. --- 3	Y 70. --- 5 2	118. --- 1	Festival is on May 5th).
L. Winder	71. --- 5	119. --- 8	
K 20. --- 9 1	72. --- 2	120. --- 1	There are three KIGO in
21. --- 3	T. Murphy	M. Hill	#26, i.e. "spring sunshine",
M. Horton	73. --- 10 4	Y K 121. --- 10	"lighter coat", and
22. --- 3	K! 74. --- 16 4	122. --- 4	"chilled". "Lighter coat"
23. --- 5	J. Currier	123. --- 3	is a spring KIGO while
24. --- 1	75. --- 2 1	E. Falkowski	"chilled" is a autumn
C. Brower	76. --- 9 2	Y K! 124. --- 3	KIGO. Generally speaking,
25. --- 4	77. --- 6	125. --- 1	if we use three KIGO, it is
26. --- 1	D. Rogers	126. --- 4 2	difficult to understand
27. --- 1	Y K! 78. --- 4	H. Evans	which one is the main KIGO.
R. Roseliep	79. --- 1	127. --- 1	I feel that "light coat" is
Y K 28. --- 6 1	80. --- 1	128. --- 0	the main KIGO in this haiku.
29. --- 3 1	S. Sikes	129. --- 1	I am not sure if the writer
K 30. --- 12 2	81. --- 1	C. Buckaway	knew about three KIGO.
T. Fowler	82. --- 0	130. --- 2	This indicates how important
31. --- 3	83. --- 1	131. --- 1	it is to have a SAIJIKI
32. --- 1	H. Lawler	132. --- 1	as soon as possible.
Y! K 33. --- 13 3	84. --- 2 1	B. Sweeney	
34. --- 7	85. --- 7 4	Y K 133. --- 13 3	Notes:
D. Greenlee	86. --- 0	134. --- 3	Y indicates selection of
35. --- 2	R. Biciche	135. --- 2	Mr. Yamagata.
36. --- 2	87. --- 3 1	A. Tao	Y! indicates Mr. Yamagata's
37. --- 0	88. --- 2	136. --- 1	three best choices.
J. Hargan	89. --- 0	137. --- 0	* column indicates the top
K 38. --- 0	90. --- 2	K 138. --- 3	three choices of each
39. --- 1	K. Hale	M. Eulberg	member.
40. --- 0	91. --- 1	139. --- 1	@ column indicates total
B. McCoy	92. --- 1 1	140. --- 9 2	votes received by parti-
41. --- 2	K 93. --- 3	141. --- 8 1	cular haiku.
Y K 42. --- 10 4	M. Richardson	W. Greig	K indicates selection of
43. --- 1	94. --- 1	142. --- 0	Editors.
J. Walker	95. --- 2 1	143. --- 0	K! indicates Editors' best
44. --- 0	96. --- 2	144. --- 0	choices.
45. --- 0	H. Doles	M. Hill	
K 46. --- 4 3	97. --- 2 1	145. --- 7 2	
50. --- 0	98. --- 5 2		
51. --- 3	R. Stewart		
52. --- 1	Y K 99. --- 19 1		
	100. --- 6		
	101. --- 8 3		