

月報俳句ジャーナル

GEPPŌ

HAIKU

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J. T. Ball, Editor Humanities Department

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SHIRA-TSUYU -- White Dew

By Teruo Yamagata and Kiyoshi Tokutomi

In Japan a very fragile dew is called SHIRA-TSUYU or 'white dew.' SHIRA-TSUYU relates approximately to November 8th on the calendar. Dew is used quite often as an Autumn KIGO in haiku.

SHIRA-TSUYU is beautiful like a diamond, but it will soon dry out and so is thought of as transitory or short-lived. This short-lived or transitory life seems to appeal to the Japanese people in a fleeting way.

Frequently in Japanese literature one sees 'dew' as a symbol of the fleeting mutability of human lives. One reads: "life of dew", "body of dew", "world of dew" as examples. The dew may also be thought of as "tears" as in the expression: "dew of sleeves", "dew on waves", "dew even for demons", or "dew of the heart." There is a famous phrase in a song: "Is is tears being shed or dew glittering?"

Here are some samples of haiku using "dew" as KIGO:

The leaves of the grass
playing with the marbles
of a treasured dew

KUSA NO HA NO
ASOBI ARI KERU
TSUYU NO TAMA

RANSETSU

(On seeing the image of a departed friend)

Come back with a life
even though it is only
a life of dew

IKITE KAERE
TSUYU NO INOCHI TO
IINAGARA

SHIKI

CONTEST NOTES

Hawai Education Association Haiku Contest deadline is November 19th. A fee of \$1 for each category is charged: (a) Season word; (b) Hawaii theme; (c) Humorous; (d) Japanese language haiku. Poets may enter four haiku in each category. Send haiku and SASE (with social security number on the outside) to: HEA Haiku Contest; complete rules to above address.

W.E. Greig, Editor of VIRTUAL IMAGE is sponsoring three contests: FIREFLY CONTEST; PATH CONTEST; and 7 - 3 - 7 CONTEST. Deadline is December 17th. For complete rules send SASE to: W.E. Greig, Editor; VIRTUAL IMAGE Box 8925 Jackson, Miss. 39204.

Both of these contests permit variation on the 5-7-5 structure. Yuki Teikei Contest for 1985; deadline is March 1st. SASE to J. T. Ball for rules.

NOTES ABOUT MEMBERS

by J. T. Ball

In an effort to bring Yuki Teikei members closer together, we institute brief notes about members. Drop a line with a word or two about what you're doing or thinking. I reserve right to edit.

DOJIN HAIKU have been received from Patricia Machmiller; Rosamond Haas; Virginia Golden; David Priebe; W. E. Greig; Lillian Giskin; Ethel Dunlop; Joseph Roberts; Opie R. Houston; and J. T. Ball. The entries will be judged in Japan by Japanese Standards by Mr. Shugyo Takaha. It's a big job so my guess is that we'll hear around December.

ETHEL DUNLOP (Marysville, California) is keeping busy giving talks on haiku. "Haiku for Children" in January at Sutter County Museum; "Why Poetry?" at Yuba Community College; and also talks comparing haiku and western verse for English Lit classes at Yuba College.

J. T. Ball received a fellowship this summer from the National Endowment for the Humanities. He is one of twelve national scholars who participated in a seminar given by the Anthropology Department at the University of California, Berkeley. The topic was: Humor in Cross-cultural Perspective. He wrote a paper: Haiku versus Senryu -- Cosmic and Mundane Humor.

HAIKU RETREAT at Asilomar, California, was a huge success. We had everything from haiku writing to meditation led by Rev. Kobun Otagawa of the Saratoga Zendo. A second retreat is scheduled for next August 29th - 31st at Asilomar. Cost for both room and board for Thursday noon through Saturday noon will be \$115. Plan now to attend. We hope to have participants from Japan.

PAUL E. TRUESDELL, JR. has recently sent CATERPILLAR HAIKU to Yuki Teikei for review. Sample: An empty coal box/the chill of a piercing wind/ in every room. Cost \$3. Write direct to Paul E. Truesdell, Jr. PSC #1 Box 22613 APO San Francisco, CA 96230. Many haiku published in DRAGONFLY, etc.

MIRIAM MALOY has broken her ankle. She tends to be staying home and would probably appreciate a letter or two. 107 Farley Drive, Aptos, CA 95003 If you'd like help with a sonnet, Miriam is the one to go to!

HAIKU REWRITES!!! A new section in the GEPPPO will be called HAIKU REWRITES. If you have a haiku printed in the GEPPPO that you think you can improve, you may resubmit it. Please include the number used in the GEPPPO. For example, you might submit: REWRITE OF Haiku # 566 etc. You may submit ONE of these each month. Members will vote on these as well as newly written ones. Hopefully, you'll get MORE vote on the rewrite than on the original. You may then submit a TOTAL OF FOUR HAIKU each month INCLUDING THE REWRITE. I hope this will give you a chance for developmental work.

STATUS OF HAIKU IN GEPPPO. We'll have a general discussion about this at the October 13th meeting. As you may recall, the GEPPPO is considered to be a WORKING document; a FORUM for learning. The haiku receiving most votes are to be published in the YUKI TEIKEI MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY each November. Harry Evans tells me that haiku circulated in this manner are CONSIDERED TO BE COPYRIGHTED. Naturally, Yuki Teikei allows the rights to return to the author after printing in the GEPPPO and/or in the MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY for winners. It is my opinion that those printed in the GEPPPO are ok for other contests since we do not have "winners" etc. However, those printed in MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY are PUBLISHED and this would restrict their use in such contests that specifically prohibit submission of published material. Note also, that you can change one word in a haiku and it is a different haiku. Comments???

MEMBERS' HAIKU FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1984. Vote for 10. Circle your top three choices. Submit a total of THREE NEW HAIKU for October Geppo, plus ONE REWRITE OF A PREVIOUS HAIKU. Include the Geppo-Number of the REWRITE.

657. All the fallen leaves
raked out from the yard recess
are scurrying back
658. Shadowing the field,
the sudden rainburst ended -
a cloud of locusts
659. A small child chasing
an oversized umbrella
the autumn rainstorm
660. Ghost of my husband
full moon haunting the clouds
Ethereal light
661. through clouds, the full moon
the face of an old warrior
My husband's spirit
662. The first autumn rain
fills the creek bed overnight ...
will it flood this year?
663. These autumn walnuts
make perfect ikebana...
my crystal-ice vase.
664. With the harvest moon,,
my antique silver appears ...
holidays come soon.
665. Moon-viewing party
a very great success now ...
lots of sake!
666. Ending summer now
fashions for the opera
flood the newspaper
667. That fresh evening cool
carries the scent of jasmine...
the frog pond music
668. That huge sun-flower
a garden fireworks display
seems almost obscene
669. They become gorgeous --
we say of dead and dying
leaves of autumn
670. Narcissus still stares
at a wrinkled reflection
-- a dry leave floats by
671. A clump of harmless
daddylonglegs on a stump
Oh, my tangled hair
672. Autumn wind rises;
Scarlet maple sheds its leaves,
red-haired boy hitchhikes
673. Under ash-gray skies:
Leaves swirl around the old stump,
odor of woodsmoke
674. The first chilly night;
Old man paces a sidewalk
trying to pass time
675. Chrysanthemum plant ...
Welcome as a Birthday Gift
wishing me, "LONG LIFE"
676. The first autumn rain
does not help already dead
late-flowering plants.
677. I buy large pumpkin
hoping to match Granny's pies.
Where is her cookbook?
678. a lone searching quail
gleaning the freshly-mown field
so-little harvest
679. the cool-looking moon
above the jack-o-lantern
and warm pumpkin pie
680. even the scarecrow
lies in the prickly stubbed field
after the harvest
681. Although it appears
nobody lives in the house
prepare for winter
682. bucket in the dump
just behind his residence
the water is clear

683. A modern hotel
I preferred to stay, yet
autumn mosquito
- ✓ 684. the first autumn rain
from the Chinese Banyan tree
seeds on the tin roof
685. out in the garden -
rain-jewelled chrysanthemums
sheltering a toad
686. a hot, lonely day...
viewing the full moon tonight
sharing a mooncake
687. Needed autumn rain
smell of dust from swaying trees
Damn! Just a few drops!
688. Gleaning stubble fields
rival clouds of noisy crows --
small boys toss up sticks
689. Leaning sycamore
brown curled-up leaves on the lake --
gusty autumn wind
690. This fearless monarch
leaves flowers to kiss my hand ...
oh, what an honor!
691. Thirsty cattle drink
while the windmill fans herself
this September heat!
692. Shuffling through discard
of summer ...happy children
on the way from school
693. Rope-tied to its post
the scarecrow waves a stick hand -
hobo rides a freight
- ✓ 694. Bug cleans its whiskers
beneath my chrysanthemum -
one bronze petal left
695. Rising and falling
it brushes the hills delft blue -
smoke from burning leaves
696. gusts of coming storm
wisps of straw riding the wind,
scarecrow losing weight
697. a rakish scarecrow
standing guard over the rice --
the birds hobnobbing
698. she sits in silence
gazing sightlessly afar --
the autumn mountains
699. Orange-red glow from
slowly sinking harvest moon
layers of night clouds
700. Soft soothing patter
of first autumn rain on roof
music for dreaming
701. Across the graveyard
gusty winds blowing dead leaves
sound of ghostly wings
- ✓ 702. through tall dry grass
a brown venomous adder
Jump, cries my mother
703. over the gray barn
the harvest moon yellow gold
climbing in witches shadows
704. the first autumn rain
coming from my dry basement
cricket's sharp chirping
705. beneath roadside oaks
swaying heads of goldenrod
a chipmunk scurries
706. Giant sun setting
in the car's rear-view mirror...
Autumn equinox!
707. Mail ordered sweater
arrives just in time for
the October moon
708. Silhouette of cat
prowling atop the dark wall...
The Halloween moon
709. A pale ghostly ball
low in the west this morning
harvest moon last night