

月報俳句ジャーナル

GEPPPO

HAIKU

JOURNAL

J. I. Ball, Editor Humanities Department

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Smiling Mountains

by Kiyoshi Tokutomi and Teruo Yamagata

"Mountains to smile" -- this is a kind of expression of personification of an early spring mountain. It is in the book called *GAYU ROKU*. It says that spring mountains seem to be smiling. This is in contrast to: summer mountains dripping, autumn mountains dressing, and winter mountains sleeping. The expression "summer mountain dripping" may not be the right one in California.

Personification is used quite often in China especially in the literature for nature and scenery. It is also used in the book *OKU NO HOSOMICHI* by Basho. (*OKU NO HOSOMICHI* means something like: *Narrow Road to the Deep North*.) In Basho's book *MATSUSHIMA* seems to be smiling and *KISAGATA* seems to be having a grudge.

The mountains smile
and the people gather together
in a mob.

KYOSHI

The smiling mountains
just flat
like an umbrella

SHICHIKU

The snow surely comes
once it is the time when
the mountains smile.

TATSUMI

MEMBERS' HAIKU FOR DECEMBER 1984. Vote for 10. Circle your top three choices. This month submit three haiku for the January/February Geppo.

1. wagon tracks measure
the depth of the new-fallen snow -
one wheel is wobbly
2. a sub-zero night:
moaning in separate beds
the river and I
3. the aged pine leans
closer to the chimney now
a freezing night wind
4. following snow tracks
deepening and deepening
suddenly - - bootful
5. snowflakes on my face
a touch of angel wings
but eyelids sting
6. the snowy owl flies
freely near Lake Huron,
and the bitter cold
7. With dirt flying
Shep. buries his bone cache -
the first ping of hail
8. To church in gum-boots
and oversized overcoat -
Gramps unsteady gait
9. Losing his footing
on the frozen sunlit lake -
boy becomes a bird
10. I know it's the end,
But also the beginning ---
Year's end, life's new start.

11. Please don't go so soon.
The winter sun is setting ---
a beautiful sight.
12. Keep pace with the times.
See the dawn of tomorrow.
It is New Years Day.
13. Wings and running feet,
woodpecker on the wet roof ...
in the distance, war.
14. On leafless maple
the crow waits in his black coat
wet with winter rain.
15. Walking in friendship...
bamboo growing its own way
bending with the wind.
16. Quiet Winter dusk
Among litter of dead leaves
Village of insects
17. Thin, tattered and torn
Walking scarecrow in the rain
Cold the Winter night
18. In the freezing cold
Flower patterns on window
Grows to the ceiling
19. Gay shopping center:
In beat with Christmas carols
White cane too tapping
20. Putting down my pen
I stare at my knobby hands
-- Another New Year
21. As old clock strikes twelve
He lets the old year slip by
Soaking in the tub.
22. village Christmas tree
covered with humble trinkets
and the Milky Way
23. the glowing fireplace
warming my snow-bound cottage
and you in my heart
24. on this cold morning
from the stray pup brought inside
such warm loving eyes
25. At the fiction shelf
she searches for a new love
on this cold evening
26. Icy specter moon
hovering so eerily
mirrors back her mood
27. At last in the East
in blackness of coldest night
a sparkle of light
28. In the V-shaped space
between December branches
a three-quarter moon
29. Sleepless early dark:
A faraway train whistle,
the first bus passes
30. On Christmas morning--
Outside the church bare branches
hung with mistletoe
31. New Year awakening -
on the early morning breeze
scents of fresh cut pine
32. Household library -
reading them over again
the long winter nights
33. A sudden blizzard -
trudging blindly through the fields
a smell of wood smoke
34. Frozen lake tracings
Like an old greeting card
skaters glide and turn.
35. Dismal pall .. today.
A sky full of falling snow
that falls, falls, and falls.
36. Squirrels cavorting,
knock snow from fir tree branches.
Ouch, ouch. One falls off.
37. My cozy blankets
Bleak wind howling in the night --
Are the trees bending?
38. Inviting arson
dried weeds ready for madmen --
the quiescent hills

39. *No fishing herons
perched on one leg while they search --
Foul chemical ponds!*
40. *While the record plays
a Strauss waltz, the music box
chimes Christmas carols.*
41. *Secretly the Creche
comes in and out City hall ...
So in God we trust?*
42. *Looking at Venus,
the old fires burn in my heart ...
Thirty Golden years!*
43. *Rattling and hissing
the old steam radiator
interrupts my sleep*
44. *Along frozen road
clip-clop of hooves resounding
the horse-drawn wagon*
45. *With flutter of wings
settling on my sweater sleeve
winter butterfly*
46. *Birds on pinnacles
above Monument Valley
thin patches of snow*
47. *Skin of ice crystals
on the birdbath and feeder
Dazzling sun on sand*
48. *Fanning of brown winds
at the well-stocked bird feeder
the New Year's banquet*
49. *On his tenth birthday
the warmth of his excitement
a winter sweater*
50. *The sound of snow fall
upon the tent roof all night
among the pine trees*
51. *A handful of leaves
against the sky's emptiness
on winter branches*
52. *Her house is empty
of Christmas decorations
but, oh, the music!*
53. *In this year of change--
spattered pomegranate juice
writes its own haiku.*
54. *Molding now, the leaves
lying in the winter rain
under the palm tree.*
55. *monthly magazine
delivered behind schedule
winter confinement*
56. *I was visited
suddenly by an old friend
winter confinement*
57. *among the aged
a couple on their honeymoon
a winter resort*
58. *Cold east wind cutting
brown leaves from shrubbery twigs
makes palm flash sabers.*
59. *Poor naked fig tree
disrobed by cruel east wind...
in your hands ... green fruit!*
60. *Memory spreads white
upon those hills for Christmas,
but I'm happy here.*
61. *everyone asleep:
the musical Christmas card
playing "Silent Night"*
62. *the winter solstice:
juice of a small sweet orange
scenting my hot tub*
63. *winter seclusion:
in a piled-up jeweled heap
ladybugs huddle*
64. *a lone sand dollar
washed up on a winter beach --
a perfect wholeness*
65. *a woman with pears
filling her skirt and spilling
over; her hair loose*
66. *Chrysanthemum's scent:
a red sandal half sunken
in the compost heap*

67. By a country road
wild carrots' withered umbels
blossoming with snow
68. Huddled in the hills
a nuclear reactor
brief winter sunset
69. Watching her boat fade
in the mist on the lake;
a splatter of rain
70. Too old now to plow,
I watch tractors in the fields
and remember mules
71. Clouds moving swiftly
across the faint pink of dawn;
doves moan in shadows
72. After the downpour
the wet grass between my toes
Fallen tangerines
73. Last night's tramp standing
with closed eyes facing the sun:
ice melts beside her
74. Starting late for school
pell-mell through thickening snow -
cold feet forgotten
75. My first New Year dream -
a great white bird repeating,
"Follow your own spoor"
76. Looking for a hole
in the thin-iced water trough -
the scuffling sparrows
77. The new moon shines -- half
longing for your voice, I walk
dark streets, New Year's Eve
78. the frozen morning --
hesitation, the deep breath,
then the walk to work
79. day after Christmas --
cartons of empty bottles
near the garbage can
80. though his eyes wander
they return to her again
in the spring garden
81. young couple strolling
the lining of her spring dress
appears to be silk

MEMBERS' VOTES FOR DECEMBER HAIKU: Name-Haiku Number-Votes-Circled Votes.
Members' names are listed in order of haiku printed. Only haiku receiving
votes are mentioned. "****", "****", and "*" indicate top votes. Starred
haiku are automatically printed in the yearly MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY. Present
issue (1984) available now from J. T. Ball at \$4 each or 3 for \$10 postpaid.

C Dickson 732-3-0;733-2-0	S Youngdahl 734-2-1
I Wolfe 737-1-0;738*-4-1	M Sinclair 740-2-0;741**8-3;742-1-0
T Yamagata 745*-7-4;746-2-2	B McCoy 748-1-0;749-3-1;750***11-4
J Roberts 751-3-0;752-1-0;753*-7-6	K Hale 755*4-3;756-1-0
R Haas 757*7-4;758-3-2;759**10-2	W Greig 760-1-0
D Greenlee 765-2-1;766*4-1	P Shelley 767-2-0
H Dalton 769*6-0;770*5-0;771*6-2	M Hill 772*4-1;774*4-1
P Machmiller 775-1-0;776-1-0;777*5-2	E Schmidt 778-1-0;779-2-0;780*6-2
A Ayotte 782-1-0	M Henn783-3-0;785-1-0
J Spain 786-1-0	M Maloy 789-2-0;790-2-0;791-1-0
D Priebe 792-2-1;793-1-1;794-1-1	D Lewis 795-2-0;796-1-1
M Elliott 797-1-0;798-1-0;799*4-1	V Golden 800-1-1;801-2-1;802-2-1
M Elliott 803*5-2;804-2-0	W Fitzpatrick 807-1-0;808-1-0
O Houston 810-3-0;811-2-1	C Nabors 812-2-1;813-1-1;814-1-0
D Wright 816-2-1;817-1-0	E Dunlop 818-3-0;819-3-0;820*4-3
T Arima 821-2-0;822*5-0;824-2-0;825-3-1;826-1-1	J Ball 830*6-1;831*6-2;832**9-3;835**9-2
M Maloy 817-1-0;829*5-1	
H Noyes 833-1-1;833-3-1	

REWRITES: "****" = 1st place; "*" = 2nd place.

E Dunlop 612**5

I Wolfe 635*-3

YAMAGATA SENSEI'S VOTES

732 737 740 (750) (753) (758) 769 771 775 777 795 820 821 830 832 833

REWRITES OF MEMBER'S HAIKU. Each member may submit a rewrite each month. Rewrites will be listed by member's name. Refer to the haiku by number in the GEPP0 in which it was printed. Vote for **THREE** that you think are the most improved. If you wish, write directly to the member and exchange comments. A new membership list (with addresses) is forthcoming.

604. Inside the woodpile
cricket chirps; long pauses between -
the lengthening nights. Paul E. Truesdell, Jr.

688. they glean the cut fields
clouds of circling, noisy crows
shouting boys throw stones Ian Wolfe

699. Deep red glow beneath
layers of dusky night clouds
waning harvest moon Kathleen Hale

711. The sleeping chipmunk
sprawled on a limb lags adangle
Curtain of bronze leaves Dorothy Greenlee

731. My grandmother's churn,
now a pot filled with flowers;
blooms butter-yellow Charles B. Dickson

749. Where the fall road bends:
blue and white morning glories
wind among cornstalks Mrs. Barbara McCoy

754 Old scarecrow flapping
his ghostly sleeves in moonlight
to frighten skunk ...whew! Jane Spaulding Spain

NOTE FROM/ABOUT MEMBERS

From Opie Houston: "Just finished reading R.H. Blythe's **ZEN IN ENGLISH LITERATURE AND ORIENTAL CLASSICS**. (NY: Dutton, 1960), a "must-read" book for haiku poets. From the preface alone, the following gleanings:

"Zen began in India, developed in China, and was first practically applied in Japan."

"Don Quixote is the purest example in the whole of literature of the man who lives by Zen."

"Zen ... living in accord-with reality."

"From a Zen standpoint, Basho was the world's greatest poet."

"Truth is the trial of itself and needs no other touch."

"A true teacher is one who knows (and makes known) the New by revitalizing the Old." (Confucius)

Thanks Opie!

Patricia Machmiller and June Hymas have accepted editorship of the long delayed **HAIKU JOURNAL**. Here's a note from Pat and June:

The next issue of the **HAIKU JOURNAL** is being prepared for press. The editors would appreciate it if members would send **FIVE HAIKU** from which they will choose two. Try to send haiku that have not been printed in the **GEPP0** since those that are starred are automatically printed in the yearly **MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY**. Please send five haiku to the new editor:

Patricia Machmiller

NOTES FROM/ABOUT MEMBERS

1984 MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY is ready. All haiku printed in the GEPP0 are eligible to be printed in the MEMBERS' ANTHOLOGY. Those haiku that are starred '*' or '**' are automatically printed so if your haiku was a top vote getter in 84 is has been included in the 1984 Anthology. Order yours now. Price is \$4.00 each or three for \$10.00 post paid. Send your order direct to me: J. T. Ball,

The haiku printed are excellent!

Paul E. Truesdell reports that he has been asked to judge the 2nd Annual SENRYU contest for the RED PAGODA. The form is similar to haiku, but the content of a SENRYU tends to be satirical and about human affairs and foibles. Congratulations Paul!!

Dorothy Greenlee seems to like some of the original haiku better than rewrites. When we publish members' addresses then maybe we can correspond directly. ed.

Evelyn Schmidt wants us all to know about Harold Stewart's Book: A NET OF FIREFLIES. She says:

In addition to haiku and haiga is contains an essay which has several parts. the essay is helpful to writers of haiku-- a discussion of SPIRIT AND SUBSTANCE, FORM AND TECHNIQUE. In the essay SPIRIT AND SUBSTANCE an expression by Basho is as follows: As his countrymen call AMO NO AWARE meaning the "Ah! mess of things another too many thoughts. Grateful welcome to whatever happens, living always in the present moment, without thought for the morrow." Much feeling of Zen is in this essay.

An interesting letter forwarded to me by Kiyoshi from Herbert Batt who is currently teaching English in Beijing. Here are some of Herbert's haiku. Maybe he will join us.

She chewed her pencil
Then scribbled in the sentence
That bared her soul

Hang Shan Temple
From secluded niche
Frozen Buddha contemplates
A falling red sun

The morning wind drops
Chattering birds fall still and
Sun leaps up the sky

Tired old clown mimes
His gleeful greasepaint laugh
The children applaud

Suggested kigo

Sources: Yuki Teikei Haiku Journal
Blythe's translations of Japanese haiku

January New Year	February	March	April	May	June
the first dream winter sky winter landscape shoveling snow golden-eye sparrows winter grove	lagging winter snow flurry ice winter coat whale(s) seagulls plum blossom	early spring untimely frost snow melting kite mocking bird pussy willow	tranquility spring breeze spring mud grafting chirping/twittering willow tree	spring twilight halo of the moon meadow grass white shoes May basket bumble bee luna moth wild flowers	summer solstice milky way summer lake canoe ice cream trout water lily
July	August	September	October	November	December
summer morning billowing clouds figs summer school toad leaf shadow	evening calm falling stars goldenrod sun glasses blue jay balsam	autumn afternoon mackerel sky autumn mountains foghorn insect sound grapes	sign of autumn autumn light autumn fields burning leaves grasshopper persimmon	bleak wind early frost dried weeds chimney corner heron matted leaves	end of the year brief sun winter garden Christmas card winter seclu- sion winter birds orange

Each month the categories: the season, sky and elements, fields and mountains, human affairs, birds and beasts and trees and flowers are represented. Please select up to three kigo each month. MLH.

RULES: Please use three line 5-7-5 form with only one kigo per haiku. If you must use two, one should be the principle kigo.

A similar word may NOT be substituted for the kigo but a plural form may be used or the subject divided... "ending summer" to "summer is ending".

Your haiku should express a new or newly perceived sensation, a sudden awareness of meaning of some common human experience of nature or man. A unique observation.

It should not be explanatory; no cause and effect.

There should be a feeling of "absence of thought". Don't mention feelings; express them.

No moral elements...no "good", "true", "beautiful", no crude emotion. Evoke the feeling.

Words for the New Year

New Spring

新春

SHIN HARU

First Spring

初春

HATSU HARU

by Kiyoshi Tokutomi and Teruo Yamagata
Celebrating Spring Pleasing Spring

賀春

GA SHUN

慶春

KEI SHUN

There are quite a few words, which are used for 'New Year' in the orient. I am surprised to have found eleven more in a dictionary.

The reason for looking is to find out why they used the word (HARU or SHUN ...spring) for New Year.

In old times, they did not use the solar calendar as we do now in Western Countries. They used lunar calendars at that time. Accordingly, the New Year in lunar calendars comes later than the one in solar calendars. For instance, the New Year in the lunar calendar is the 13th of February this year (1983). When we see the newspaper we will notice that the moon is completely covered by the shadow of the earth on that night. It gradually becomes larger from that point. So, the New Year starts on that day.

The plum blossoms start blooming at that time of year in the orient. The almond blossoms start blooming here in the United States. We already feel the touch of spring at that time. This is the reason the oriental people use the word SHUN or HARU for the New Year.

The Spring actually starts on February 4th in the solar calendar. There is a tradition in Japan that the people scatter or throw beans at ONI 鬼 (devil) to chase away bad luck or misfortune from the house and welcome the good-luck for good fortune into it on the eve of February 4th.

The farmers start sewing seeds in the field and cultivate the soil after February 4th.

初春の二時つ島の旅館かな

Early spring day
The clock striking two
at the island inn.

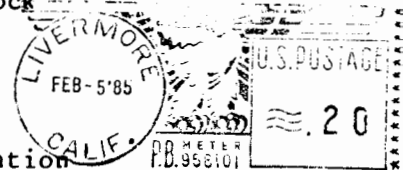
(or New Year Day)

初春
の二時
つ
島の
旅館
かな

川端 茅舎

KAWA HATA, HOSHA

HATSUHARU New Year's Day
NO of
NIJI 2 o'clock
UTSU strike
SHIMA island
NO of
RYOKAN inn
KANA exclamation



月報俳句ジャーナル

GEIHO HAIXU JOURNAL

J. T. Bell, Editor Humanities Department

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