

*Geppo*  
*A Haiku Study Work Journal*  
月報俳句ジャーナル

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society of United States & Canada

Volume XIV:3

July - August 1991

To vote, write the numbers of the ten best haiku. Three of those may be circled indicating they receive five points each. The other seven are given one point each. On this sheet write your haiku—up to six—using kigo for July and August. Send to GEPPPO, Jane Reichhold, Editor, POB 1250, Gualala 95445, USA, so it arrives before August 15th.

N213  
Through the mist, a sound,  
Rippling waters near the reeds ...  
Heron, or dreams past?

N214  
New moon to full moon,  
Ever waxing, ever waning ...  
Poor cricket, not so

N215  
Cicada, naked!  
Shameless now in clean, new skin ...  
Some say Kity-did

N216  
Flashing diamonds  
Adorn her heaving bosom ...  
Sun on cobalt sea

N217  
Exotic bamboo,  
Dancing in morning breezes ...  
I once knew willows

N218  
Grey the sea's face,  
Grey the darkening clouds ...  
Where to frigate bird?

N219  
Groping toward light  
crawling in my shadow  
lost kitten

N220  
Mother wanders  
her children call her  
tomcat meowing

N221  
I'm leaving soon  
cat jumps to railing  
waves his tail

N222  
Flock of geese walks  
I hike a country road  
duckwalk behind them

N223  
dancer in red dress  
crimson wings of butterfly  
a scarlet ballet

N224  
Waiting for the wind  
can't see past my own nose  
fog on the highway

N225  
Caught in the weeds  
the dead mayfly  
Bobs gently

N226  
A firefly  
In a plastic bag  
Dusk

N227  
An eddypool  
The dead mayfly  
Dissolves into slime

N228  
Soap bubble rainbows  
in the crisp, cold air  
Spring's beatitude.

**In Fond Memory of Our Poet Friend  
and Long-Time Member  
Ethel B. Dunlop  
July 2, 1910—January 4, 1991**

N229

One thousand paper cranes  
missiles in the Middle East.  
How many for peace?

N230

White bandage bleeds  
trash under melting snow  
environment's wound.

N231

Mind's flooded river  
flotsam and jetsam jostles  
all my cluttered thoughts.

N232

Sleeping Buddha lies  
like lotus softly budding  
inner life blossoms.

N233

wife is older  
than husband  
rattan chair

N234

tired of  
consulting dictionary  
mosquito

N235

steam whistle  
of leaving ship  
late spring

N236

a passenger  
in waiting room  
strange perfume

N237

children  
have two mothers  
mother's day

N238

short cut  
across campus  
early summer

N239

fleecy clouds shifting  
nest crashed below old oak  
cracked blue shell flown song

N240

sudden streak lightning  
not a drop this side of hill  
rainbow curtain mist

N241

great-grandfather's grave  
a potted geranium  
and a flag

N242

kingfisher winging  
drops dripping back onto bay  
fish squirming from beak

N243

gramp's potato patch  
sprouting red poppies  
more than a few bugs

N244

Khauhuena chant  
aloft over the sea  
bringing the rain

N245

wind below the leaves  
sends rhythm moving  
through spring rain

N246

his sentence trailed off  
as the jet passed over;  
"A short night."

N247

she held his hand  
and offered him  
green apples

N248

midsummer morning  
that strange rabbit in the thyme -  
king of the fairies

N249

again mother's day  
she is gone from her garden  
only pansies smile

N250

bright summer morning  
new blossom on hollyhock-  
season's green yardstick

N251

millenium nigh  
Buddha or Maitreya  
which will rise

N252

unsteady legs  
one grey head survives for  
memorial day

N253  
red fronds on the sand  
what storm raged  
in deep depths below

N254  
open the door  
for the little bat that zooms  
away gracefully

N255  
why hide house lizard  
the ants you eat  
teem again

N256  
Half formed now gone  
there tomorrow a new cloud  
will storm

N257  
even as I dozed  
one mulberry leaf fell --  
then another

N258  
morning greeting  
a balmy breeze  
tips my straw hat

N259  
lightning flash  
from pale sea-grass  
a flurry of sand fleas

N260  
low tide  
how quickly the seaweed  
covers my nakedness

N261  
no rain today  
still somewhere  
a greening mountain

N262  
Departing spring rain  
Gulping even tiny drops  
The dry river bed...

N263  
Crystalline silence  
Not even chirp of a bird  
This summer morning

N264  
Covered with blown leaves  
Stray cat huddles against fence  
Drenching summer storm

N265  
Plucking ripe berries  
Eating and filling basket  
Fat dog following

N266  
An old lollipop  
In teeming field of poppies  
Bees shunning flowers

N267  
Summer at the zoo  
Ho! Ho! Monkeys looking in  
Monkeys looking out

N268  
Mother's Day;  
her smile lines deeper  
more plentiful

N269  
thistle thorns--  
an ant struggles  
into purple

N270  
unlatched gate--  
to and fro a lizard rides  
the creaking breeze

N271  
laughter splashes  
from the pool's shallow end  
into deep

N272  
careful fingers  
unfolding the pink petals:  
fragrance

N273  
a bead of sweat:  
the spectrum dangles  
from her nose

N274  
My spring callgirl muse  
brings quick fix inspiration...  
such faking fun

N275  
Gestating haiku  
aborts as I contemplate  
gardening chores

N276  
Mockingbird...  
your pulsating throat  
palpable in mine

N277

Midnight household row  
noisier and more strident...  
mockingbird sings on

N278

My new stone wall  
blocking out the weeds next door...  
perverse urge to peek

N279

spasmodic coughing  
thoughtful person brings bouquets...  
emphysema ward

N280

After the shower,  
patio couch uncovered  
tiny newborn mice

N281

On a blue checked cloth  
nasturtiums in a soup bowl  
sunshine brought inside

N282

Red tiles by the door  
keep rain from soaking carpet  
my cringing bare feet

N283

Our cat, this spring morn.  
comes inside proudly dangling  
a small lizard's tail

N284

Nail stapler racket  
new shingles on damaged roof  
spring breezes rising

N285

Loud scraping on roof  
tree branches downed by spring rains  
no more sleeping tonight

N286

A sprig of new growth  
Adding yet another ring  
To the old oak

N287

Blossoms pink and sweet  
Beautifully ingenue  
Becoming full fruit

N288

Gladioli here  
Stately stems of dewed blossoms  
Graceful spring

N289

White blossomed yarrow  
Amongst the soft green meadows  
I feel new life

N290

The bum's clothes are thin  
He doesn't even care now  
Balmy summer eve

N291

Awaken the stone  
The breath of gems seek release  
Geodes unnoticed

N292

Pause in spring plowing  
horse's one ear listening  
through his bent straw hat.

N293

Last of leaves falling  
against bitter, winter wind  
an old man's cane leans.

N294

In summer sunlight  
splashing water sparkles off  
rising Kingfisher.

N295

Winter rain subsides  
Night wind across empty streets  
puddle moons shimmer.

N296

Zen garden in May  
raked stones overshadowed by  
statue of Buddha.

N297

Pigeons in the park  
walk bent shadow of old man  
May breezes stir cumbs.

N298

Sweat trickling between  
her breasts -- wet relief for her  
body and my soul.

N299

Standing on the shore,  
the billow of my sundress  
mirrors cresting waves.

N300

Mother robin sits  
protectively through spring storms  
like a rock, unmoved.

N301  
Noisy neighbors woke  
us early Sunday morning --  
Stop your squabbling, geese

N302  
After the spring rain,  
colored paper airplanes lie  
in rainbowed puddles.

N303  
Shadows sharp and clean,  
Wedgwood blue sky, unmottled  
Bright green leaves -- Summer!

N304  
Large, black umbrella  
trots in the rain by itself!  
Pair of small, red boots!

N305  
Quick stream; bare foot dipped  
Later, the other tired foot --  
Is this the same stream?

N306  
Vast, the ocean depths  
Their clouds to snow heights; swift brooks  
Rivers -- back to "Source."

N307  
Lunch on the wood porch  
Jostling birds grab at the crumbs:  
Pick-peckity-pick!

N308  
Lost, uncertain fawn  
alert on the railroad tracks --  
Rumble of a train...

N309  
Bursts of desert wind  
Sharp scratching and scrawling sounds  
Torn, low-branching palms.

N310  
the quarter needed  
in my summer jacket  
a button

N311  
red rose  
slender fingers picked--  
a drop of blood

N312  
orange cat  
nods off in the flower bed  
nose in a poppy

N313  
pine trees thread  
needles through guaze  
ocean fog

N314  
in falcon's talons  
sound carried away--  
a nestling's cry

N315  
The chickadee -  
Stealing a sunflower seed  
Gives it to his mate

N316  
Saying -  
Something I don't understand  
My friend dies

N317  
Tree swallows -  
Cherries just starting to bloom  
Nest boxes uncleaned

N318  
The dead rat -  
With blood by his neck -  
The clean bathroom floor

N319  
Fall rain -  
Only a piece of truck tire  
Driving on again.

N320  
Sleepless night -  
The rain gutter dripping time  
Until dawn -

N321  
Is the arch  
of Heaven high enough?  
Billowing clouds

N322  
The sun setting red  
Look!--up in the boulders  
Buddha is dozing

N323  
grandchildren laugh, jump!  
daughter a two months widow  
autumn dunes

N324  
bushtit hunched, fluffed  
against the cold, the feather  
on the breath of God

N325  
unpacking Christmas  
picking up a flat spider --  
its limbs fall away

N326  
red pistache berries  
finch, woodpecker, yellow-rump  
feeding together

N327  
hermit crabs wander  
the autumn tidepool wearing  
turban snail shells

N328  
winter beach; torn kelp,  
blades like plastic angle wings --  
a friend dying

N329  
lune darkness  
sitting on a mossy rock —  
Milky Way's cool glow

N330  
High waterfall  
splashing down on shiny rocks  
finding its rainbow

N331  
Summer holiday  
warm sand beneath my barefeet  
a song in the waves

N332  
sunshine filtering  
down through a tangle of vines —  
lizard napping

N333  
wind chimes  
outside the bedroom window  
a spring breeze

N334  
in the window  
a budding iris  
peeking up

N335  
tai-chi  
under the apple blossoms  
cloud hands

N336  
his hand slides  
under my floral print shirt  
warm breeze

N337  
spring dream  
my cat Bambi is alive  
drinks from her waterbowl

N338  
spring dream  
holding a baby lamb  
named Lydia

\* \* \*

### Votes for May-June 1991

George Knox: N94-6, N95-2, N96-1, M97-14\*, N98-2, N99-1  
Julia P. Rodrigues: N100-6, N101-2, N102-3, N103-1, N104-3  
Manzen (Tom Arima): N105-5, N106-1, N107-6, N108-16\*, N109-7, N110  
Sandy Supowit: N111-10\*, N112-5, N113-7, N114  
Margaret D. Elliot: N115-6, N116-1, N117-1, N118  
Floyd Jack: N119-1, N120-1, N121-6, N122-5, N123-6, N124-1  
Jerry Ball: N125-2, N126-7, N127-1, N128-2, N129  
Dorothy Greenlee: N130-2, N131-1, N132-1, N133-1, N134, N135-17\*  
Joe Nutt: N136-2, N137-2, N138-16\*, N139-15\*, N140, N141-1  
Christopher Herold: N142-5, N143-1, N144-1, N145-7, N146-1, N147-4  
Pamela Conner: N148-1, N149, N150-1, N151, N152-1  
Gloria H. Procsal: N153, N154-6, N155-6, N156-5, N157-2, N158-1  
Winnie E. Fitzpatrick: N159-1, N160-6, N161, N162-13\*, N163-1, N164-1  
Teruo Yamagata: N165-1, N166-6, N167, N168, N169-1, N170-2  
Earle J. Stone: N171-5, N172, N173-5, N174-2, N175, N176-4  
Lesley Einer: N177, N178-8\*, N179-5, N180, N181-17\*, N182-1  
Pat Shelley: N183-7, N184-1, N185-1, N186-6  
Doris Heitmeyer: N187, N188-1, N189-7, N190-5, N191, N192-6  
Robert Gibson: N193-2, N194-7, N195-7, N196-1, N197-14\*, N198-1  
Lee Gurga: N199, N200-1, N201-6, N202-1, N203  
Elaine Sherlund: N204, N205-5, N206-6, N207, N208-1, N209-5  
Laura Siegel: N210-2, N211, N212

\* Haiku to be included in the members' anthology *Haiku Journal*.

## Notes from Letters:

Friends: This may be my last. Apparent that I can scarcely see, at 94 plus, what I'm doing!!  
Ian Wolfe

...read in an earlier copy of *Geppo* - and if I'm not dreaming, that article mentioned *muki-haiku*, meaning haiku without season-word. I used to feel that haiku without season-word were rather "murky," so the word stuck.

Tom Noyes

Should people writing haiku regard it as an exercise, in one of its facets, as fostering lateral thinking?

Bernard Hewitt

## Meetings

June 22nd Meeting is combined with the El Cerrito Group and the HPNC at a Ginko at the Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Call Dave Wright or Tom Arima for exact time and meeting place.

July 20th Meeting of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society will be at a place determined at the June Meeting. Call Dave for information.

August 23-25 the North America Haiku Conference will be held at Las Positas College, Livermore, California, co-sponsored by Las Positas College, Yuki Teikei Haiku Society, Haiku Society of America, Haiku Poets of Northern California, Boston Haiku Society, and Haiku Canada. If you haven't yet received the program packet with registration papers, call either Jerry Ball or Dave Wright

Nov. 21-24 The Yuki Teikei Haiku Society Retreat at Asilomar. Pat Donagen, San Francisco poet, is the featured speaker for this year.

## July - August Kigo

*Season:* summer morn, summer night, short night, coolness, heat, grain harvest, close to autumn, deep summer, end of summer

*Sky and Elements:* cloud peaks, billowing clouds, evening shower, sudden shower, rainbow, lightning, burning sky, burning sunshine, hot sun, cool breeze, morning breeze, wind scent, calm morning, billowing clouds, drought, summer fog, hail, lightning, Milky Way, rainbow, scented breeze, sea of clouds, shower (s), south wind, blazing sun, scorching sun

*Fields and Mountains:* clear water, green hills, green fields, clear mountain water, clear waterfall, summer river, scorching sand

*Observances:* Fourth of July, Bastille Day, fireworks, picnics, vacation, school's out, Tanabata

*Human Affairs:* awning, balcony, bare feet, beach parasol, bungalow, cabin, camp, change to summer clothes, dried grass, escape from the heat, fly catcher, fly swatter, fountain, straw hat, ice house, ice water, ice tea, lace, nakedness, mid-day nap, mountain climbing, hiking, outdoor concert, pool, rattan chair, reed sunburn, sundress, sunglasses, sweat, swimming, white shoes, wind chimes, prayers for rain, cutting grains, picking cherries, fan, midday nap, cooling oneself, ice cream, swimming, mosquito smudge, mowing the grass, bug-trap lamp, mold

*Birds and Beasts:* cormorant, cuckoo, water hen, moor hen, kingfisher, blue/white/grey heron, fawn, foal, big cat, crab, toad, fleas, lice, flies, mosquito, mosquito larva, summer butterfly, firefly, ants, termites, cicada, snake, spider, slug, moth, water beetle, caterpillar, goldfish, trout, whirligigs, silver fish

*Plants:* herbs, peony, iris, lily, water lily, magnolia flowers, rose, hydrangea, hollyhock, bindweed, bottle gourd, melon flowers, sunflower, honeysuckle, lotus, poppy, safflower, duckweed flower, zinnia, myriad green leaves, under the trees, leafy trees, green grass, bamboo, day lily, barley or other grains, beans, green apples, banana, bamboo shoots, blackberry, raspberry, calla lily, carnation, cornflower, cucumber, cactus, dahlia, darkness under the trees, dill flower, eggplant, foxglove, fuchsia, gardenia, geranium, gerbera, gladiolus, morning glory, green grapes, summer grove, hibiscus, daisy, moss flowers, oxalis, phlox, pinks, pineapple, potato, rank grass, roses, salvia, snapdragon, thistle, thorn, tomato, green walnuts, weeds, leafy willows, yucca

-from "Partial KIGO Listings" Collected by Kiyoko Tokutomi-

## SAIJIKI

More than 70 years have elapsed since Haiku was introduced into the United States. During that period of time there has been no serious effort to identify English language *kigo*. Consequently, English language Haikuists lack the most essential composition tool used by Japanese Haikuists, a *saijiki*.

What is a *saijiki*? Basically, it a word book. According to the *Koijen* Dictionary, *saijiki* is a book which recorded natural, human and general affairs throughout the year. These seasonal events, which became *kigo* words, were classified into the four seasons and described in detail. An example of the description for the winter *kigo*, "water fowl" is as follows:

Kigo: WATER FOWL

Season: Winter

Group: Birds and Beasts

Definition: The term "water fowl" does not simply mean a bird floating on the water. It means a "migrating bird," one that arrives in autumn and leaves in spring. Examples are the wild duck, dabchick, mandarin duck, sea mew, or similar birds. Most of these types of birds spend the day floating on the winter sea, the lake or the river. Even though there are many species, "water fowl" is all inclusive.

Example Haiku:

Beginning to stir  
As dusk's clouds quickly gather—  
water fowl on pond  
-Teruo Yamagata

Notice that the description also includes a Haiku example.

In the Japanese *saijiki*, the most appropriate *kigo* for each season are collected and classified into groups such as Astronomy, Geography, Life, Annual Events, Animals, Plants and so forth. The *saijiki* also provides some good Haiku examples using each *kigo*. All Japanese Haikuists use and check precisely in a *saijiki* each time a haiku is composed. Many Haikuists with long experience have memorized the *kigo* for each season.

Today, various edition of *saijiki* are published in Japan and Japanese Haikuists may own and refer to more than one *saijiki*.

The first *saijiki* was published in 1718 by Bakin Takizawa and was entitled, *Haikai Saijiki*. Since that time there have been many variations and editions of *saijiki* published. Centuries before the first *saijiki* was published, a *kigo* was used to indicate the season when writing Renga and Haikai during the Kamukura Era (1200-1300 AD).

About the time of Sogi (1421-1502) events were classified more precisely into four seasonal categories and compilation was begun on season subjects known as *ki no kotoba* or *kishi*. The method of classification was not mechanical but performed by thinking of the season in which an event was most appropriate or most likely to

occur, according to Renga's view of nature. Haikai and haiku inherited this fundamental principle and developed the classification more precisely. After the Meiji Era (1853-1912) the term used for a season subject was *kidai*.

-Koyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi

## REGIONAL SAIJIKI

(*excerpts*)

...However, most of the *saijiki* have been edited "around" the seasons of the interior main islands of Japan, The latitude of Hokkaiko, located in northern Japan, and that the Kyushu, located in southern Japan, are far apart and there are many variations in the climate and natural features between them. So, it is quite natural that we have many regional *kigo* which fit only the place where we live. Thus, a regional *saijiki* becomes a necessity.

...There are clear distinctions among the four seasons in the United States mainland even though they vary from state to state. It is my ardent wish that a United States *saijiki* which fits the mainland will be edited and published.

-Gyokushu Motoyama

Editor of the *Hawaiian Saijiki*

(Both articles are reprinted from the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society *Haiku Journal*, Vol II:1, 1978.)

## GINKO

(*Excerpts*)

A Japanese word, which means: *gin* - spoken aloud (haiku), and *ko* - walk. In this context, it means a walk outside with others, for the purpose of experiencing haiku; revising and repeating until the haiku sounds right.

Tired of writing haiku at your desk or table? Of trying to come up with a haiku using a *kigo* you can't experience due to location, time or opportunity? This is understandable. Sometimes there is a frustration in creating an instant in time, an experience, a good haiku, all because you have to create it in your head rather than being a part of it.

How much better haiku is when it is fresh and personal, when written while it is happening. We all know that feeling of a natural haiku ... that 'nowness' that sometimes we are able to capture. There's a satisfaction, or sense of completion, in a haiku that is written in the environment and time span of that haiku.

Now go one step further and share this experience with friends, all writing 'live' haiku, all sharing the same surroundings, all seeing the same things, yet perceiving them in different ways. Then come together and share what each has written; find out how others saw the same things you saw, heard them, experienced them.

-Bobbie Leiser

(Reprinted from the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society *Haiku Journal*, III:1, 1979.)