

# Geppo

## A Haiku Study-Work Journal

## 月報俳句ジャーナル

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society of United States & Canada

Volume XV: 3

May - June 1992

To vote, write the numbers of the ten haiku you like best on a sheet of paper. Three of those may be circled indicating they receive five points each. The other seven are given one point each. Write your haiku—up to three—using kigo for May - June. Send your THREE haiku and votes to: GEPP0, Jane Reichhold, Editor, POB  
USA, so they arrive before June 15th.

PLEASE CHECK IF EACH OF YOUR THREE HAIKU CONTAIN A KIGO FOR THIS ISSUE / SEASON.

M167

Easter Egg hunt  
at the little girl's feet  
a dead robin

M168

Palm Sunday  
the cat feeding her kitten  
a wiggling lizard

M169

spring snowfall  
the dog's wet paws  
print the floor

M170

and for you  
in shamrock green  
whiskey galore

M171

wearing the green  
drinking illicit poteen  
happy days

M172

nimble and pretty  
on the green kilted colleens  
dance for Saint Patrick

M173

from some garden  
above the flood's fetid muck  
lilacs

M174

indigo peaks vanish  
as leaves green the great ash  
st. patrick's day

M175

in the silence  
between chainsaw riffs  
momochidori

M176

beginning new year  
a broken shoelace repaired  
by tying a knot

M177

the lengthening days  
I seem to have lost my watch  
on the way to work

M178

a key in a lock  
the owner arrives early  
in the spring rain

M179

Such a ruckus there!  
Sparrows sparring in the dust ...  
Victor struts tail high.

M180

Cellar hole crumbling,  
The house long since fallen in ...  
Yet, again, lilacs!

*In Special Memory of long-time Yuki Teikei Member and leader of the El Cerrito Haiku Group*

*Tom Arima - Manzen*

*who passed away March 30, 1992.*

*As poet, friend, gentleman, and guiding light, Tom will be greatly missed.*

M181  
A fine spring morning.  
Everyone basking outside ...  
Flies on the shingles.

M182  
St. Patrick's Day  
shamrock green from head to toe  
oh, that southern drawl!

M183  
April Fool  
reaching the crossroads  
the wind swirls

M184  
mist after rain  
rising from the pines, sunset  
in amber wisps

M185  
Sparrow chirping  
A little puff of vapor  
Drifts with each note

M186  
Warm rain  
Swelling quince buds  
Glimpse of red

M187  
In the field  
Beyond the lawn -  
Wild daisies

M188  
Ash Wednesday:  
The old man kneeling,  
dust on his shoes

M189  
tonight's moon  
growing toward fullness  
this Holy Week

M190  
one balloon only —  
up out of the vendor's bunch —  
rises to haiku

M191  
still keeping quiet  
after having seen  
spring tide

M192  
receptionist  
ready to go home  
day is long

M193  
cleaning table  
humming folk songs  
fragrant breeze

M194  
puppy  
pouncing on a horse-fly  
after the chase

M195  
last game of scrabble  
in front of the fireplace  
floating camellias

M196  
end of winter:  
a daughter giggling  
"I'm pregnant"

M197  
In the mid-March snow,  
tulips bend, almost broken,  
but spring back the next day.

M198  
Days of faith renewed,  
spring reminds us every year  
that God keeps his word.

M199  
Wild geese fill the sky  
announcing winter's defeat —  
V for victory!

M200  
tilting her thick hair  
back under the shower  
his bald head

M201  
a child  
unable to read  
watches the sun rise

M202  
the fog —  
layering  
the chocolate cake in white

M203  
by the adobe ruins ...  
darker pink each shower  
tamarisk's clusters

M204  
mourning dove calls  
in spring twilight  
Mt. Franklin's silhouette

M205  
yellow butterflies  
playing in the lilacs  
stillness

M206  
road-kill robin  
the wind lifts  
its wings

M207  
from the air  
patchwork of farms  
loose thread of road

M208  
writing a haiku  
to the man who wrote  
the same haiku as me

M209  
whale bones ...  
the hollow sound  
of blowing sand

M210  
thunderclap —  
from the verandah  
I bow to God

M211  
arriving home —  
pine needles in the wiper  
from Asilomar

M212  
Easter reunion  
seeing my dead cousin's grin  
on his daughter's face

M213  
Rainy spring evening  
books music paper and pen  
Snooper brings his leash

M214  
Breath steams the cool pane  
the same as when we were kids  
I draw a smiley

M215  
April drought  
the lily's throat fills  
with morning dew

M216  
Spring nuptials  
at eighty-four  
his tottering jig

M217  
oriental lanterns  
the only light  
in the setter's eyes

M218  
From friable earth  
purple crocus pierces me  
like newborn's first cry.

M219  
Minute ferns unfurl  
fan fungus blooms on dead log  
Nature nourishing.

M220  
Fall's forgotten leaves  
shoots push aside dead debris  
wearing of the green.

M221  
Ah, season words ...  
just-spring and kids inquiring  
about late fall fruit

M222  
Oxalis in bloom ...  
just another weed but so  
dizzily yellow

M223  
Last spring sapote  
I pluck it and turn to go ...  
plop — the next but last

M224  
Flashes in the sun,  
So, the willow fly returns —  
Was it ever gone

M225  
Tinkling through spring air,  
Hear the melody of love ...  
Children now playing

M226  
A sylvan lure  
Are spring's exotic dancers ...  
Slow, swaying willows

M227  
While June gardening  
to dirt encrusted fingers  
a lady bug clings.

M228  
During summer calm  
part of iris flies away  
a blue dragonfly.

M229  
May breeze stirs branches  
old tree trunk is still marked with  
lover's initials.

M230  
disappearing -  
the cawing of a crow  
swallowed by fog

M231  
on the frosted sycamore  
emerging buds of spring -  
suspended

M232  
*sixteen-rice-table*  
washed down  
with Dutch gin

M233  
one red drop  
in the wine cup's bottom  
clings

M234  
scat, mosquito,  
if you know what's good for you ...  
dragonfly nearing!

M235  
black cat  
licking my chin ...  
a lucky day

M236  
glass door between  
squirrel and I stare  
one smiles

M237  
spring rain:  
man walking his dog  
dog walking his man

M238  
The cat lies  
In the dog's bed  
Scratching their fleas

M239  
Field of orange poppies  
One flies away  
Orange butterfly

M240  
Winter's end  
Plum blossoms  
Shaping fruit

### Voting for March - April 1992

Lesley Einer: M101-6, M102-9, M103-27\*  
Gloria Procsal: M104-4, M105-8, M106-18\*  
Christopher Herold: M107-13\*, M108-14\*, M109-23\*  
Elaine Sherlund: M110-12, M111-10, M112-4  
Joan Edwards: M113-6, M114-7, M115  
George Knox: M116-7, M117, M118-14\*  
Gene Doty: M119, M120-7, M121-15\*  
Jerry Ball: M122, M123-3, M124-3  
Geneva Outlaw: M125-7, M126, M127-3  
Winnie E. Fitzpatrick: M128-15\*, M129-1, M130-1  
Robert Gibson: M131-24\*, M132, M133-8  
Teruo Yamagata: M134, M135-6, M136-12  
Dorothy Greenlee: M137-4, M138-6, M139-6  
Robert E. Major: M140-2, M141, M142-6  
Floyd Jack: M143-1, M144, M145-2  
Laura Bell: M146-5, M147-18\*, M148  
Christine Doreian Michaels: M149-11, M150, M151  
Sandy Supowit: M152-12, M153-3, M154-6  
Pat Shelly: M155-8, M156, M157-5  
John H. Tabberrah: M158-8, 159-2, M160-11  
Pamela Connor: M161-3, M162-9, M163-4  
Greer Newcomb: M164, M165, M166-1

## May-June Kigo

*Season or climate:* summer morn, summer night, short night, June darkness, coolness, heat, warm, bright, tranquil, long day, day is long, slow day, spring noon, spring dream, spring's end, spring melancholy, summer near.

*Astronomy:* heat shimmer, heat waves, wind is bright, east wind, fragrant breeze, balmy breeze, cloud peaks, billowing clouds, June rains, evening shower, sudden shower, rainbow, lightning, burning sky, burning sunshine, cool breeze, morning breeze, wind scent, tardy sunset, sunbeams, calm morning, ocean fog, sea of clouds, south wind, thunder.

*Geography:* green hills, green fields, clear water, clear mountain water, clear waterfall, mountains/hills smile.

*Observances:* May Day, May baskets, Memorial Day, decorating graves, flags on graves, taps/ gun salute, vacation, school's out, carp flag, Boys' Day, Mothers' Day, sleeping Buddha, Summer Solstice, Fathers' Day.

*Livelihood:* planting, weeding, grafting, prayers for rain, fan, midday nap, cooling oneself, ice cream, swimming, mosquito smudge, mowing the grass, bug-trap lamp, awning, balcony, barefeet, change to summer clothes, fly swatter, straw hat, ice water, iced tea, lace, nakedness, midday nap, mosquito net, mountain climbing, summer concert/opera, parasols, perfume, swimming pool, rattan chair, reed, sunburn, sundress, sweat, white shoes, windchimes, low tide, gather shells, closing the fireplace, balloon, swing, soap bubbles, windmill, muddy road.

*Animals:* ants, bats, cicadas, goldfish, herons, slugs, trout, whirligigs, fledgelings, nestlings, nightingale, bush warbler, soaring skylark, ten thousand birds, bird voices, inchworm, tadpoles, frogs, lizard, butterfly, horse-fly, snails, bees, fawn, foal, big cat, cuckoo, water hen, moor hen, kingfisher, blue/white/grey heron, crab, fleas, lice, flies, horseflies, mosquito, larva, summer butterfly, firefly, ants, termites, cicada, snake, spider, slug, moth, water beetle, caterpillar, silkworm, silverfish, cormorant.

*Plants:* herbs, peony, iris, lily, water lily, rose, hydrangea, hollyhock, bindweed, lotus, poppy, safflower, duckweed flower, crepe myrtle, young leaves, myriad green leaves, under the trees, leafy trees, mulberry leaves, green grass, bamboo, day lily, thistle, azaleas, dandelions, morning glory, lilac, violets, parsley, asparagus sprouts, bracken, seaweed, laver, green apples, bracken, cactus flower, darkness under the tree, dill, foxglove, fuchsia, mildew, gardenia, geranium, gerbera, gladiolus, green grapes, summer grove, hibiscus, hollyhocks, honeysuckle, hydrangea, pineapple, potatoes, rhododendron, salvia, strawberry.

---

### Haiku Voted as Best in the March - April 1992 Geppo

shopping  
for a foot warmer  
the new widow  
*Lesley Einer*

homeless  
the winter cloud  
the shape of a shoe  
*Gloria Procsal*

February 29 —  
the old lady blows out  
her eighteen candles  
*Christopher Herold*

winter morning —  
the cold press  
of each contact lens  
*Christopher Herold*

winter sky  
in the rear-view mirror  
she thickens her rouge  
*Christopher Herold*

across the mailbox  
still undisturbed spiderweb  
cold postman drives on  
*George Knox*

winter morning:  
steam rises where sun touches  
railroad ties  
*Gene Doty*

Overnight snow storm  
traffic lights flash stop and go  
to empty, white streets.  
*Winnie E. Fitzpatrick*

Windy morning  
A sweep of sparrows across  
The winter sky  
*Robert Gibson*

New Year's alone  
the celebrating crowd  
channel 36  
*Laura Bell*

## Book Reviews

by George Knox

Yagi, Kametaro. *Haiku: Messages from Matsuyama*. Oliver Statler, Ed. Katydid Books. Oakland University, Rochester MI, 48309-4401: 1991. Distrib. U. of Hawaii Press, Honolulu, HI 96822. Pages - 101. \$11.95.

Professor Yagi, internationally respected scholar-haijin and linguist, was president of the Matsuyama University of Commerce. Oliver Statler, author of several books on Japan, has selected the articles which originally appeared in several American haiku journals, predominantly from *Dragonfly*, edited by Lorraine E. Harr (*hai-go* "Tombo"), but also in the *Haiku Journal* (IV:4, 1980) edited by Kiyoshi and Kiyoko Tokutomi. However, it was Lorraine Harr who launched Prof. Yagi's essays in her journal, originally excerpted from letters he had written her as she was learning about haiku.

During the years he was Consulting Editor (with Prof. Kazuo Sato), he wrote his spirited essays devoted to the vitalization of American haiku and the appreciation of Japanese haiku. These pieces reveal a man of great learning, generous spirit and sensitivity.

In a local sense, the "scene" of these essays is the city of Matsuyama and environs where many noted haikuists spent critical periods in their careers. The larger "scene" is the dynamics of haiku. One intriguing local aspect is the focus on dedicatory haiku stones (*kuhai*), engraved with haiku of famous poets who were in some way identified with the city. Six essays feature photographs of haiku stones.

The variety of topics in the twenty-five essays well illustrate Prof. Yagi's acumen in analysis, his erudition and cosmopolitan spirit. Essay by essay, we are given bio-critical insights into many major Japanese haikuists. He also debunks commonly held assumptions about particular writers and falsely attributed pronouncements that have become "haiku-law," offering us refreshing insights in explicating hitherto misunderstood works.

Perhaps above all, he sincerely, almost evangelically, dedicated himself to the cause of American haiku, but this does not mean he is soft in his judgments when censure is due: "A haiku should offer a real scene that arouses deep emotion. ...American haiku seem to have coagulated into similar patterns -- so many cobwebs, gravestones, tumbledown houses, scarecrows, shadows and reflections."

Imitation haiku are the worst: the stereotypes that made professor Henderson cry, "Down with Old Pond haiku." He is even more severe in some of his strictures against the younger generation of haikuists in Japan, ending one passage: "Absolute deterioration!"

The final essay, "Yagi Kametaro: My Father," by his daughter, Shimakawa Kyoko, is revelatory and moving. We are fortunate to have had his interest in American haiku.

*A Dictionary of Haiku - Classified by Season Words with Traditional and Modern Methods*. Jane Reichhold. AHA Books: 1992. Perfect bound, 8 x 5, 396 pp., \$12.95 ppd. ISBN: 0-944676-08-1.

In one of the essays in Prof. Yagi's book, *Haiku - Messages from Matsuyama*, on "The Importance of Season Words" he writes "Glossaries are of two kinds: *kiyose*, which merely lists seasonal terms and *saijiki*, in which each term is accompanied by examples of showing proper usage by well-known haikuists. Because the *saijiki* is more helpful, it is more widely used. Since the middle of Edo period (1600 - 1868) great numbers of these books have been published."

Jane Reichhold's impressive new book, *A Dictionary of Haiku*, adds a new dimension to American haiku season words literature.

In the introduction, she points out that "A *saijiki* is a dictionary of haiku in which the poems arranged, not alphabetically, but by season. Within the five seasons (New Year's Day has a separate section) are usually the seven different categories: Season (weather aspects indicative of that time of year), Celestial Phenomena (stars, sun and moon), Terrestrial Phenomena (geographical aspects such as mountains, fields, river), Events (or holidays), Life (terms dealing with the daily life of humanity), Animals (deemed appropriate for the season), and Plants (often those most conspicuous)."

Thus the Table of Contents functions as a *kigo* list with 1038 entries, by far the most complete *kigo* list in English. The body of the book then provides some 5000 of her haiku utilizing the season words previously listed.

In her excellent Introduction, Jane Reichhold provides her readers with a lucid rationale and methodology for reading the book. She acknowledges the influence of Kohto Katoh's *Four Seasons*, printed in the summer of 1991, which was a model for *A Dictionary of Haiku*. One change Reichhold has made is to rename the Seasons category to Moods. She explains that she felt by "making a list of essences or moods of the seasons which embody our emotional states relative to that time of year, haiku which do not blatantly state 'spring' but which emote the airiness, gentleness, freedom of spring could be given their rightful place." In Katoh's *Four Seasons* this category is listed as Non-Seasonal.

I have often felt that a perusal of a list of season words as an aid in writing a haiku is rather mechanical. When a haiku moment occurs, that flash of insight, the suitable season word arises almost automatically. But by virtue of the organization of *A Dictionary of Haiku* one can pleurably move through several sections of excellent haiku written by one of America's leading *haijin*. Further, the reader is able to return to a haiku easily and re-explore an emotion, image pattern, or season mood.