GEPPO

the haiku study-work journal

of the

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

<u>Volur</u>	ne XXVIII:3		May/June 2003
	Members' Haiku for Study	and Apprecia	tion – Jean Hale, Editor
5159	such soft fur	5168	bamboo shoots
	the bee's body strokes my cheek		overturn
	then the sting		the flagstone
5160	who is sadder	5169	May Day –
	me or the small black bee		no one notices
	that stung my cheek?		my red blouse
5161	solitary hike	5170	sprouting this spring
	stumbling the last painful mile		in the same place –
	bee stinger in cheek		poison ivy
5162	under the bridge	5171	sudden summer storm
	the reflections very still		mannequins sit in dark windows
	spring dusk		passing headlights
5163	summer grove	5172	torch lit fishing boat
-	beneath the picnic table		insouciant frogs offer
	a scatter of crumbs		similar advice
5164	invited backstage	5173	wooden sidewalk -
	at the summer concert —		lizards the color of time
	furs in the wardrobe		blink in the sun
5165	flavor of sunscreen	5174	different wind
	drifts among the chaise longues		when I crouch by
	lazybones		forget-me-not
5166	at the flower	5175	summer holidays
	till I grab my camera		made more bearable by
	three humming birds		old detective story
5167	peony buds	5176	a drifting log
	like Michaelangelo's Slave		to the river's mouth
	passions bound		summer sunset

5177	water iris— raindrop circles spread and touch each other	5188	the drone of bees – a sea of wildflowers announces spring
5178	three hundred years since Basho wrote that poem— willows in spring rain	5189	squinting in the sun this kid with his ball cap on backwards
5179	her swift decline still, her calligraphy brush remembers summer	5190	kitchen garden quiet but for the hand plow tearing at the roots
5180	sweet peas on strings – my grandma and mother in my sister's garden	5191	hillside garden he rests in the old lawn chair with no hind legs
5181	line of pelicans turning then disappearing into the horizon	5192	whatever I thought before the lily bloomed— unforgettable light
5182	third day of zazen on the edge of bursting open flowering laurel	5193	Al Green on stage a make-love song a make-love moon
5183	unpacking my husband's suitcase I find a map of mars	5194	as guests depart watching the moon set— a bottle half-drunk
5184	smoking patio going inside for a breath of fresh air	5195	deep in the blossoms bees shimmering heat
5185	cloudless sky a lone crow calls across the empty field	5196	fat caterpillar reeling in the anise grass scent of Mykonos
5186	laced with birdsong a field of sunflowers faces the sun	5197	soft across my lips wings of a butterfly
5187	cottonwood fluff drifting slowly to earth summer snow	5198	Siberian iris the butterfly pauses

5199	spearmint in the sun a resting fly scissors its legs	5210	children running through the open screen door — a pile of winter boots
5200	thick drops of rain the dandelion's white halo	5211	a dusty roadside plaque— all that's left of Manzanar dreams
5201	fluttering sunlight wind in the tall elms	5212	winter rain— the neighbour's garage door squeaking more softly
5202	peeking from the grass exotic pink blossom dirty plastic comb	5213	first visit to the graves — summer hills
5203	wind stops laying in bed still I listen	5214	on the countertop — a water drop wets the feet of a mosquito
5204	mother quail calls her last brood afterglow	5215	evening light — under the bird feeder a new corn stalk
5205	sun overflows opposite bank of the river bluebonnets	5216	granite pathway seethes in the heat haze – winged ants
5206	estate sale buying part of her life in a cardboard box	5217	dusk in the garden- on the breeze, police sirens become more plaintive
5207	soft mud where the puddle was this morning	5218	twisting and turning – the butterflies among the barbed wire
5208	spring sun we decide to walk across the bridge	5219	mold forming on the north side too much of a good thing, spring rain
5209	for the bees, whatever meadow flowers are not for her	5220	this wet, wet weather dense ocean fog drifts in – sound of the fog horn

5221	suddenly, silence, my neighbor's wind chimes blown down in the storm	5232 heavy rain - umbrellas racing satchels
5222	sound of chimes lifts fevered spirit tranquility	5233 wheel ruts the sweet fragrance of grass rising
5223	Iced tea aglow with fire – caught by the sun	CHALLENGE KIGO Blue Storm (Aoarashi)
5224	pausing on stairway purple hyacinths	gone is gone as you said – blue storm
5225	tai chi class stiff joints make first corner spring dusk	Ruth Holzer blue storm intricate patterns
5226	tender or frail each face a precious blossom flower communion	on the greystone wall Patricia Prime raised wood grain on the weathered outdoor bench—
5227	this glass of red wine tanqueros flow through old bones a summer concert	blue rain Anne Homan blue storm
5228	nearly white night on a make believe mannequin a ticking watch	a sparrow worries a tough seed on the veranda June Hymas unseen locusts
5229	summer perspiration they embrace each other and her cell phone	electric sound fills the trees blue storm Ross Figgins
5230	sunny may day on a peeling wall of old my childhood's color	twice this week I was called a warrior – blue storm Donnalynn Chase
5231	hot June night watching the moon swim in my cup	restless sleep aware of the blue storm and me not there Yvonne Hardenbrook

blue storm

baby's blue eyes turning green

Gloria Procsal

blue storm out of the west

racks the cherry tree

Janeth H. Ewald

blue storm

the shift of an osprey

on her nest

Kay Grimnes

late reservations

for the bed and breakfast

blue storm

John Stevenson

aspen leaves

turn white

blue storm

Naomi Y. Brown

blue storm —

I open the screen

to let out a moth

Carolyn Thomas

blue storm—

she undoes

her last stitch

Michael Dylan Welch

packing

for nephew's wedding

a blue storm

Christine Doreian Michaels

new green of the trees

like a fresh painting

blue storm

Joan C. Sauer

blue storm

the Buddha along the trail

is freshly washed

Jerry Ball

blue storm approaching

unperturbed the old spider

weaves its web

GiovanniMalito

after hailstorm

clear sharpness of small leaves

against blue sky

Zinovy Vayman

blue storm

I enjoy imagining

ribbons in her hair

Jerry Ball

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

Deadline for next issue is August 10.

 Print your name, address and all poems and votes on a single, full size sheet of paper. You can include:

 Haiku — up to three haiku appropriate to the season. Poems must be in three lines.

 Challenge Kigo Haiku — one 3-line haiku that uses the current issue's Challenge Kigo.
 Try to use just the one season word. The poem will be printed with your name.

 Votes — Write numbers of up to ten poems from the current issue that you especially appreciate. Each of the poems you select will receive 1 point. Poems with the top number of votes are reprinted with the author's name in the next issue.

Send to:

Jean Hale

NOTE NEW ADDRESS!!

email:

Membership in the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society is \$20.00 per year in the U.S. and Canada and \$25.00 International. Membership includes six issues of the *Geppo* per year.

green peas, apricot, melon (honeydew, cantaloupe, watermelon, etc), pineapple, potato, raspberry, strawberry, tomato, zucchini

*

SEASON WORDS

for summer

selected from the lists in the 1994 Members' Anthology

Season: June, July, August: beginning of summer, midsummer, end of summer, summer solstice, long day, slow day, short night.

Sky and Elements: summer dew, ~ fog, ~ rain, ~ sky, ~ sun, ~ wind, south wind, scented breeze, scorching/blazing sun, calm morning/evening, cumulus/billowing cloud, cloud peaks, sea of clouds, ocean fog, thunder, lightning, sudden shower, rainbow, heat, hot, drought, coolness.

Landscape: summer hills, ~ lake, ~ moor, ~ mountains, ~ sea, ~ river, waterfall, clear water, summer grove, deep tree shade.

Human Affairs: awning, fan, beach umbrella, parasol, perfume, camp, fly swatter, fireworks, fountain, summer hat, summer house, summer vacation, summer concert/opera, ice house, ice water, iced tea, nakedness, bare feet, mosquito net, midday nap, swimming, swimming pool, sunburn, sweat, sunglasses, sundress, rattan chair, reed, wind chimes, prayers for rain, cooling oneself, mowing grass, weeding, Fathers' day, Fourth of July (Independence Day), Armed Forces Day, Tanabata (Festival of the Weaver, or Star festival - traditionally, an autumn kigo).

Animals: ant, bat, caterpillar, cicada, crab, cormorant, firefly, flea, louse, house fly, goldfish, blue/white/grey heron, kingfisher, moor hen or coot, mosquito, mosquito larvae, moth, silverfish, slug, (garden) snail, snake, spider, summer butterfly, termite, toad, tree frog, trout, silkworm, water beetle.

Plants: amaryllis, barley, summer bracken, bamboo sprouts, carnation, cactus flower, dahlia, dill flower, foxglove, fuchsia, gardenia, geranium, gladiolus, summer or rank grasses, summer weeds, hibiscus, hollyhock, honeysuckle, hydrangea, iris, calla lily, daylily, lotus, marguerite, marigold, mold (mildew), moss grown (mossy), oxalis, peony, phlox, pinks, rose, salvia, silk tree (mimosa), snapdragon, sunflower, summer thistle, leafy willow, yucca, zinnia, summer fruits and vegetables (banana, blackberry, cucumber, cherry, eggplant, green grapes, green(unripe) apple, green walnut,

MEMBERS' VOTES for March-April

Teruo Yamagata – 5082–3 5083-2 5084-4 **Zinovy Vayman** – 5085-0 5086-1 5087-0 Gloria Procsal - 5088-0 5089-2 5090-7 Carolvn Hall - 5091-4 5092-3 5093-5 Joan Sauer - 5094-0 5095-0 5096-0 Ioan Goswell - 5097-4 5098-1 5099-0 Louise Beaven - 5100-1 **Eve J.Blohm** – 5101-2 5102-2 5103-0 Janeth Ewald - 5104-6 5105-2 5106-7 **Ruth Holzer – 5107-3** 5108-0 5109-0 Patricia Prime - 5110-5 5111-0 5112-5 William E. Greig – 5113-0 5114-0 5115-0 **Yvonne Hardenbrook** – 5116-4 5117-1 5118-2 Cindy Tebo- 5119-4 5120-1 5121-6 Joan Zimmerman – 5122-0 5123-3 5124-1 **Carolyn Thomas** – 5125-4 5126-0 5127-1 **Roger Abe** – 5128-1 Hank Dunlap - 5129-0 5130-1 5131-3 **Laura Bell** – 5132-1 5133-3 5134-3 **Graham High** – 5135-2 5136-2 5137-0 Richard St. Clair - 5138-5 5139-3 5140-2 John Stevenson – 5141-2 5142-2 5143-6 Dave Bachelor - 5144-2 5145-5 5146-0 Naomi Brown - 5147-1 5148-1 5149-0 **Christine Michaels** – 5150-0 5151-3 5152-0 Kay Grimnes - 5153-3 5154-3 5155-1 **Anne Homan –** 5156-0 5157-1 5158-1

MARCH-APRIL HAIKU VOTED BEST BY READERS OF GEPPO

crossing the Rio Grande a hawk's shadow

Gloria Procsal

after the firestorm a tiny white spider making lace

Janeth Ewald

passing stranger our two shadows one for a moment

thin morning sun -

Yvonne Hardenbrook

crushed leaves of wild thyme he brings to her wheelchair

Janeth Ewald

overdone asparagus he tells me what a good cook his first wife was

Cindy Tebo

this rain that rain . . . you're still gone

John Stevenson

the beetle whether or not to step on it

Carolyn Hall

spring river a feather clings to the reeds

Patricia Prime

farmer's hands the way he lays violets on her grave

Patricia Prime

a soaring skylark cutting the overcast sky the first drops of rain

Richard St. Clair

argument ends slowly morning sun revives the white moth

Dave Bachelor

still I don't know island or peninsula this mist

Teruo Yamagata

night of stars singed spots on the hearth rug

Carolyn Hall

War!

the buds on the maple tree

deep red

Joan Goswell

the ground rises a thousand starlings taking the sky

Yvonne Hardenbrook

spring dream the flowers arrive without a note

Cindy Tebo

sleeping Buddha the cat curled into a ball opens one eye

Carolyn Thomas

Editor's Corrections:

Okay, it's Mea Culpa time.

The in-hand deadline to submit a poem to the James W. Hackett International Award 2003 sponsored by the British Haiku Society is November 30, 2003.

Plum Blossom was suggested by Fay Aoyagi as a challenge kigo for the March-April issue. In her write-up she stated that the fruit of the plum is an autumn kigo. In fact, it is a summer kigo. I omitted this fact in last Geppo.

Dojins' Corner March-April 2003 by Patricia and Jerry

jb: Another nice group of haiku! I selected the following: 5091, 5092, 5110, 5112, 5116, 5119, 5132, 5133, and 5145. I like them all very much. I had some difficulty selecting my final three, but I did select: 5091, 5092, and 5133.

pjm: And my choices are 5129, 5147, and 5151.

5091 night of stars—
singed spots
on the hearth rug

jb: What I like best about this haiku is the image behind the image. We are given simply, the facts of a "night of stars" and a statement of "singed spots on the hearth rug." But this is a case in which the "whole is greater than the sum of its parts." These two phrases work in dynamic opposition to produce (for me) a warm and comfortable (and loving?) scene during a winter night (hearth is a winter kigo). My reaction is that I wish I were there. The actual timing of the haiku is after, at, or toward the end of the "night of stars," so the facts evoke memories. The language is economical, and the image clear. Very nicely done!

pjm: To make this image work, I imagine a white rug in front of the fireplace and then the white "holes" in the sky (the stars) create the inverse image of the "singed spots/ on the hearth rug." If I have this image given swiftly with the insertion of the word, white, I can move on to deeper contemplation of the earthly ruin under my feet compared to the apocalyptic ruin in the night sky.

5092 afternoon cool a sheepdog runs circles around the ewes

jb: As with 5091 this is a shasei (nature sketch) haiku. The "facts" are given and lead the reader toward the emotional circumstances surrounding them. This is a lyrical scene. Again, the image is crisp and economical and,

for me, it resonates. I applaud both the poetic insight and the craft.

pjm: I note the contrast between the cool afternoon and the sheepdog's energetic activity. I also note the sound in the haiku: the cool sounds of oo in "afternoon," "cool," and "ewes." Then I am left to enjoy the scene.

5129 old red rooster crowing away the night cloudless morning

pjm: I have been in a place like this—the feeling of strangeness of the rooster crowing all night as if there were something unexpected coming, something portentous, and then in the morning to find no clouds. There are faint echoes here of the story of the betrayal of Christ by Peter: before the cock crows thou wilt betray me thrice. But echoes only, for in the biblical story the cock is silent until just before dawn. Which leads one to wonder, if the cock on the night before Christ's crucifixion had crowed all night, would Peter, being constantly reminded of Christ's prophecy, would he have remained loyal? And if so, would this have changed any of the events that followed. In this way this haiku leads us deeper and deeper into issues of memory, courage, betrayal, consequences, and even the history of western civilization. And all this without a kigo. And here's the lesson: haiku without a kigo need something equally powerful to give them depth, something like this religious inference, such as the story of Peter's betrayal of Christ.

jb: I enjoyed reading Patricia's reaction to this haiku, and, once explained to me, I see the allusions. I must confess I did not see them on my own. What I do see, and like very much, is the natural image of the rooster crowing at dawn to a cloudless sky.

5133 snail's trail up and over the locked gate

5116 the ground rises
a thousand starlings
taking the sky

jb: I think the comparison of these two is instructive. 5133 is a shasei with a dramatic understatement. Every inch of the "snail's trail" might be seen. The "punch" of this haiku is contained in the phrase "the locked gate." Locked gates are barriers, and, based on the given facts, we imagine this frail and vulnerable creature overcoming its obstacle. With 5116, while the expression "the ground rises" may be taken literally (rises uphill) it is also possible to think of this metaphorically as a kind of barrier. (Remember the Irish blessing: May the paths be downhill under your feet; uphill being more difficult.) And who (or what) can overcome this? Well, not one starling, but a thousand starlings, a swell of starlings! I sense something undulating here. So 5116 is overstated, but effectively. I like them both very much and make a reluctant choice between the two.

pjm: I see 5133 as a little humorous allegory to help us to keep the adversities of life in perspective. 5116 has an image that captured my imagination. The poet has nailed a moment that I have seen many times and I admire the manner in which the poet has encapsulated it so succinctly. I would encourage the poet to consider putting a season in the haiku. For example, "autumn sky" would give "the ground rises" something to play against and give it greater heft.

5147

after the quarrel taking a night walk a scent of orange blossoms

pim: A quarrel ends in a walk under blossoming orange trees—the orange blossoms signal that these are lovers whose passions have spilled over into anger and in the aftermath of the fight the feelings of hurt linger much as the orange blossom scent does in the night air. We can see here how the poet has used the kigo, first, to elicit these feelings and, second, to make the subtle comparison of the scent of orange blossoms to the bruised feelings of hurt.

jb: This haiku is one of my initial choices that gave way in my process of selection. I think the image is very strong, just like the "scent of orange blossoms." 5151 again the crocus shows her secret to the sun saffron for my rice

pjm: Beneath the blatant connections of pollen, the sun, and saffron and beyond the erotic play of language, lies the "secret" of this haiku. The obvious characteristic of saffron is its bold, outspoken color; the less-obvious quality is its subtle, hidden flavor. The haiku invites the comparison of an understated, yet refined taste of saffron to the understated, simple image of the crocus, and it is this buried invitation that moves this haiku beyond ordinary.

jb: I like all the images in this verse, but, forgive my blindness, I just don't see how they hang together.

Patricia and Jerry invite your comments at

of Jean Hale.

Editor's Comment:

I seldom have anything to add to the insights of our Dojins, but in view of Jerry's last commentAt a Food/Wine/Art event a couple of days ago, I learned that saffron comes from the pistil or stigma of the crocus. A brand new fact to me, but, I suspect, not to the author of poem #5151. JMH

Kiyoko's Sky The Haiku of Kiyoko Tokutomi

Translations by Patricia Machmiller and Fay Aoyagi

Introduction by June Hopper Hymas
Text by Kiyoko Tokutomi, Patricia Machmiller
Fay Aoyagi and Yukiko Northon
Commentary by Shugyo Takaha

To order, make your check out to the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society in the amount of \$16.00 and send to:

Jean Hale

Hank Dunlap offered a spirited defense of haiku in response to an article in a national publication recently. An excerpted version is printed here.

Editor USA Weekend

Dear Editor:

I am writing in reference to an article you published April 18-20, 2003, titled "Haiku and you" by Elizabeth McCall.

It would seem to me that a weekly Sunday newspaper magazine as widely read and prestigious as USA Weekend would research their writers to assure that they are knowledgeable and competent to write about the subject matter they are presenting to your readers.

To begin with the examples she cites in her article as 'haiku" are actually "senryu". Senryu abide by the same rules as haiku in as much as syllable count and being three lines but deal with social and psychological principles and phenomena and are more concerned with human "Who/What" situations that can be humorous, satirical, ironic, or sarcastic, etc.

Haiku however is a completely different ball of wax . . .

Ms McCall states "Virtually anyone can compose one, . . ." I suppose that is true but to compose a "good" one is another matter. She also states, "One explanation for the appeal of this <u>simple</u> verse: Nearly anyone can compose one" and in another place she states "It's easy for people to create their own". These statements are an insult to a serious haiku poet and I disagree with her on all counts. There is nothing easy nor simple about creating a "good" haiku. Yes, it's easy to jot down a few words that resemble a soap ad jingle and call it haiku or senryu but that's not what it's all about.

In my opinion, haiku is the most difficult, disciplined and complex poetry anyone can attempt to write. Because the poems are short does not mean they are simple. Good haiku

are not only subtle but complex and often have inner meanings.

Haiku are usually written about nature but can be about anything in life. Due to their shortness haiku can rarely give the reader a complete picture but suggest just enough to fill in the blanks, enabling the reader to experience the event without being there. "Good" haiku suggest just enough that more words would take away from the picture.

Grammatically proper sentences rarely make good haiku. Two or more ideas are generally expressed and create a heightened awareness of the suggested relationship between non-related subjects.

Well written haiku give the reader an image vivid enough that they experience emotions of their own without the poem telling them how to feel.

Japanese in origin, haiku writing is believed to have started early in the thirteenth century. It became a refined form roughly in the mid-1600s by Matsuo Basho, who is regarded by most as "THE" haiku master of all time. He described haiku as "...simply what is happening in this place at this time."

Ms McCall has done irrefutable damage to the haiku community in this country. She has made haiku sound like some child like game of just making a three lined poem about something without taking into consideration the rules (all of them) of good haiku representation of the subject matter.

She is correct in stating that there is a wide interest in haiku in the USA and there are many very fine haiku writers around today but none of them write the poorly composed kind of work she shows in her article.

Hank Dunlap Haiku Poet

I HAVE A NEW ADDRESS!!:

Challenge Kigo for July/Aug by Fay Aoyagi

Goldfish (Kingyo) summer

I used to have a friend who was an expert at catching goldfish with a paper net during the summer festival. We paid 100 yen (equivalent to \$1) to a seller and tried out our luck again and again. Usually, however, those red tiny goldfish all died before the summer vacation ended.

ame harete chirijiri ni aru kingyo kana

sunshine after the rain goldfish scatter in all the directions

Soju Takano*

omoide mo kingyo no mizu mo ao o obinu

both the memory and the water in the goldfish tank wear a trace of blue Kusa

Kusatao Nakamura*

a cousin's suicide goldfish hides under a miniature castle

Fay Aoyagi

*haiku from Nihon Dai-Saijiki, Kodansha (Tokyo, 1983), translated by FA.

My email address remains the same. Telephone will change, but I don't know new number yet.

There are no less than twelve streets named Cribari this or that – Cribari Way, Cribari Green, Cribari Heights. Cribari Glen, Cribari Gulch. Actually I made up the Gulch, but you get the idea. You have to state Cribari PLACE or the mail will never get to me.

Cribari, by the way, was the gent who owned all the land on which the houses are built and used it to make quite nice wine.

The symmetry between house number and ZIP code is fortunate though. Easier to remember.

Jean

Calendar

July 12 600 PM - Tanabata Celebration. Home of Anne Homan

Newcomers welcome.

Sept. 27 6:00 PM -Moonviewing celebration. Home of Patricia

Oct. 2-5

Haiku Retreat at Asilomar
Conference Center, Pacific
Grove, CA Newcomers
Welcome.

Nov. 9

1:30 PM – Autumn Haiku
Workshop at the Markham
House, History Center, 1650
Senter Road, San Jose.

Dec. 13 Holiday Party. Newcomers welcome. Location TBD

