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Welcome to - haiku ireland - newsletter

We hope you will find this newsletter informative and user-friendly.

The aim of this quarterly bulletin is to give news and information on haiku and forthcoming haiku events in Ireland and in the world and obviously share some haiku.

- **haiku ireland** - newsletter is an open space for any haiku poet or association in or outside Ireland, so feel free to send us haiku or any item relating to haiku (collection of haiku, essays, web links, information, etc.) for publication in this newsletter.

Please note that due to space limitations, all items received may not be published in the next immediate issue.

Thanks in advance for forwarding this newsletter to anyone you know who may be interested in its contents.

Next issue will be published early 2008.

Send any item for publication by mid-December 2007 at info@haikuireland.org

about - haiku ireland -

- **haiku ireland** - is a group of haiku poets who share the same aims that are primarily to foster the writing of haiku and its related forms to a standard of excellence and in a manner which reflects both its origins and best contemporary practice and to contribute to the development of haiku in Ireland and internationally.

Another objective is to develop and sponsor cooperation between the Irish and the international haiku community and we hope this newsletter will help achieving this goal.

- **haiku ireland** - organises regular haiku events, such as workshops and ginko that are open to all. For further information on our group, to attend our events or to join us, please visit our Official Site at www.haikuireland.org that also contains haiku written by members and the previous newsletters and publications that may be downloaded.

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news

calls for submissions / competitions

VANCOUVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL 2008

We are delighted to announce that the third annual Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival will take place in Vancouver, Canada, during March and April 2008.

We invite poets from around the world to submit ONE unpublished haiku on the theme of cherry blossoms. Submissions must be received by December 19, 2007.

Top selected haiku will be memorialized in stone, along with 2006 and 2007 top poems, and placed among the new cherry tree plantings at the world class VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver.

Selected haiku will also be displayed on TransLink city buses and SkyTrain cars for a period of two months. Other works of merit will be published on the VCBF Website and featured at readings throughout the festival.

You may find submission details at:

<http://www.vcbf.ca/> by following the link to haiku.

Thank you for sharing your passion and appreciating the cherry tree. Respectfully,

Linda Poole
VCBF Creative Director

Carole MacRury, Michael Dylan Welch, Edward Zuk
Haiku Committee

Turtle Light Press Chapbook Competition

Turtle Light Press is glad to announce its first bi-annual Haiku Chapbook Competition. In general, the press is open to both traditional and modern-style haiku but has a particular fondness for haiku that deal with both people and nature.

Please submit an original, unpublished collection or sequence of poems on a theme of your choice between 12 - 24 pages, two haiku per page maximum, postmarked by December 1, 2007.

For entry fee and more details, please go to:

www.turtlelightpress.com/chapbook.shtml

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3rd annual haiku contest sponsored by Wisteria: A Journal of Haiku, Senryu & Tanka

This contest runs from November 1st to February 14th. Winners will be published in the April 2008 issue.

Full details are available at the website:
<http://pinewoodhaiku.blogspot.com>

Tony A Thompson
Publisher/ Editor

Gary Hotham
Editor

<http://wistaria.blogspot.com>

Katikati Haiku Pathway

The new Katikati Haiku Pathway guidebook is now available. It features a complete set of the 30 poems engraved on boulders in this riverside walk in Katikati, New Zealand.

The walk had its three newest additions blessed at the end of July in a ceremony conducted by local Maori. The book also includes short author biographies, a potted history of the project and a map of the pathway.

If you would like to learn more about the pathway, please go to
www.poetrysociety.org.nz/katikati-haiku-pathway

For those ordering from Ireland the cost (including P&P) in New Zealand dollars is \$12 for 1, or \$20 for 2. Payment may be made through the Katikati Haiku Pathway Focus Committee's PayPal account, please e-mail Sandra at **nzhaiku@gmail.com** for more information.

More info about haiku in New Zealand at:
www.poetrysociety.org.nz/haikunews/showcase

<http://www.theheronsnest.com/>

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FIRST ITALIAN HAIKU CONFERENCE

PRIZE-GIVING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF HAIKU POETRY IN ITALIAN
CASCINA MACONDO – FIFTH EDITION 2007

and

PRIZE-GIVING OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEST OF VIDEO HAIKU AND DIGITAL
PHOTOGRAPHY DE ART/CASCINA MACONDO – FIRST EDITION 2007

The Ceremony is to take place on Sunday 25 November, 2007 jointly with the first Italian Haiku Conference (at Cascina Macondo - Borgata Madonna della Rovere, 4 10020 Riva Presso Chieri - Turin – Italy) and is open to the public.

This event will be broadcast on the Internet at:

<http://www.deart.tv>

White Lotus

White Lotus will publish a perfect-bound anthology to be released in the spring of 2008 on the subject of lily ponds (includes: water lilies, lotuses, reeds, cattails, dragonflies, koi/goldfish, frogs, and other creatures/plants associated with lily ponds). Haiku, senryu, tanka, haibun, haiga, linked forms, and other Japanese poetry types will be considered.

Those interested may submit up to 20 pieces each of any form listed above. Previously published work will be considered with proper credits. All haiga will be printed in black and white only, though the front and back covers will be in color.

Interested artists and photographers may submit cover ideas by mail or email attachment.

Deadline to submit is January 31, 2008.

For copies, send \$20.00 US; \$25 International per book by check or money order payable to "Shadow Poetry." Cash may be sent, but at your own risk.

Editors for the anthology will be Marie Summers, an'ya, Francis Masat, Bette Wappner, and Harriot West.

Mail Submissions (SASE required) to: White Lotus Anthology, 1209 Milwaukee Street, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024.

Email Submissions: with the subject of "Lotus Anthology" to:

whitelotus@shadowpoetry.com

For online submissions, orders, and other inquiries, please visit:
<http://www.shadowpoetry.com/lotus.html>

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ukiaHaiku festival

Ukiah is a town in northern California whose name, spelled backwards, forms the word "haiku." In 2008 the City of Ukiah, in conjunction with Ukiah's Poet Laureate Committee, will hold its 6th annual haiku contest and festival. Winning haiku will be published in a booklet, and winners will receive a copy of the book and a modest award.

The ukiaHaiku festival welcomes local, national, and international submissions of Contemporary Haiku. Please visit the website for terms of the contest and to browse poems that have won in the past: **www.ukiahaiku.org**

Fee: \$3 for 1 haiku, \$5 for 3. Regulations: maximum 3 haiku per person. Eligibility: age 19 and over. Submissions: Please download form from website. Send by email (**submit@ukiahaiku.org**) or snail mail (P.O. Box 865, Ukiah, CA 95482). Deadline: March 15, 2008 (postmark or email date).

Judging: Internationally famous haiku poet Jane Reichhold will judge the Contemporary Haiku category.

Festival Date: Sunday April 27, 2 p.m.

News from Daichuji Zen Temple

Call for entries for the 10th (and final) Annual Suruga Baika Literary Festival

Submission: 3 unpublished haiku.

Additional haiku may be submitted but must be sent separately with required information and entry fee (if required).

Prizes will be awarded as follows.

Prize of Excellence- Baika Literary Prize

Senior Division (college age and up):

Two winners will receive the Baika Literary Prize Certificate, commemorative goods and copy of the published book containing all winning haiku...

Junior Division: Two prizes- same as above.

In addition, Awards of Merit will be given to ten people in each category.

Each person will receive a certificate of merit as well as memorial goods.

Deadline: By email - December 15, 2007 (Entry from only foreign countries)

Send by e-mail to:

baika@daichuji.com

More information at:

<http://www.daichuji.com/>

http://www4.tokai.or.jp/baika/baika/baika_e.html

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The Heron's Nest

Christopher Herold has decided to step down as Managing Editor of The Heron's Nest. However, the world haiku community will be delighted to hear that John Stevenson - currently the Editor of the Haiku Society of America's journal, Frogpond - has become the Managing Editor of The Heron's Nest.

The Heron's Nest website:

- haiku ireland – members

Bernadette Bohan (author of **The Choice**) will launch

SOUL JOURNEY

a book of poems on Love, Life and Nature

by **- haiku ireland – member** Marian Neary Burke

in The Lord Mayor's
Swords (Co. Dublin)

on Wednesday 28 November, 2007 (7pm)

All proceeds of sales to Mayo/Roscommon Hospice www.hospice.ie

And

- haiku ireland – member Maeve O'Sullivan will launch **- haiku ireland – member** Neville Keery's latest collection that includes haiku:

HOME (poems 1999-2006)

at Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown
Co. Dublin

Monday 10 December, 2007 (8pm)

HOME (poems 1999-2006) is published by Hinds Publishing (13 Carlisle Avenue, Dublin 4) and The Blackrock Society. Phone: +3226579865; email: Ross.Hinds@pandora.be

- haiku ireland - forum

- haiku ireland – has launched a Forum for its members to discuss and workshop haiku.

Although postings and registration are so far reserved to **- haiku ireland –** members only, the Forum may be viewed at:

<http://apps.haikuireland.org/Forum/TopicGroup/>

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sites related to - haiku ireland -

www.haikuspirit.org

Haiku Spirit is a bilingual site (English and French) managed by - **haiku ireland** - member **Gilles Fabre**, named in tribute to **Jim Norton**'s late Irish Journal of Haiku, containing selected haiku from the 20 issues of Haiku Spirit, a technical introduction to haiku (definitions, guidelines to write haiku, bibliography, e-workshop...).

www.haikuspirit.org also features hundreds of Japanese classic and contemporary haiku translated into English and French as well as contemporary Western haiku (in French and English). The site has a guest section for haiku submissions in English and French.

www.xaiku.com/

Xaiku is a site managed by - **haiku ireland** - member Norman Darlington (also editor of the Renku section of Simply Haiku website) that showcases haiku, haibun, renku and haiga as well as tanka.

to find your (haiku) way on the net

Visit **http://dmoz.org/Arts/Literature/Poetry/Forms/Haiku_and_Related_Forms/** for an Open Directory under the supervision of William Higginson and the links page managed by Mark Alan Osterhaus at **<http://my.execpc.com/~ohaus/haiklink.htm>** to find links to most existing sites of haiku poets, associations, publishers, journals, forums...

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report from WRITING FROM WITHIN

Maeve O'Sullivan reports on this event led by - **haiku ireland** - members Maeve O'Sullivan and Kim Richardson and mentioned in a previous newsletter.

This summer, Kim Richardson and I embarked on our second haiku-related adventure, with Sue Booth-Forbes of the Anam Chara Writers' and Artists' Retreat in Eyeries in West Cork: a weeklong residential workshop called "Writing from Within". The goal of the workshop was to introduce our nine brave participants to haiku and related forms, and, in parallel, to a range of meditation and awareness practices.



Co-leader Kim Richardson in pensive mood

We hoped that one strand would compliment the other, and together facilitate the creativity and spirituality of each participant. On our side also were the beauty of the Béara peninsula, the comfort of the venue and the hospitality of its host. As it happened, the weather also co-operated for most of the week, bucking the trend of the wettest Irish summer for years!

Our participants were from all walks of life, covering three nationalities and most age groups. The gender balance was a bit skewed in favour of the fairer sex, but such is the way of many writing workshops! Most of them had little experience of creative writing. From the first day, a spirit of co-operation infused the workshop. One of the participants, a professor of drama, described the whole group at the end of the week as an "ensemble", and I think she hit the nail on the head.

I led most of the "technical" writing sessions, introducing the participants to haiku & senryu, tanka, haiga, and renku. This was done with a mixture of pointers, classical and contemporary examples and references to relevant books and websites, plus hands-on exercises. Kim and I provided a temporary library there for the week with a wide range of haiku & related collections, anthologies, journals and essays. Kim led the sessions on haibun, Zen haiku and all of the meditation exercises. Some of these related specifically to the senses, some to concentration and some to the elements. All were designed to heighten awareness and open up (further) the creative channels.

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We got outside at least once a day, with exploration of the grass labyrinth in the grounds of Anam Chara on Sunday, and a walk to the local beach on Monday. Twelve tan-renga were produced on Tuesday, eleven in English and one in Irish (see below for examples). On Wednesday we had a daylong ginko around part of the peninsula, led by Kim, which took in Kilcatherine Graveyard, the rock said to represent the Hag of Béara, and a local Ogham Stone. This inspired many haiku, which we included in a kukai/workshop the following day. Several photos were taken, there were also a few paintings (later converted into haiga) and there is still at least one haibun in the works!

On the last day we attempted a twelve-verse renku, led by myself. We wanted to draw together various strands of the week's tuition including haiku, tanka and other imaginative creative impulses. It wasn't an easy process, but we stuck at it and produced a linked verse which we called "The Labyrinth's Core". We were happy with it ourselves, and have had our own instincts affirmed by renku expert (and Haiku Ireland member) Norman Darlington, who has asked to publish it in the winter edition of the prestigious Simply Haiku website, of which he is renku editor.

On Friday evening we shared some of our work from the week with Sue and each other. We also had a few songs and tunes, a nice way to round off a wonderful week. The feedback from the group was very positive overall, and we hope to run "Writing from Within" again at Anam Chara next summer, subject to demand!

Maeve O'Sullivan



*A sample of the landscape the participants enjoyed
during their search for haiku*

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Tan-renga (tanka written by two people), produced during the workshop.

The exercise was for participants to pass - to the person on their right - a haiku that they'd written (mostly on the day before), and for everyone to respond to the haiku they received with a two-liner, thus producing a tan-renga, or tanka produced by two people.

With the participation of Carmel Heaney (Ire.), Nora Hussey (Ire./US), Rosemary Kemsley (UK), Mary Lee (Ire.), Michael McLoughlin (UK), Hazel Newman (Ire.), Bríd Ní Mhóráin (Ire.), Sharon O'Sullivan (Ire.), Kim Richardson (UK) and Judith Tobin (US), and Maeve O'Sullivan (Ire.) as session leader.

warm pebbles underfoot
evening light on waves
caressing the shoreline

soon the tide will turn
and morning's chill endure

(Sharon & Michael)

rusted rear axles
sunbathing in the sandhills
have come to a halt

within view of the ocean
daydreaming of saltwater

(Michael & Bríd)

hammer and wave sounds
blown by the wind
in silent interludes

how peaceful it is to walk
on this isolated beach

(Mary & Maeve)

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family photo-shoot
the Bronx ex-cop
shaves his father's face

I cannot recall seeing
my own father unshaven.

(Maeve & Kim)

tourists
crowding the streets
- summer rain

they long to dance here again
August slips a sure swift kick

(Kim & Nora)

raw dank sea odour
no waves wash clean this grey strand
only refuse here

is it too many people
or not enough thoughtfulness?

(Nora & Judith)

compassionless tides
cast seaweed garlands
on slowly drowning rocks

dignified seagulls walk outwards
collecting evening meal

(Judith & Hazel)

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warm sun-dried seaweed
many organisms
nourishing new earth

even the rocks are rotting
as I await the tide's turn

(Hazel & Rosemary)

strollers accompany their shadows
down a white lane
hot to the sea

sea embraces shadow
stings icily hot skin

(Rosemary & Carmel)

pink & white hedgerows
montbretia brashly orange
flames towards autumn

us together yet alone
colour fading

(Carmel & Sharon)



Participants on their way to haiku...

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haiku event

Initially planned for November 2007, this event has been postponed to mid-February 2008 (15-16-17) due to a busy schedule.

HAIKU SPIRIT WEEKEND

in association with - haiku ireland -

A special **HAIKU SPIRIT WEEKEND** is to be organised in association with **- haiku ireland -** next February 15-17, in Duleek, near Dublin, in a superb location: **Annesbrook House**.



About the Weekend

This weekend is dedicated to haiku (and related forms) and will offer participants various activities to learn more about haiku and opportunities to discuss share, appreciate and enjoy the Way of Haiku in a peaceful and comfortable setting and in a friendly and organised atmosphere. Activities will include workshops, ginko, kukai, group discussions...

The venue will be fully dedicated to the programme and will also host a Haiku Library with plenty of international haiku books and journals, for the duration of the weekend.

The weekend package includes:

- All workshops and activities
- 2 full board nights' accommodation on a sharing basis (please note there are double rooms and rooms for 3 to 4 persons)
- 6 Organic meals to be served:
 - o 2 breakfasts
 - o 2 lunches
 - o 2 dinners
- Free tea/green tea/coffee
- There will be the possibility to buy wine for dinner, and hot whiskies and/or Irish coffees for dinner/evening activities.

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Weekend Fee

The package price for the weekend is [€220/€210 for **haiku ireland** - members].

A non refundable deposit of €50 per person will be required when the weekend is confirmed.

Due to limited availability, please book as soon as possible. Send an email to **gilles.fabre@irb.com** to receive the booking form or for more information.

Although priority will be given to persons staying 2 nights, a 1 night package including Saturday morning workshops up to Sunday afternoon activities (2 lunches, 1 breakfast and 1 dinner) may be arranged.

About the Venue

Annesbrook's foundations were set in the 1600's and it has grown through the 18th and 19th Centuries most notably when the Gothic dining room was added for the Prince Regent (later George IV).

Annesbrook is set in the Boyne Valley in the heart of archaeological Meath only 7 minutes from world-famous and historical Newgrange and less than half an hour from the Hill of Tara, Monasterboice, Trim Castle, Kells and important archaeological sites.



The 19th Century 2 acre walled garden provides most of the organic vegetable and fruit produce served for the meals at Annesbrook. The Orchard also dates from the 19th Century and contains many old varieties of apple including 'Blood of the Boyne' which until very recently was thought to be extinct.



To know more about Annesbrook, visit the site at: **www.annesbrook.com**

Transport

Car: 40 minutes away from Dublin city centre

Train: 10 minutes from Drogheda train station (Taxi: app. €10)

Bus: Bus 103, departure from Berefords Place, Dublin 1; stop at Annes Brook Gate.

Plane: 30 minutes from Dublin airport. Taxi from Dublin airport: app. €30.

For More Information

Do not hesitate to contact me to receive the activities schedule and any other information.

Hope to see you there to enjoy and share the Way of Haiku together!

Gilles Fabre
Editor of Haiku Spirit Site
www.haikuspirits.org

Member of **haiku ireland** -
www.haikuireland.org

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special guest

ion codrescu

ION CODRESCU was born in Cobadin, Romania, in 1951. Ion graduated in the Fine Arts Academy of Bucharest and teaches art and history of art in Nicolae Tonitza School in Constantza while - through his art lessons - teaching haiku poetry and haiga painting to his students.

Ion only started publishing in 1992. He has had poems, essays and articles published in 19 countries (Romania, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Croatia, Slovenia, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Colombia, Sweden and Bulgaria) and 13 languages.

In 1992 he founded the Constantza Haiku Society – Romania, ALBATROSS international haiku journal, the Constantza International Haiku Festival, and Constantza National Haiku Conference. In 2004 he has founded the international haiku journal HERMITAGE where he publishes haiku, senryu, haibun, renku, tanka, interviews, rengay, book reviews, haiga and news from the international haiku communities.

On November 2004 Ion Codrescu started a Philosophy Degree in Visual Arts at National University of Arts in Bucharest – Romania, with the theme IMAGE AND TEXT IN HAIGA (the painting which illustrates the Japanese haiku poem).

Ion Codrescu is a member of the Romanian Writers' Association, Haiku Society of America, Haiku International Association, Renku Association of Japan, Haiku Association of France, Accademia Internazionale "Greci-Marino", Accademia del Verbano, di Lettere, Arti, Science – Italy, World Haiku Association – the USA, and World Haiku Club – Great Britain.

He has been invited to deliver papers on HAIKU and HAIGA, to lead haiku and renku workshops, to read his poems, or to make exhibitions with his ink drawings inspired by the Japanese poetry, paintings and haiga in many countries (Romania, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Great Britain, the USA, Finland, Slovenia, Japan, Ireland and Spain). His paintings are in private art collections and state museums from different countries (The GUNMA PREFECTURAL MUSEUM OF LITERATURE - JAPAN).

He has published prefaces for books, essays and articles on the Japanese haiku poetry and haiga painting in different journals from Romania, Japan, the USA, Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland and France.

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bibliography

1. DRAWINGS AMONG HAIKU, Muntenia Press, 1992 (Romania)
2. CONSTANTZA HAIKU ANTHOLOGY, Muntenia Press, 1992 (Romania)
3. L'ABRICOTIER CHANGE DE VISAGE (APRICOT TREE CHANGES ITS SILHOUETTE), Voix d'Encre Press, 1994 (France)
4. ROUND THE POND – AN ANTHOLOGY, Muntenia Press, 1994 (Romania)
5. UNSOLD FLOWERS, Hub Editions, 1995 (Great Britain)
6. A FOREIGN GUEST, Ex Ponto Press, 1999 (Romania)
7. MOUNTAIN VOICES, Ami-Net International Press, 2000 (Great Britain)
8. KAPLJICE ROSE (DEWDROPS), Apokalipsa Press, 2000 (Slovenia)
9. HAIKU-HAIGA. CREATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS, Ex Ponto Press, 2004 (Romania).

links

Some of his HAIKU poems and his HAIGA paintings are displayed on the following websites:

nc-haiku.org/galleries/codrescu/gallery2_0.htm

www.tempslibres.org/sites/ion/en/ionpage.html

www.poetrylives.com/SimplyHaiku/SHv2n1/ioncodrescu/

www.worldhaikureview.org/3-2/whf2003_codrescu.shtml

www.worldhaikureview.org/1-3/whcessay_codrescu1.shtml

<http://luciasotirova.hit.bg/index6-6.html>

3 questions

When and how did you discover and start writing haiku?

I discovered the haiku poetry in 1974 in a bookshop. I start writing haiku later.

What is haiku for you?

A haiku is my response in a form of a tiny poem - with direct images - to the world which never ceases to amaze me by its glimpses of fragility in eternity, by its moments of mystery, beauty, and diversity. Haiku changed my life and I can not live without this poem. Haiku is a way of watching, painting, listening to all the sounds of the nature.

How do you see haiku's place or role in the world?

For me, the haiku poetry becomes a necessity to balance this pragmatic world full of violence, noise, stereotypes and globalization.

haiku

haiku by ion codrescu

forsythia –
the whiteness
of my childhood home

the tall window
of the ruined church...
the glory of lichens

the steam
from the lake and...
the silent garden

the taste
of this morning tea
by the frosty window

the smell of the earth
after melting snow –
evening star

abandoned village –
the frost emphasizes
the acacia branches

alone on the beach
a distant seagull
zigzags the void

morning walk –
a bird pecks
at the frozen twig

vacation day –
silent landscapes
through my binoculars

For today
nothing in my diary -
silent birds on the roof

midsummer sky –
on the mountain pond
a sinking paper boat

Empty sky -
the sound of an icicle
falling on snow

haiku

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wet bamboo
fresh green leaves
sharply pointed
sixty years

Jim Norton
(on his 60th birthday)

kukai #7 June 2007

Winners

winter night
firelight draws in
the walls

Ernst Berry

last breath
cancer closes her life
june dawn breaks

Bernie O'Reilly

hey slug,
the path has dried
of all but your trail!

Harry Bradley

Second Place

Standing on one leg
in the flats' playing ground
this proud grey heron

Gilles Fabre

afternoon walk
after swathes of bog cotton -
a lone foxglove

Maeve O'Sullivan

A town memorial
set among the squares of rice
the silence of stone

Dermot O'Brien

haiku

Denting the blue sky
the white walls
of the crematorium

Gilles Fabre

This time of the year again ~
pine nuts fall
and I eat them

Gilles Fabre

A turn in the wood --
And a spread of bluebells
Stops me in my tracks.

Carmel Heaney

rustling on the roof
leaves of a drought year
in the rain gutter

Thomas Heffernan

36.

cold funeral raindrops dancing along
mahogany

Ernst Berry

kukai #8
October 2007

Winner

Third Place

A poppy and a
mimosa seed
as neighbours.

Neville Keery

fallen leaf
caught up in a branch
all winter

Kim Richardson

Second Place

beneath the lamp
i wait for his shadow
to enter the street

Bernie O'Reilly

trying to still my mind
this autumn gale

Kim Richardson

stalking a blossom
the kitten sniffs
buddha

Harry Bradley

mental hospital
a no entry sign
blocks the exit

Ernst Berry

haiku

Third Place

Gilles Fabre

Early morning mist
blankets the peaceful river-
a heron rises

Hazel Newman

spring rain
we hurry inside
each other

Ernst Berry

childhood home
my overgrown
jungle gym

Ernst Berry

In an oak grove
Scratchings on a rock--
An ancient refuge

Carmel Heaney

Near the pond
a gun that has killed a deer
is being cleaned

Gilles Fabre

Under a few stars
we decide to bivouac
on the border

The following haiku have also received points:

old woman stooping
for a cherry blossom
on the city sidewalk

Marian Burke

grecian urn
she blows away
the centuries

Ernst Berry

heatwave
she licks the cone
counterclockwise

Roberta Beary

car doors slam
goodbyes drift
up the tree-house

Roberta Beary

temporarily
off-duty, the conductor
swaying to a jig

Maeve O'Sullivan

haiku

other haiku

any which way
the water is waiting
throw a stone.....

Domo-domo!

from the midden heap
after heavy rain
white flowers

Tony Lewis-Jones

at the lad's graveside
a beachball
with his breath in it

her first outing
young widow sits on a park bench
two katydids mate

is it love
the tune on an old violin
or is it lack of

the heartbeat
of a Purple Martin
clutched between my palms

Lee Ann Stanford

Memorial Day
the smell of the rain
on the cement

Clyde Glandon

at the funeral
we stand unbelieving
the cloudless sky

from the eiderdown
the cat's half open eyes -
I go to work

dawn song -
blackbird
hops from the mist

John Hawkhead

cottage hospital
another window
broken

last summer
dried
in vases

Helen Buckingham

mountains in the mist
you can hardly see them but
the crows know they're there

Sam yada Cannarozzi

— haiku ireland —

n e w s l e t t e r

haiku workshop

The main objective of this new section is to share some of the comments and feedback expressed by – **haiku ireland** – members on haiku submitted for our regular Kukai activities (only open to members) and for our newsletter (open to all).

Names of the authors are not mentioned. You may contact us at **info@haikuireland.org** for any comment or contribution.

The criteria are in line with generally accepted international guidelines as set out in – **haiku ireland** – Mission Statement. You may also visit the technical introduction to haiku at **www.haikuspirit.org** for definitions, guidelines and theory.

The process of “workshopping” and discussing haiku is an integral and vital part of – **haiku ireland** – meetings and for the practice of haiku.

comment and feedback

I have chosen 2 haiku from the last kukai the results of which can be seen above, page 19.

Submission 1 (S1)

White cottages peeping
behind pampas grasses
train speeds along its track

Submission 2 (S2)

old woman stooping
for a cherry blossom
on the city sidewalk

Common comment:

Both haiku may be compared or are slightly similar in their construction (no punctuation) and the fact the “effect/impact” of the third line lies in a contradiction/opposition (no movement-fast train and nature-city)...

Sometimes it is easy to say (declare) this is not a haiku (if there is no moment, if it's a thought but not an actual event...) and sometimes it is difficult to say if it's a good haiku or not. This is my reaction when reading these 2.

For me they have the characteristics of haiku (a definitive moment, an rather objective description, the author's distance...) but are for some reason lacking of something.

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Submission 1 (S1)

For S1, some may criticise the use of “peeping” but I don’t mind this too much. Technically, it would be worth looking at the requirement (or not) to keep “grasses”; I would need to check but I have the feeling “pampas” mean grasses.

Maybe line 3 is too long for the information it gives. Is “along its tracks” necessary? I grew up near some tracks and I’ve never seen trains running “outside” their tracks.

When writing a haiku, because it has to be short and concise, each word (and punctuation, as the case may be) **MUST** be thought through and assessed. It must have enough semantics but not too much. Repetition is possible in a haiku but it must be “planned and intentional”; the word/idea repeated must bring something else (as opposed to the first instance).

So for S1, it may be worth considering a direction like:

White cottages
behind pampas ~
a train, speeding through

Line 3 above is only a start... Line 2 could be “in the pampas”... To be explored.
Objective: to express this delicate description of white cottages in the pampas “disturbed” by the speed/noise of a train...

Submission 2 (S2)

old woman stooping
for a cherry blossom
on the city sidewalk

Although haiku is short, its syntax and/or construction must be precise and purposeful. This haiku is a bit “rough/uncut”. Why not go in direction like:
This old woman,
stooping for a cherry blossom
on the city sidewalk

Again, would “sidewalk” signify “city” for most readers? Or pavement? The choice of a word sometimes simplifies and heightens the reader’s perception. Also, the author would have to consider whether “cherry” is required.
This old woman,
stooping for a [cherry] blossom
on the sidewalk/pavement

The last issue is “sidewalk/pavement”. How to link it to “blossom”? In this example, we have a (slight) enjambment. Any enjambment must be carefully examined as it can sometimes appear “cumbersome” and may weaken the general quality/reading of the haiku. Is pavement necessary (but it would be a different haiku (2 lines) stooping for a city [cherry] blossom/this old woman To be explored...

call for your feedback

Do not hesitate to send your feedback, comments and suggestions for publication in the next issue on any of the above haiku.

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n e w s l e t t e r

forthcoming events

- haiku ireland - meetings

- **haiku ireland** - hosts a gathering (meeting/workshop) open to all in Dublin.

Next Meetings:

Saturday 1 December, 2007

Time: 2.30-4.30pm

Venue: Silk Road Café, Chester Beatty Library (Dublin Castle, Dublin 2)

Please check our **Notice Board** at www.haikuireland.org for confirmation of date and venue prior to each meeting or contact us at info@haikuireland.org

book launches

See page 6 for the launch of poetry collections by - **haiku ireland** – members Marian Neary Burke (**SOUL JOURNEY**) and Neville Keery (**HOME**).

haiku spirit weekend in association with – haiku ireland -

HAIKU SPIRIT WEEKEND

in association with - haiku ireland -

is to be organised next February 15-17, in Duleek, near Dublin, Ireland.

See page 11 for more detailed information.

thanks

- **haiku ireland** - wishes to thank the Chester Beatty Library, the Silk Road Café and their friendly staff for their assistance in hosting our meetings.