

STILLED WIND

a collection of haiku, a few senryu

by

Geraldine Clinton Little



STILLED WIND

A COLLECTION OF HAIKU, A FEW SENRYU



GERALDINE CLINTON LITTLE

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This book is for my family

ON SEEING AN EXHIBITION OF THE 18th
CENTURY PRINTS OF SUZUKI HARUNOBU

Heavy with snow - the
pine of a thousand ages
and the bamboo shoots

One ancient lantern
and the bright netted fireflies
by the crystal lake

Picked by the moon's light -
these late chrysanthemums for
a lover's lady

Under the plum tree
two glittering butterflies
and the watching cat

The swarming cities
under
this lifted rock!

Honorable Mention
Bi-Monthly Contest
Haiku Highlights, Vol. 8A No. 6

Between the lake
and the rising mist
a band of clear air.

from the one crack
 in the old horse trough
 a trickle of thyme

The robin carries
a single strand of hair -
its slim shadow.

A cow
 nuzzling daisies
 drops her dung

The fat priest
 picks his teeth after
a Saint's feast.

the shadow
of a single buttercup
reshaped by wind

within the wind's whine
the ring
of mushrooms

Monkey Island:
the oldest inhabitant
scratches his head

February frog
clearing its throat into
Spring

Haiku 76: Washington Poets Assn.
Contest winner

Stretching my neck
to see the giraffe
s t r e t c h i n g its neck

Honorable Mention
Modern Haiku, Vol. 3 No. 2

slithering
out of itself -
snake

Slabbed on ice
the salmon's glazed eye reflects
the Country Club set.

Spring's first ladybug,
small child's first "Ladybug,
Ladybug, fly . . ."

all those daffodils
on the creek bank yellowing
the frog's eyes

through deer bones
grass thrusting, shading
three warm eggs

stilled wind -
the louder silence
of wind chimes

Sun
across the page
shadow of a bird

Early communion:
a single white rose catches
the candle's shadow.

The white spider
whiter still
in the lightning's flash

1st place, Quarterly Awards
Dragonfly, Vol. 1 No. 4

Right through the web
the red
of the rose

listening
to the tattered web's
stillness

2nd place, Quarterly Awards
Dragonfly, Vol. 2 No. 4

Summer evening:
The hum of mosquitoes,
The Milky Way.

June evening:
Suddenly the night-blooming
Cereus - so white!

Summer day -
the crickets' cadence
closing it

firefly
lighting the night
with cold

Fallen horse -
flies hovering
in the vulture's shadow

First published in Haiku, Vol. 5 No. 2
Reprinted in the haiku anthology
Doubleday & Co. 1974

in the bird bath
catbird moving
the blazing sun

2nd place, Bi-Monthly Awards,
Dragonfly, Vol. 3 No. 1

shelling peas -
the pleasant plop
into a blue bowl

In this old milkcan
echoes of horse-drawn carts
and cobblestones.

a flock of finches
into fog - out of it
their golden song

Special Mention
Modern Haiku, Vol. 3 No. 1

Wind in the woods;
Among the broken bottles
the hepatica

THE THEATRICAL WORLD OF OSAKA PRINTS:
PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

Utaemon III:
Pottery repairer, poet,
playwright, actor . . .

Actor's table -
porcelain make-up bowl, brush
inlaid with sparrow.

Prop man in black,
the no color,
brings a paper butterfly.

Old tale; She
following her lover
following a princess.
Pale clouds . . .

Hot night
his hand on her stomach -
the gentle kicks . . .

on the fence
old cat crying for love, too -
cold summer moon

The brimming stillness
before the wave
breaks . . .

out of the fog
only the leap and fall
of a fish

1st place, Quarterly Awards
Dragonfly, Vol. 4 No. 1

He hears the seagulls
with his eyes, old deaf sailor
windswept on the wharf.

falling
down the wind
bird song

On the barn ridge
a mocking bird bettering
my scales

Dead dragonfly
caught in the crook of a stream,
shifting currents.

Western World Haiku Society
1975 Contest Winner
Dragonfly

The millwheel moves
sun through its revolution -
and one dead fish

Tourists gone,
the old creek continues
over Coke cans

First frost:
in the root cellar a mouse
warms up his teeth

Iced field -
only the shadow
of an owl's screech

Mountaintop cabin -
a candlelit pumpkin
no one comes to . . .

Autumn moon
tumbling into the old well -
but that plopping sound . . .

Burning fruitwood -
a whole scented summer
going up in smoke

The chrysanthemum
has dropped all its petals;
dust on the table.

A SEQUENCE OF HOURS

Matins:

Harsh wind howling;
an owl hooting its own kind
of morning song

Lauds:

Flock of song sparrows
spying the full feeder:
The paean-packed air!

Prime:

Milkman trudging
through snow and the clangor
of schoolbells.

Terce:

Second coffee break:
I watching the cat watching
the twig-tapped window.

Sext:

Small boy tumbling
in for lunch; the cat pawing
a pool from his boots

None:

Child chasing
his sleet-streaked drawing
across the field.

Vespers:

Storm subsiding:
A brief glimpse of the sun
over silence.

Compline:

Sitting in snow
under the empty feeder,
the moon-circled cat.

Winner: Purely Personal Award,
Modern Haiku, Vol. 4 No. 2

Under a late snow
all yesterday's footprints -
ah, the New Year.

Haiku 75: Washington Poets Assn.
Contest winner

First day of the year:
within the pine tree's shadow,
a rusted sandpail.

Reprinted from Minutes of
The Haiku Society of America meeting
9/16/76

Leaning in the wind -
iced twigs
and a lone hawk

our winter love
Great-Grandmother's bed
scent of musk

Runner-up, Orchid Award,
Haiku, Vol. 5 No. 3

In a junk pile
wrapped only in frost,
a fetus

3rd place,
ELM HAIKU CONTEST, 1976
Jean's Journal

Dark winter morning;
splayed against the skylight
a dead mouse.

Now ice covered
trapping a hundred moons -
paperwasp's hive

Hole . . . body . . .
The silence of water
moving under ice

Bleak winter morning -
sound of grappling equipment
over the iced lake

Western World Haiku Society
Contest Winner, 1975 (Dragonfly)

The old monk
gives the infant last rites -
at dusk, the first star . . .

Winner, Jean's Journal ELM
Haiku Contest, 1975

bare branch shadows
move over the hobby horse -
moon in the attic

Western World Haiku Society
Contest Winner, 1975 (Dragonfly)

to the fingertips
the shiver
of an owl's screech

after Bach
the bare beauty
of a winter branch

Winner, Jean's Journal ELM
Haiku Contest, 1975

Knowing it is there,
the snow-erased mountain -
old kettle singing.

A dying man
 looking at stars -
 and looking and looking . . .

1st place, ELM HAIKU CONTEST, 1976
Jean's Journal

GERALDINE CLINTON LITTLE

Born in Ireland. Adjunct Professor English & Literature, Burlington County College, B. A. Goddard College, M.A.T. Trenton State College, married, 3 sons.

Publications include *Prairie Schooner*, *Weid*, *Stone Country*, *Small Pond*, *Bitterroot*, *Poet Lore*, *Jack & Jill*, *The Writer*, *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *College English*, *Sisters Today*, *Poet & Critic*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Encore*, *Journal of N. J. Poets*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Voices International*, all current English-language haiku publications, etc.

Winner numerous awards, including the Alfred Kreymborg Memorial Award, 1977, from The Poetry Society of America, and the \$500.00 Grand Prize from the National Federation of State Poetry Societies, Inc.

Gives poetry readings, conducts workshops, teaches Creative Writing. Has published short stories, articles & literary criticism.







