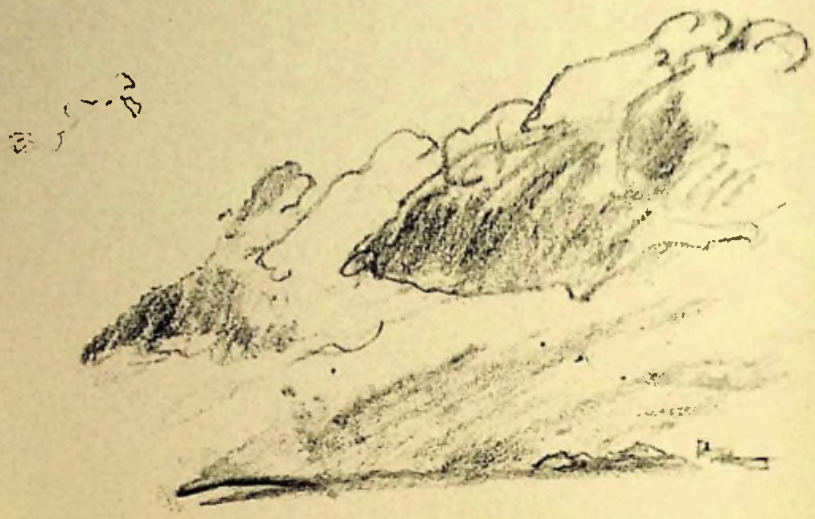
Gathering light

an international haiku anthology

EDITED BY LEROY GORMAN

THE HERB BARRETT AWARD

Gathering Light



thunderheads gather
the wind holds its breath
in a field of grain

Herb Barrett

Gathering Light

an international haiku anthology

the winning poems of
The Herb Barrett Award, 1996

edited by LeRoy Gorman

hamilton haiku press

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Jeffrey Witkin

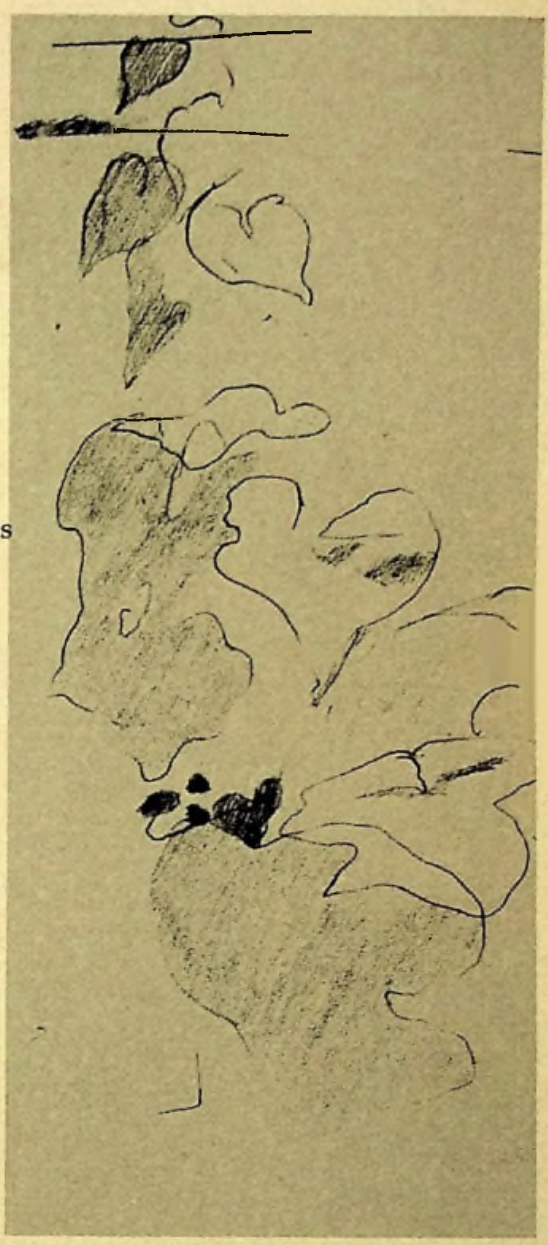
FIRST PRIZE

gathering light . . .
  one swell of the sea
becomes another

the garden gate

that darkness takes

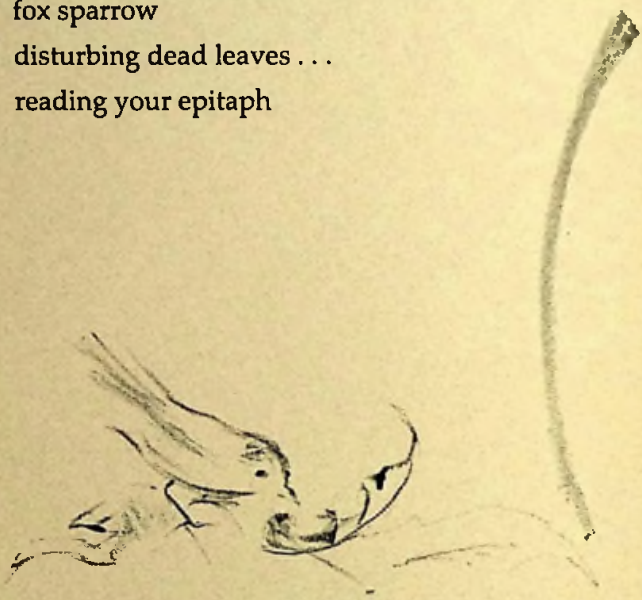
taken by the vine



Brian David Johnston

SECOND PRIZE

fox sparrow
disturbing dead leaves . . .
reading your epitaph



in your room
still warm . . .
the sleeveless dress

autumn loneliness
the toad and i
at your grave

Winter night
I follow my shadow home . . .
Wrong house

in the alley
under a blanket of news
the wino

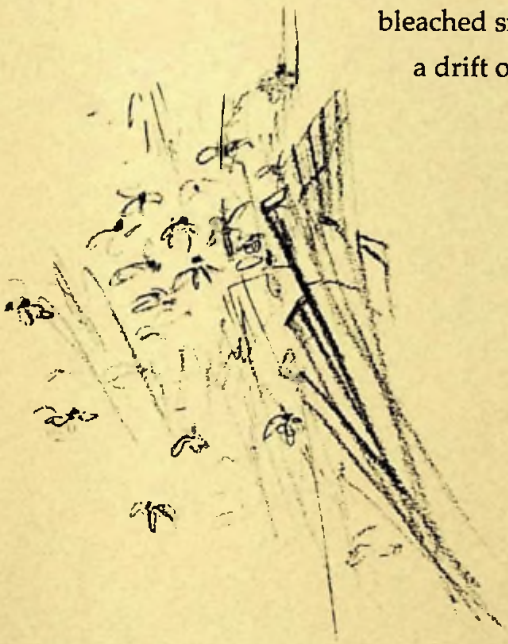
Mary Partridge

THIRD PRIZE

Two miners still trapped
we wait through another
commercial break

Autumn sun rising
waves of sandpipers shadow
the outgoing tide

August afternoon
bleached snowfencing leans into
a drift of daisies



Margaret Saunders

HONOURABLE MENTION

step by step
from the river's roar
the river's hush

Morning beach . . .
all the footprints
ploughed under

Becky D. Alexander

A midnight zephyr
ruffles the hair on my neck.
I shiver alone.

Winona Baker

another speech —
wild flowers
on the CEO's table

the old dog
chained in the back yard
barks coldly

falling snow —
white envelopes drop
through the mail slot

Marijan Čekolj

The first autumnal
rain. Murmur of waterfall
is getting louder . . .

Storm rain:
an ant sails a petal
of wild chestnut.

Sandra Fuhringer

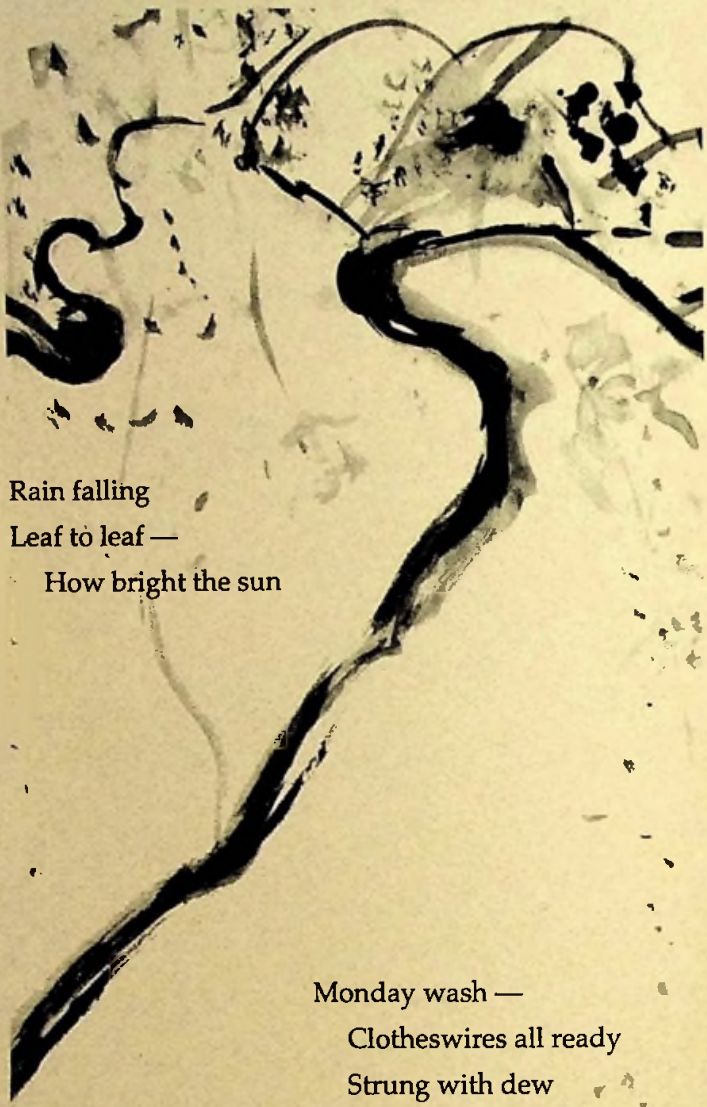
outside the resthome
slow sweep of leaves
into a corner

winter solstice
the waterfall frozen
in mid-air

Ann Goldring

Moon —
Slipped pearl
From the necklace of God

Into the pond
A red falling leaf —
Circles
and circles



Rain falling
Leaf to leaf —
How bright the sun

Monday wash —
Clotheswires all ready
Strung with dew

Philomene Kocher

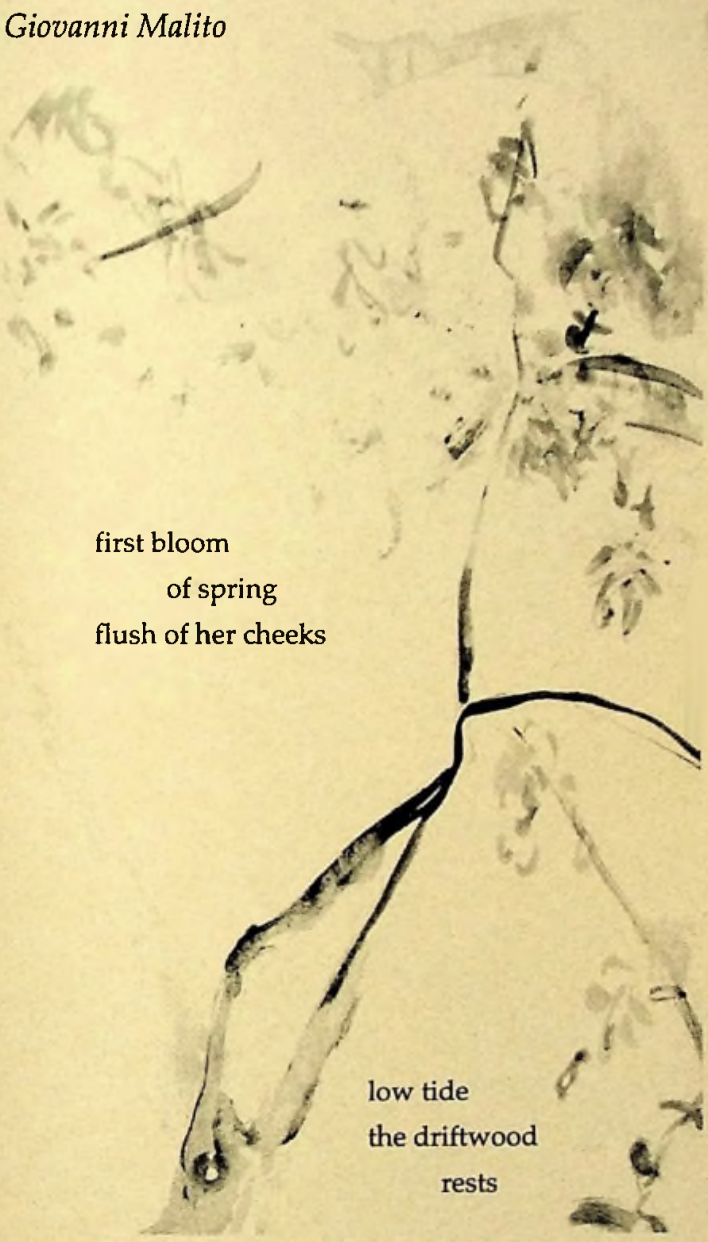
the leaf floats
away
from the tree's reflection

wool-scented fog
climbs through
the rail fence

Robert Kusch

tall as his shack
the hermit's woodpile
— late October wind

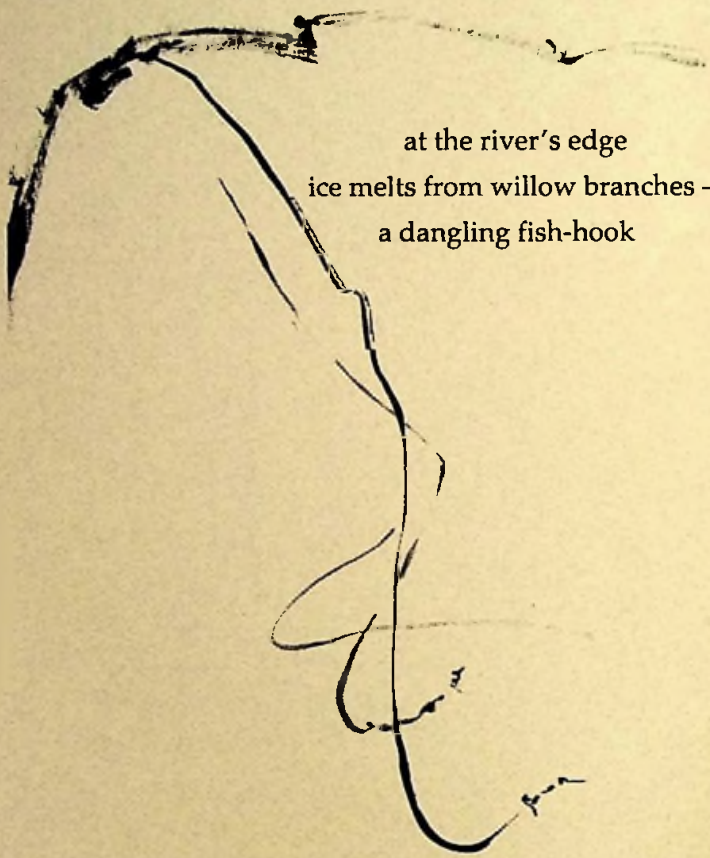
Giovanni Malito



first bloom
of spring
flush of her cheeks

low tide
the driftwood
rests

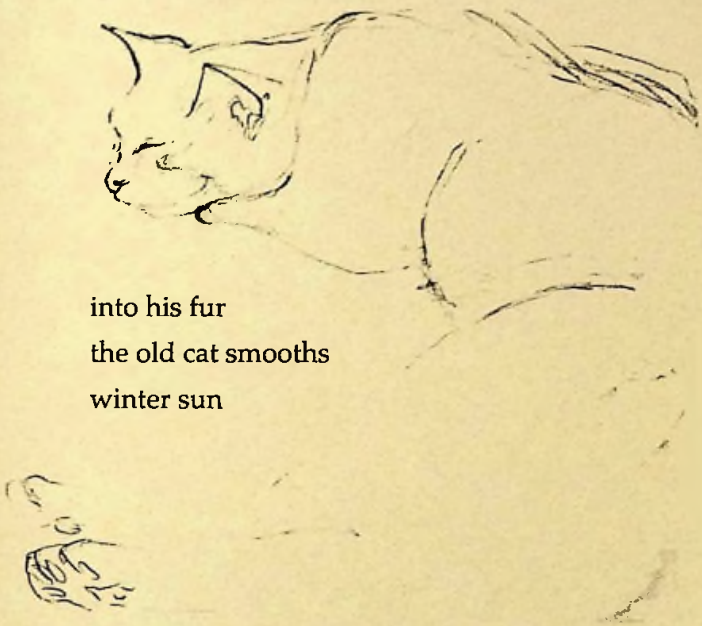
Timothy Russell



at the river's edge
ice melts from willow branches —
a dangling fish-hook

clear morning —
vented steam at #1 gate
falling as snow

Jeff Seffinga



into his fur
the old cat smooths
winter sun

Elizabeth St Jacques

two-year-old
busy in thick grass . . .
smaller things

Anna Vakar

This illness . . .
I rub the table top
with lemon oil

Frances Ward-Marciniak

herons back too soon
blue grey against grey blue
days without shadows

Elizabeth Warren

in the lush garden
a wasp and I
negotiate over a drink

The Poets

Jeffrey Witkin (first prize) lives in Rockville, Maryland. He has published poems in a number of national and international journals and had received awards for haiku, tanka, and linked verse forms. His first book of haiku and related poems, *the duck's wake* (1996) is available for $4 ppd. at 915 Grandin Ave., Rockville, MD 20851 USA. *Beyond Where the Snow Falls* will be published by Tiny Poems Press in 1997. During the day, Dr. Witkin works in drug discovery for psychiatric disorders at the National Institutes of Health. All times of the day, he tries to live the words of Seymour Glass, "...that all we do our whole lives is go from one little piece of Holy Ground to the next."

Brian David Johnston (second prize) lives in Cambridge, Ontario. He is editor of Sober Minute Press, which he founded in 1988 with the late Shaunt Basmajian. His concrete poetry and collages have been exhibited in a number of art galleries in Ontario. His haiku have appeared in a number of Japanese and North American journals. "I entered this context," said Johnston, "because Mr. Barrett was of great encouragement to me when I first began writing poetry and didn't know what the haiku I was doing."

Mary Partridge (third prize) was a member of the original Hamilton Haiku Workshop led by Herb Barrett. Her haiku have been widely published and have won several prizes. Mary also writes other types of poetry, short fiction, and articles. She now makes her home in Elliot Lake, Ontario, where she writes, paints, and enjoys life. She is a contributor to *A Cliff Runs Through It*.

Margaret Saunders (honourable mention) lives in Hamilton and is a member of Haiku Canada. Her haiku have been published in many magazines and anthologies. Her haiku chapbooks include *Snapdragons* and *A Flock of Blackbirds*.

Becky D. Alexander lives in Preston, Ontario (near Cambridge). She writes short stories, children's stories, and poetry. Becky won second place in the Dorothy Shoemaker Contest (1991) and was a runner-up in the 1995 Stephen Leacock International Poetry Contest.

Winona Baker is the author of four poetry collections: *Beyond the Lighthouse, Moss-Hung Trees, Not So Scarlet a Woman*, and *Clouds Empty Themselves*. Widely published internationally, she was the 1989 winner of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Prize in the Basho contest, and has received a Societatea Romana de Haiku medallion and a Croatian Haiku Association award.

Marijan Čekolj lives in Samobor, Croatia (near Zagreb) and edits *Sparrow*.

Sandra Fuhringer lives in Hamilton with her husband and son. She credits haiku for sustaining her creative abilities through seven years of dialysis.

Widely published in Japan, Europe, and North America, she has served as president of Haiku Canada and associate editor of *Inkstone* (1982–1984).

Ann Goldring lives in rural Stouffville, Ontario, with her husband, three-plus-three oft-returning grown children, a dog, and a cat. A retired teacher, when she isn't at her desk, she is walking in the woods with Toby, alert to haiku moments, porcupine, and slow-moving skunk. *Soapbox Derby,* her first novel for young adults, is forthcoming.

Philomene Kocher lives in Kingston, Ontario and works with the Better Beginnings, Better Futures Research Project at Queen's University. Her rural roots and the beauty of the Kingston area provide much inspiration.

Robert Kusch lives in New Brunswick, New Jersey. His poetry has been published in a number of American journals. "Tall as his shack" brings forward a moment that occurred on Prince Edward Island several years ago.

Giovanni (John) Malito is a Canadian of Italian descent now living in Ireland, where he teaches college chemistry and edits *The Brobdingnagian Times,* a literary broadsheet. His haiku have appeared in many Japanese and North American periodicals.

Timothy Russell lives in Toronto, Ohio, where he is a boiler repairman in a steel mill. His work appears in many haiku journals.

Jeff Seffinga was born in the Netherlands and has lived for some years in Hamilton, where he works in a hospital. His collections include *Lunatic Hands, Three Crows Flying, Tight Shorts,* and *Bailey's Mill.* He is a contributor to *Ingots,* and a winner of the Short Grain Award.

Elizabeth St Jacques lives in Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario. She is the author of eight books, including *Around the Tree of Light,* the first collection of English-language sijo published in North America. Her 1995 haiku collection, *A Dance of Light,* won the Merit Book Award (Haiku Society of America) and the Albatross Award (Romania). She is associate editor of *Sijo West,* poetry editor of *Canadian Writer's Journal,* and contributing editor of *Small Press Review.*

Anna Vakar lives in Oliver, in British Columbia's Okanagan Valley. She has contributed haiku reviews and articles to major North American haiku magazines since 1977, and has had haiku published in Japan.

Frances Ward-Marciniak was born in England and moved to Hamilton as a child. Her paintings have been exhibited across southern Ontario. Her poetry has recently appeared in *Top 40* (1995) and *Ingots.*

Elizabeth Warren lives in Owen Sound, Ontario. A product of the Humber School for Writers, she has had short stories and poetry published in journals and anthologies throughout North America, the U.K., and Japan.

The Judges

LeRoy Gorman lives in Napanee, Ontario, where he edits *Haiku Canada Newsletter*.

Dorothy Howard lives Aylmer, Quebec, where she edits RAW NerVZ and runs proof press.

Jane Reichhold lives in Gualala, California, where she edits *Mirrors—In the Spirit of Haiku* and publishes AHA Books.

Herb Barrett

Herb Barrett (1912–1995) was for many years an important presence in the Hamilton poetry scene: a poet, painter, editor, founder of the Hamilton branch of the Canadian Poetry Association, and a generous mentor to beginning poets. He was a fine practitioner of haiku and related forms.

Herb began publishing poetry in *The Hamilton Spectator* while still in his teens. His books include *Turning Point* (1976), *A Shadow in the Wind* (1983), and *The Light Between* (1992). He was a contributor to *17 Hamilton Poets* (Image Publishing, 1987). A posthumous selection of his work appeared in *A Cliff Runs Through It* (Mekler & Deahl, 1996). For many years he edited and published *Origins,* a poetry quarterly begun in 1967. From 1983 to 1994 he edited the annual *Tidepool*.

Herb's poetry won many awards, including the Alberta Scouten Memorial Award (1962), first prize (1986) and second prize (1983) from the Haiku Poetry Society of Japan, first prize in the Penumbral Poetry Competition (1991), and the Hamilton Arts Award (1988).

Other poetry titles by hamilton haiku press, Unfinished Monument Press, and Mekler & Deahl, Publishers

Milton Acorn, ***To Hear the Faint Bells***;
haiku, senryu and short poems from Canada's national poet
Fred Cogswell (judge) ***Doors of the Morning:***
The Sandburg-Livesay Award
James Deahl (editor) ***Mix Six***
James Deahl (editor) ***The Northern Red Oak:***
Poems for and about Milton Acorn
Simon Frank, ***Imaginary Poems***
Albert W.J. Harper, ***Poems of Reflection***
I.B. Iskov, ***black and white***
M.H. Khan, ***The Unmuffled Voices of El Dorado***
Tanis MacDonald, ***This Speaking Plant***
The Acorn-Rukeyser Award
Audrey Duncan Major, ***Light & Lively Poems, Book II***
Judge Mazebedi, ***Chicken Cries Out***
Ted Plantos (editor), ***Not to Rest in Silence:***
A celebration of people's poetry
Anna Plesums, ***Intrinsic Revelations***
Anna Plesums, ***Love and Words***
Kay Redhead, ***The Song of the Artichoke Lover***
Jeff Seffinga, ***Bailey's Mill***
Jeff Seffinga (editor), ***A Cliff Runs Through It***
Jeff Seffinga (editor), ***Ingots***
Jeff Seffinga, ***Tight Shorts:*** *Haiku and other short poems*
Adèle Kearns Thomas, ***Behind the Scenes***

The Herb Barrett Award for short poetry in the haiku tradition is offered annually. Winners are published in an anthology and cash prizes are awarded. Contest closing is in the autumn; the deadline for 1997 is November 30. For full details, please contact

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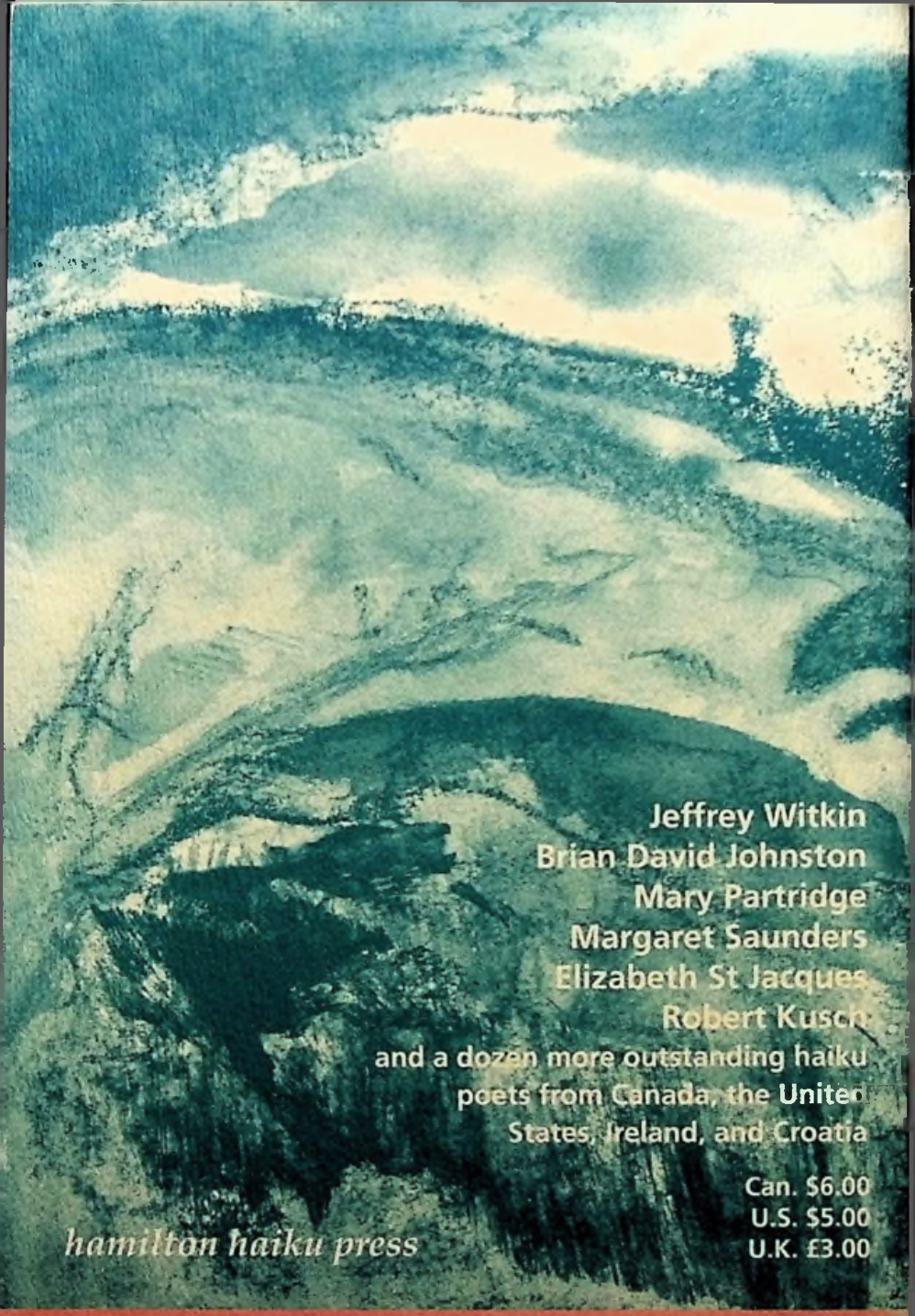

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