

年玉 TOSI-DAMA (Year's Jewel) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

The term "year's jewel", meaning a New Year present, existed from early times when jewels or shells were used in place of coins. To exchange gifts at New Year's in celebrating the coming of Spring and wishing the start of all good things became a popular custom from the Muromati period (1392-1490), when things such as folding fans, paper, wine, cloth, and fish were commonly given. For children, battledores, kites, balls of silk threads, and boxes were the tosi-dama. This custom is observed to the present day, though now the gifts are more often monetary, wrapped in designed paper or envelopes.

年玉や
柳の戸より
梅の戸に

Tosi-dama ya
yanagi-no to-yori
ume-no to-ni

The year jewel ya
From the willow-tree door
to the plum-tree door.

-- 竹後 Tikugo

年玉や
貝に納めし
豆入形

Tosi-dama ya
kai-ni osame-si
mame-nin'gyoo

The year jewel ya
Housed in a shell,
a tiny doll.

-- 素石 Soseki

(年玉の
下駄を子の履く
畳哉

Tosi-dama-no
geta-wo ko-no haku
tatami kana

The year jewel of
clogs the child tries on,
straw mat kana

-- 里人 Rizin'

年玉や
八百屋くれたる
貝杓子

Tosi-dama ya
yaoya kure-taru
kai-zyakusi

The year's jewel ya
The greengrocer gave
a shell ladle.

-- 伯洲 Hakusyuu

年玉に
いとふくらみし
袂哉

Tosi-dama-ni
ito hukurami-si
tamoto kana

With year jewels
well puffed out,
the sleeve kana

-- 美々三 Mimizoo

年玉に
かがやく子等が
瞳哉

Tosi-dama-ni
kagayaku ko-ra-ga
hitomi kana

At the year jewels
gleam the children's
eyes kana

-- 桐松 Toosyoo

年玉の
毬をつきつき
渡しけり

Tosi-dama-no
mari-wo tukituki-
watasi keri

The year's jewel
of a hand-ball; bounced and
given keri

-- 犀月 Saigetū

年玉や
かちかち山の
本一つ

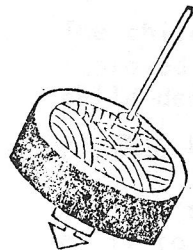
Tosi-dama ya
Katikati-yama-no
hon' hitotu

The year's jewel ya
Kachikachi Mountain's
book, one volume.

-- 青々 Seisei

独楽 KOMA (Tops) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

Tops were brought into Japan from China via Korea before the Heian' times and was the game boys played during the New Year period. The abbreviated name for it is bai, the name of the shell *Babylonia japonica*, because the original shape of tops was like this shell. There are many varieties of tops, the most common are spun with the use of a string. Others are made to spin by twisting or by striking with a kind of whip. The two main ways of playing are to see which can spin longest, and to see which can knock the other out of a marked area while spinning.



手のくぼに
重さうしなひ
独楽まわる

Te-no kubo-ni
omosa usinai
koma mawaru

From the cup of the hand
its weight slipped away,
the top spins.

-- 焚 Bon'

まはり澄む
二つのこまに
二少年

Mawari-sumu
hutatu-no koma-ni
ni-syoonen'

Spinning perfectly,
two tops--by them,
two boys.

-- たか Taka

独楽の子を
たしなめ羽子の
子をかばふ

Koma-no ko-wo
tasiname hane-no
ko-wo kabau

The child with the top
reproved, the shuttlecock
child defended.

-- 風生 Huusei

おのがかげ
ふりはなさんと
あばれ独楽

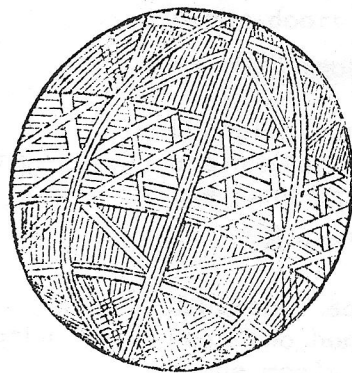
Ono-ga kage
huri-hanasa-n'-to
abare-goma

Its own shadow,
as if to shake it off,
wildly the top spins.

-- 占魚 Sen'gyo

手毬 TEMARI (Hand-balls) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

The old form of hand-balls was stuffed with the stems of the taro plant, cotton and wood shavings. A shell stuffed with sand was also inserted to give sound. Silk threads of the five colours were wound around to make a pretty ball. A game for girls at New Year's, it was bounced or tossed in the air. Temari-uta, hand-ball songs, were mainly counting songs sung as the ball was bounced, to see how long the bouncing could continue unbroken. There are also, like battledore, purely decorative kinds of temari.



手鞠つく
てんてん響き
くる書斎

Temari tuku
ten'ten' hibiki-
kuru syosai

Bouncing the hand-ball,
tap, tap, the echoes
reach the study.

-- 青邨 Seison'

手毬つく
影おもしろき
障子かな

Temari tuku
kage omosiroki
syoozi kana

Bouncing balls,
the silhouettes interesting;
paper doors kana

-- 楊桃 Yootoo

唄替えて
又つき初むる
手毬かな

Uta kae-te
mata tuki-somuru
temari kana

Changing songs,
again start to bounce
the hand-ball kana

-- 半美 Han'bi

まり唄や
二百を越せば
男めき

Mari-uta ya
nihyaku-wo kose-ba
otoko-meki

Hand-ball song ya
Past two hundred, it got
to be manly.

-- 普羅 Hura

右の袖
左に持ちて
手まりつく

Migi-no sode
hidari-no moti-te
temari kana

The right sleeve
held in the left hand,
bounce the hand-ball.

-- 竹秋 Tikusyuu

手毬唄
息苦しゅうに
なりにけり

Temari-uta
iki kurusyuu-ni
nari-ni keri

Hand-ball song;
breathless
she became keri

-- みのる Minoru

つくほどに
はづむ上手の
手毬かな

Tuku hodo-ni
hadumu zyoozu-no
temari kana

The more she bounces
the further it rebounds, ski
hand-ball kana

-- 青溪 Seikei

つきながら
御廊下廻る
手毬かな

Tuki-nagara
o-rooka mawaru
temari kana

While bouncing it,
go round the passageway,
hand-ball kana

-- 雉子郎 Kiziroo

羽子板 HAGO-ITA (Battledore) / 新年 SIN'NEN' (New Year)

Originally called kogi-ita or koki-no ko, the Japanese form of the battledore was a charm against Summer insects, mosquitoes in particular. In the shape of a scepter such as the emperors are depicted with, it is oblong and narrower towards the handle. A god's or a great lord's face were common designs in older forms, the back-side painted with a simpler design such as a pine, bamboo or plum bough. From the Edo period the face of a Kabuki actor was favoured. It is a game played by girls and young women in the New Year period. Larger battle-dores with more elaborate designs are used as decorations.

突きもせで
羽子板を持ち
廻りけり

Tuki-mo-se-de
hago-ita-wo moti-
mawari keri

Not playing, just
carrying the battledore,
walked round keri

-- 鬼史 Kisi

梅幸の
羽子板艶を
失はず

Baikoo-no
hago-ita en'-wo
usinawa-zu

The Baiko
on the battledore hasn't lost
its charm.

-- 虚吼 Kyokoo

打つ毎に
羽子板よりの
鈴音かな

Utu goto-ni
hago-ita-yori-no
suzu-ne kana

Each time it hits,
from the battledore
a bell's tinkle kana

-- 辰生 Tatuo

羽子板に
団十郎は
遺りけり

Hago-ita-ni
Dan'zyuuroo-wa
nokori keri

On the battledore
Danjuro
remained keri

-- 桃色 Toosyoku

羽子板は
まだ父の手に
紙包

Hago-ita-wa
mada titi-no te-ni
kami-zutumi

The battledore--
still in father's hand,
a paper parcel.

-- 汀女 Teidyo

羽子板に
團十郎を
知る子かな

Hago-ita-ni
Dan'zyuuroo-wo
siru ko kana

From the battledore
she knows Danjuro,
the child kana

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

羽子板の
役者の顔は
皆長し

Hago-ita-no
yakusya-no kao-wa
mina nagasi

On battledores
the actor faces
are all long.

-- 青邨 Seison'

羽子板を
抱へ手鞠を
袂にし

Hago-ita-wo
kakae temari-wo
tamoto-ni si

A battledore
carried, a hand-ball
tucked in the sleeve.

-- 余子 Yosi

風 TAKO (Kites) / 春 HARU (Spring)

Bamboo frames of different shapes are covered with paper to make a great variety of colourful kites. The first kite in China was made, it is said, by the general Kan'sin' as a device to notify his Emperor Kan' Koosoo (circa 206 BC) of the condition of the enemy troops. They were introduced into Japan from China, when is uncertain. An early name for kites in Japan was siroosi (paper old kite), and the later use of the ideogram for "black kite" is probably a continuation of this. Because kite-flying was an activity of the lunar 12th to 3rd Months, it was originally a New Year's kigo. Principally a children's activity, in more recent times a competitive game developed for adults, wherein very large kites are used, of rectangular shape and covered with several layers of paper.



紙鳶の糸
跨ぎゆく子の
声の中

Tako-no ito
matagi yuku ko-no
koe-no naka

The kite string --
between the legs of children
amidst their shouts.

-- 種茅 Syuboo

紙鳶の尾の
縄れ解けつつ
上りけり

Tako-no-o-no
mature-toke-tutu
agari keru

The kite's tail,
now tangled, now untangling,
it rose keru

-- 徂春 Sosyun'

凧の糸を
もつ手に唸り
ひびきけり

Tako-no ito-wo
motu te-ni unari
hibiki keru

Kite string;
holding it, the hand hummed
and shook keru

-- 蒼海 Sookai

尾の切れて
狂るへる凧を
下しけり

O-no kire-te
kurueru tako-wo
orosi keru

The tail cut off,
as it wildly veered, the kite
brought down keru

-- 金桜子 Kin'oosi

糸出して
風はずんずん
繪が霞む

Ito dasi-te
tako-wa zun'zun'
e-ga kasumu

String let out,
the kite zooms up,
the picture grows faint.

-- 裸骨 Rakotu

紙鳶の尾の
もつれかかりし
片靡き

Tako-no o-no
mature-kakari-si
kata-nabiki

The kite's tail
has begun to entangle,
a-tilt it flutters.

-- いの吉 Inokiti

風一つ
夕づく空に
動かざる

Tako hitotu
yuu-duku sora-ni
ugoka-zaru

A single kite
in the dusking sky,
perfectly still.

-- 房山 Boozan'

切風の
見えずなりけり
糸を巻く

Kire-dako-no
mie-zu nari keri
ito-wo maku

The cut-loose kite
drifted from sight keri
Wind up the cord.

-- 青白 Seihaku

龍の角
落ちて土筆の
生ひにける

Ryuu-no tuno
oti-te tukusi-no
oi-ni keru

A dragon's horns
fell, and horsetail grass
grew.

-- 秋桜子 Syuuoosi

土筆
雀の丈に
のびにけり

Tukutukusi
suzume-no take-ni
nobi-ni keru

Horsetail grasses;
to the height of the sparrow
they've grown keru

-- 冬葉 Tooyoo

蝶の影
二つとなりし
土筆かな

Tyoo-no kage
hutatu-to nari-si
tukusi kana

Butterfly shadows:
now there are two;
horsetail grass kana

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

まま事の
飯もおさいも
土筆かな

Mamagoto-no
mesi-mo o-sai-mo
tukusi kana

Children playing "house";
both rice and vegetables are
horsetails kana

-- 立子 Tatuko

石鹼玉 SYABON'DAMA (Soap Bubbles) / 春 HARU (Spring)

A playful pastime, soap bubbles were most commonly blown out through a straw of wheat that was dipped into soapy water. To see them floating in the Spring wind, reflecting trees and so on as they go, enhances the easy, balmy feeling of the season. Little ones that come quickly in great numbers, larger ones that are blown out slowly and float heavily, those that last long and those that instantaneously pop, make up a kigo of infinite possibilities.



石鹼玉
面テうつりて
ふくらめる

Syabon'dama
omote uturi-te
hukurameru

Soap bubble;
with face reflected,
it grows big.

-- 朋也 Hooya

春泥に
尚消えやらず
しやばん玉

Syun'dei-ni
nao kie-yara-zu
syabon'dama

On Spring mud,
it hasn't popped yet,
the soap bubble.

-- 月斗 Getto

石鹼玉
小さきが風に
強よかりし

Syabon'dama
tisaki-ga kaze-ni
tuyokari-si

Soap bubbles;
in the wind the small ones
were strong.

-- 明水 Meisui

吹く時の
息の動けり
石鹼玉

Huku toki-no
iki-no ugoke-ri
syabon'dama

While blowing it,
the breath wobbled;
soap bubble.

-- 紫陽花 Adisai

大空に
むけし面や
しゃぼん玉

Oo-zora-ni
muke-si omote ya
syabon'dama

To the great sky
turned, the face ya
Soap bubbles.

-- 耕斗 Kootoo

石鹸玉
吹く子の顔に
つぶれけり

Syabon'dama
huku ko-no kao-ni
tubure keri

The soap bubble
being blown, on the child's
popped keri

-- 潮月 Tyoogetu

しゃぼん玉
玻璃戸に消えて
泡少し

Syabon'dama
harido-ni kie-te
awa sukosi

Soap bubble;
on the glass door it pops,
a bit of foam.

-- 青路 Seiro

蓮の風に
のりて色濃し
石鹸玉

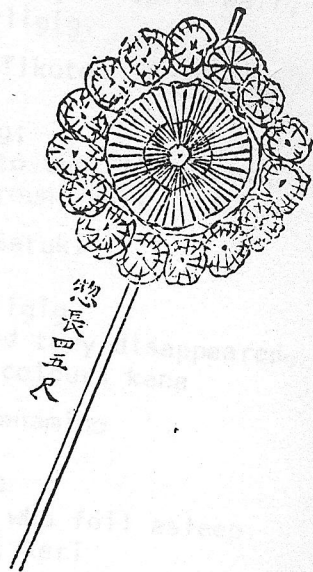
Hasu-no kaze-ni
nori-te iro kosi
syabon'dama

On a lotus breeze
they ride, deep-coloured
soap bubbles.

-- 夫子 Huusi

風車 KAZAGURUMA (Wind Wheel) / 春 HARU (Spring)

The word means "wind cart", a whirligig or pinwheel, according to different parts of the English-speaking world -- a toy generally enjoyed by young children. In the haiku world it is classified under Spring because from older times it was mostly made and sold in the Spring. Flower shapes were made from coloured paper, arranged in a circle, and attached to the top of a bamboo stick, so that all the parts would turn in the wind. Children would hold them and run to make them spin. The peddler of whirligigs was himself a flowery sight, with many of them stuck into columns of straw.



百貨店・
出てよく廻る
風車

Hyakka-ten'
de-te yoku mawaru
kazaguruma

The department store
come out of, it spins well,
the whirligig.

-- 遂天 Tikuten'

風車
持つ手がゆれば
廻りけり

Kazaguruma
motu te kayure-ba
mawari keru

Whirligig;
changed to the other hand,
it spun round keru

-- 皐月 Satuki

風車
まはり消えたる
五色かな

Kazaguruma
mawari-kie-taru
go-siki kana

The whirligig
turned and they disappeared,
the five colours kana

-- 花養 Hanamino

風車
夢に入る児の
落しけり

Kazaguruma
yume-ni iru ko-no
otosi keru

Whirligig;
the child who fell asleep
dropped it keru

-- 東陽 Tooyoo

雀子の
飛習ひけり
梅柳

Suzume-go-no
tobi-narai keri
ume yanagi

The baby sparrows
have learned to fly keri
Plum trees, willows.

-- 涼州 Ryoosyuu

雀の子
羽をふるはして
口あきぬ

Suzume-no ko
hane-wo huruwasi-te
kuti aki-nu

Baby sparrow;
waving his wings,
he opened his mouth.

-- きさえ Kisae

雛鶏の
中に遊べり
雀の子

Hina-dori-no
naka-ni asobe-ri
suzume-no ko

Among the chicks
it frolicked,
baby sparrow.

-- 萩徑 Syuukei

子雀の
中の一つが
親雀

Ko-suzume-no
naka-no hitotu-ga
oya-suzume

Baby sparrows;
among them, one is
the mother sparrow.

-- 青江 Seikoo

子雀や
遠く遊そばぬ
庭の隅

Ko-suzume ya
tooku asoba-nu
niwa-no sumi

Baby sparrow ya
Far it will not venture,
corner of the garden.

-- 紅葉 Kooyoo

雀子や
走りなれたる
鬼瓦

Suzume-go ya
hasiri-nare-taru
oni-gawara

Young sparrows ya
Learning to run on
the gargoyle tiles.

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

雀の子
ふらここに来て
とまりけり

Suzume-no ko
hurakoko-ni ki-te
tomari keri

Baby sparrow;
to the swing it came
and stopped keri

-- 芒角星 Bookakusei

雀の子
掴みいる手を
噛みにけり

Suzume-no ko
tukami-iru te-wo
kami-ni keri

Baby sparrow;
the hand that held it,
it bit keri

-- 竹樓 Tikuroo

いそがしや
晝飯頃の
親雀

Isogasi ya
hiru-mesi-goro-no
oya-suzume

So busy ya
Just around lunch-time,
parent sparrows.

-- 子規 Siki

吹く風に
子雀あはれ
目つむれる

Huku kaze-ni
ko-suzume aware
me tumureru

In the blowing wind,
the baby sparrow, pathetic;
it closes its eyes.

-- 野風呂 Noburo

雀子や
親と親とが
鳴き交す

Suzume-go ya
oya-to oya-to-ga
naki-kawasu

Baby sparrows ya
Father and mother
chirp to each other.

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

子雀の
口揃へたる
軒端かな

Ko-suzume-no
kuti soroe-taru
nokiba kana

The baby sparrows'
beaks are lined up;
eaves kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

子雀の
上手にとぶよ
二三尺

Ko-suzume-no
zyoozu-ni tobu-yo
nisan'-zyaku

Baby sparrow;
how expertly it flies,
two, three feet.

-- 墨水 Bokusui

雀子や
親も来ている
草の中

Suzume-go ya
oya-mo ki-te iru
kusa-no naka

Sparrow young ya
The mother, too, is among them
in the grasses.

-- 吾空 Gokuu

仕る
手に笛もなし
古雛

Tukamaturu
te-ni hue-mo nasi
huru-biina

In the performing
hand, there's no flute;
old doll.

-- たかし Takasi

雛どちらは
ささやきいたる
様子かな

Hina-doti-wa
sasayaki-i-taru
yoosu kana

The company of dolls
are whispering to each other,
the way they look kana

-- 幸一露 Kooitiro

其中に
かこち顔なる
雛かな

Sono naka-ni
kakoti-gao-naru
hiina kana

Among them,
there's a mournful looking
doll kana

-- 花葉 Kayoo

灯ともせば
眠たき様の
雛かな

Hi tolose-ba
nemutaki sama-no
hiina kana

The light put on,
sleepy was the appearance of
the dolls kana

-- 橡面坊 Totimen'boo

赤ん坊の
眼のとどきたる
雛かな

Akan'bo-no
me-no todoki-taru
hiina kana

The infant's
eyes have focused on
the dolls kana

-- 醉夢 Suimu

宵の灯に
黛うすき
雛かな

Yoi-no hi-ni
mayuzumi usuki
hiina kana

In evening lamplight
their pencilled eyebrows faint
the dolls kana

-- 父母 Hubo

× 足もげし
馬もまじれる
雛かな

Asi moge-si
uma-mo mazireru
hiina kana

A leg-less
horse, too, is among
the dolls kana

-- 星華 Seika

手にとりて
雛の瓔珞
さざめくよ

Te-ni tori-te
hina-no yooraku
sazameku-yo

Taken in the hand,
the doll's diadem,
how it glitters!

-- 誓子 Seisi

雛の影
桃の影壁に
重なりぬ

Hina-no kage
momo-no kage kabe-ni
kasanari-nu

Doll shadows,
and peach shadows, on the wall
overlapped.

-- 子規 Siki

活けし桃
雛の頬に
觸れてあり

× Ike-si momo
hiina-no hoho-ni
hure-te ari

The vase's peach flower--
the cheek of the doll
it touches.

-- 博 Hirosi

蟲はめる
衣冠の威儀や
古雛

Musibameru
ikan'-no igi ya
huru-biina

Insect-eaten
court costumes' dignity ya
Old dolls.

-- 干柿 Hosigaki

豆雛
全き目鼻
持ちにけり

Mame-hiina
mattaki me-hana
moti-ni keri

Miniature dolls;
perfect, the eyes and noses
they have keri

-- 草々子 Soosoosi

灯ともせば
皆顔丸ろき
雛かな

Hitomose-ba
mina kao maroki
hiina kana

The lamps lit,
all have round faces,
the dolls kana

-- 六阜子 Rokuzoosi

灯ともして
雛の笑くぼを
見出したる

Hi tomosi-te
hina-no ekubo-wo
mi-dasi-taru

When the lamps were lit
the dolls' dimples
came into sight.

-- 梅咲 Baigyoo

夫婦雛
口舌は知らぬ
装ひかな

Meoto-bina
koozetu sira-nu
yosoi kana

Man and wife dolls--
"We know nothing of quarrels"
their air kana

-- 紅葉 Kooyoo

紙雛の
倒れ易さよ
窓の風

Kami-bina-no
taore-yasusa-yo
mado-no kaze

Paper dolls--
their aptness to fall over!
The window's breeze.

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

口かるく
開けておはす
雛かな

Kuti karuku
hiraki-te owasu
hiina kana

The mouth slightly
open, in elegant presence,
the doll kana

-- 百日紅 Hyakuzikko

子供等の
話きくかに
雛かな

Kodomo-ra-no
hanasi kiku-ka-ni
hiina kana

The children's
conversation they seem to lis
dolls kana

-- 典子 Ten'si

紙雛の
三日月眉は
ありやなし

Kami-bina-no
mika-duki-mayu-wa
ari-ya nasi

The paper doll's
eyebrows like crescent moons,
there and not there.

-- 通草 Tuusoo

いつの代の
油の滲や
紙雛

Itu-no yo-no
abura-no simi ya
kami-biina

What generation's
oil stains ya
Paper dolls.

-- はぎ女 Hagidyo

風船 HUUSEN' (Balloons) / 春 HARU (Spring)

Huusen', literally "wind boats", appeared in Japanese life from the middle of the Meidi period as a toy for girls. Made of five-coloured paper, they would be blown out and bounced in the air. The peddler would sit by the sidewalks or parks with them hanging from bamboo sticks about the time of cherry flowers. Balloons made of rubber gradually became popular, and these are also included in this kigo, which was added to the haiku saiziki from around the year Taisyoo 11 (1922).

風船の
あまた飛びつつ
一荷かな

Huusen'-no
amata tobi-tutu
ik-ka kana

Balloons--
many of them bouncing,
one load kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

糸切れて
風船上る
迅さかな

Ito kire-te
huusen' agaru
hayasa kana

The thread snaps,
the balloon floats up
quickly kana

-- 魚仏 Gyobutu

風船や
庵の枯木に
来てかかる

Huusen' ya
io-no kare-ki-ni
ki-te kakaru

A balloon ya
To the hut's withered tree
come, it hangs.

-- 波都女 Hatudyo

風船や
多摩の横山
越ゆるらし

Huusen' ya
Tama-no Yokoyama
koyuru-rasi

Balloon ya
Tama's Yokoyama
it's going to cross.

-- 董糸 Kin'si

バス埃
風船賣に
あがりけり

Basu-hokori
huusen'-uri-ni
agari keri

Dust from the bus
onto the balloon seller
rose keri

-- まさる Masaru

金の吹口
虫の音籠り
紙風船

Kin'-no huki-guti
musi-no ne komori
kami-huusen'

A golden nozzle,
with an insect cry in it;
paper balloon.

-- 草田男 Kusatao

人ごみの
中を風船
上りけり

Hito-gomi-no
naka-wo huusen'
agari keri

A throng of people;
from the center a balloon
rose keri

-- 百草 Hyakusoo

風船の
子の手離れて
松の上

Huusen'-no
ko-no te hanare-te
matu-no ue

The balloon,
leaving the child's hand,
on the pine tree.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

鞦韆 SYUUSEN' (Swings) / 春 HARU (Spring)

Like the temari (coloured balls), the swing was brought into Japan from China as an amusement for girl children. Han'sen'gi is an old name for the swing given by the Chinese Emperor Shuan Tsung of the Tang dynasty (618-907) and means "half-sage play". Han'sen'gi and syuusen' ("crupper swing") are terms which give an impression of the court ladies of China dressed in colourful garments, who were fond of engaging in this amusement in the Springtime. Also called hurakoko and, most commonly, buran'ko, one finds them now in kindergartens and parks.

秋千や
風に袴の
ふくれけり

飛び下りて
ふらここ空に
揺れ残る

鞦韆や
ひとときレモン
いろの空

ふらここや
迎への乳女
顧ず

Syuusen' ya
kaze-ni hakama-no
hukure keru

Tobi-ori-te
hurakoko sora-ni
yure-nokoru

Syuusen' ya
hito-toki remon'
iro-no sora

Hurakoko ya
mukae-no on'ba
kaerimi-zu

Swing ya
In the wind the hakama
swelled out keru

-- 真月 Sin'getu

Jumping off,
the empty swing
left to sway.

-- ただし Tadasu

Swing ya
For a while a lemon
coloured sky.

-- 小波 Sazanami

Swing ya
The nurse who came to fetch,
ignored.

-- 冬葉 Tooyoo

ふらここの
ゆらゆらに梨
匂ひけり

Hurakoko-no
yurayura-ni nasi
nioi keru

With the swing's
gentle swaying, pear flowers
smelt keru

-- 香村 Kyooson'

ふらここや
帽子とびたる
ままたのし

Hurakoko ya
boosi tobi-taru
mama tanosi

A swing ya
With hat blown off,
enjoyable.

-- 水葱子 Suisoosi

ふらここの
影おさまらぬ
芝生かな

Hurakoko-no
kage osamara-nu
sibahu kana

The swing's
shadow doesn't come to a stop
lawn kana

-- 芳南 Hoonan'

ふらここの
静かに揺れて
蝶々哉

Hurakoko-no
siduka-ni yure-te
tyootyo kana

The swing,
peacefully rocking,
butterflies kana

-- 愈青 Yusei

鯉幟 KOI-NOBORI (Carp Banners) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

The carp is a fish that symbolizes attaining eminence and success in life. From around the middle of the Edo period (18th century), carp banners made of paper became a standard part of the lunar Fifth Month fifth day's Boys' Festival, and were hoisted up along with war pennants in gardens or on roof-tops of households with boy children. In the Syoowa period (began 1926), carp banners made of cloth became popular. The large ones, about six meters in length, are used outdoors, and small ones are used for decorating the parlour, along with warrior helmets and dolls of famous warriors.

鯉の眼に
朱の輪黄の輪や
幟舗

Koi-no me-ni
syu-no wa ki-no wa ya
nobori-mise

The carps' eyes,
red rings, yellow rings ya
Banner shop.

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

煙突の
林の中の
鯉幟

En'totu-no
hayasi-no naka-no
koi-nobori

A chimney
grove--in the middle of it,
carp banners.

-- 泊月 Hakugetu

風吹けば
来るや隣の
鯉幟

Kaze huke-ba
kuru ya tonari-no
koi-nobori

When the wind blows
it comes ya The neighbour's
carp banner.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

夕風や
松にまぎる
鯉幟

Yuu-nagi ya
matu-ni magiruru
koi-nobori

Evening lull ya
Blended into the pine tree,
the carp banner.

-- 墨石 Bokuseki

泣虫の
子にことごとし
鯉幟

× Naki-musi-no
ko-ni kotogotosi
koi-nobori

For the cry-baby
son, an enormous
carp banner.

-- 竹履 Tikuri

五月鯉
影する砂を
歩みけり

Satuki-go
kage suru suna-wo
ayumi keri

Fifth-Month carp;
their silhouettes on the sand
walked on keri

-- 朴髻 Bokusei

鯉のぼり
重なりたれし
真昼哉

Koi-nobori
kasanari-tare-si
ma-hiru kana

Carp banners
in layers hung,
high noon kana

-- 竹遊 Tikuyuu

鯉のぼり
庭一ぱいに
下ろされぬ

Koi-nobori
niwa ippai-ni
orosare-nu

Carp banners;
the whole garden filled when
they were brought down.

-- 月居子 Gekkyosi

× 鯉幟
腹をしぼりて
ひるがえる

Koi-nobori
hara-wo sibori-te
hirugaeru

The carp banner,
with belly drawn in,
flips over.

-- 石舟 Sekisyuu

鯉幟
黒き片目を
して廻る

Koi-nobori
kuroki kata-me-wo
si-te mawaru

Carp banner;
with one black eye,
it turns round.

-- 梵 Bon'

東風吹くや
西に流るる
鯉幟

Koti huku ya
nisi-ni nagaruru
koi-nobori

The east wind blows ya
To the west they float:
carp banners.

-- 虚吼 Kyokoo

高枝を
吹きはねし尾や
鯉幟

Taka-eda-wo
huki-hane-si o ya
koi-nobori

A high bough
blown by a flip of tail ya
Carp banner.

-- たけし Takesi

鯉幟
一郷のある
こと示す

Koi-nobori
iti-goo-no aru
koto simesu

Carp banners:
that there is a village there,
they show.

-- 幽鳥 Yuutyoo

鯉幟
鱗の映つる
潦

Koi-nobori
uroko-no uturu
niwatadumi

Carp banners--
the fish scales reflect
in a puddle.

-- 耕雪 Koosetu

風落ちぬ
竿にからみし
鯉幟

Kaze oti-nu
sao-ni karami-si
koi-nobori

The wind died down.
Coiled round its pole,
carp banner.

-- 備南 Binan'

鯉幟
折々影す
机上かな

Koi-nobori
oriori kage su
kizyoo kana

The carp banner
now and then casts a shadow
on the desk kana

-- 凱風 Gaihuu

頭より
かぶりて下ろす
鯉幟

Atama-yori
kaburi-te orosu
koi-nobori

Over the head
worn, bring down
the carp banner.

-- 十夜 Zyuuya

鯉幟の
ふくらめる腹を
たたみけり

Koi-nobori-no
hukurameru hara-wo
tatami keri

The carp banner's
inflated belly--
folded it keri

-- 飛隼 Hizyun'

金魚 KIN'GYO (Goldfish) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

Goldfish were originally bred from red crucian carp and were brought to Japan from China about 400 years ago. Through cross-breeding, the Japanese have developed a great many varieties, the most common of which are the red tinged with gold, the large-bellied, the fan-tailed, and the bulging-eyed. From late Spring to early Summer they lay eggs in the duckweed, and these hatch in about ten days. Shortly thereafter, the goldfish pedlar would be seen, with his tubs and goldfish bowls, making his way through the towns, calling out his wares. People are fond of keeping goldfish in their homes to enhance coolness.

青松葉
こぼれ浮き居り
金魚池

Ao-matu-ba
kobore-uki-ori
kin'gyo-ike

Green pine needles
scatter and float there,
goldfish pond.

-- 洞然 Doozen'

藻を出でて
顔大いなる
金魚かな

Mo-wo ide-te
kao ooi-naru
kin'gyo kana

Poked out from the duckweed,
his face enormous,
goldfish kana

-- 通草 Tuusoo

底を行く
金魚に動く
真砂かな

Soko-wo yuku
kin'gyo-ni ugoku
masago kana

Along the bottom goes
the goldfish, stirring
the pure sand kana

-- 松賓 Syoohin'

貰ひ来る
茶碗の中の
金魚かな

Morai-kuru
tyawan'-no naka-no
kin'gyo kana

He comes to get
in a rice bowl,
a goldfish kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

睡蓮の
花もつ鉢の
金魚かな

Sui ren'-no
hana motu hati-no
kin'gyo kana

A water lily
flower it holds up, the bowl
goldfish kana

-- 杏村 Kyooson'

さし水に
よろほひまわり
金魚哉

Sasi-midu-ni
yoroboi-mawari
kin'gyo kana

At the water being poured,
it totters around,
goldfish kana

-- 可志久 Kasiku

吹かれたる
簾に沈つむ
金魚かな

Hukare-taru
sudare-ni sidumu
kin'gyo kana

At the wind-blown
sudare they dive down,
goldfish kana

-- 芒月 Boogetu

突ついて
麴を廻にし居る
金魚哉

Tut-tui-te
hu-wo mawasi-iru
kin'gyo kana

Pushing it,
he turns the wheat cake round
goldfish kana

-- 田士英 Den'siei

さし水に
しざりのけぞる
金魚哉

Sasi-midu-ni
sizari-nokezoru
kin'gyo kana

When water was poured,
it did a backwards flip,
goldfish kana

-- 留城 Ryuuzyoo

さし水の
渦にのりたる
金魚かな

Sasi-midu-no
udu-ni nori-taru
kin'gyo kana

Water being added,
on the eddy rides
a goldfish kana

-- よし女 Yosidyo

かばかりの
金魚に水の
赤らみて

Ka-bakari-no
kin'gyo-ni midu-no
akarami-te

With only this many
goldfish, the water
has turned red.

-- 花舟女 Kasyuudyo

餌に向いて
逆立つ黒き
金魚かな

E-ni mui-te
sakadatu kuroki
kin'gyo kana

Turning to its food,
it stands straight up, the
goldfish kana

-- 夏村 Geson'

糞の糸
曳きて泳げる
金魚哉

Hun'-no ito
hiki-te oyogeru
kin'gyo kana

The fecal thread
trailing behind, swims
the goldfish kana

-- 山杜宇 San'tou

藻に紅を
ばかして潜む
金魚かな

Mo-ni koo-wo
bokasi-te hisomu
kin'gyo kana

By duckweed its crimson
veiled, it quietly lurks,
a goldfish kana

-- 塵外 Din'gai

女たち
おしやべり金魚
浮き沈み

On'na-tati
o-syaberi kin'gyo
uki-sidumi

The ladies
prattle, the goldfish
float and sink.

-- 青邨 Seison'

金魚浮く
中におもちやの
金魚哉

Kin'gyo uku
naka-ni omotya-no
kin'gyo kana

Goldfish float;
among them a toy
goldfish kana

-- 宕嶽 Toogaku

眠たげに
藻にもたれたる
金魚かな

Nemuta-ge-ni
mo-ni motare-taru
kin'gyo kana

Sleepily
resting on duckweed,
goldfish kana

-- 法師 Hoosi

泡を吐く
金魚に落ちぬ
松の風

Awa-wo haku
kin'gyo-ni oti-nu
matu-no kaze

As it spit out foam,
on the goldfish fell
the pine-tree wind.

-- 野風呂 Noburo

一びきに
減ってしまひし
金魚哉

Ip-piki-ni
het-te simai-si
kin'gyo kana

To one fish
they've dwindled down,
goldfish kana

-- 月斗 Getto

金魚玉
つれば芭蕉の
みどりあり

Kin'gyo-dama
ture-ba basyoo-no
midori ari

The goldfish bowl
was hung; the banana tree's
green is in it.

-- 千畝 Sen'ho

尾を振れば
紅燦爛と
金魚玉

O-wo hure-ba
aka san'ran'-to
kin'gyo-dama

When the tails flutter,
the scarlet is brilliant;
goldfish bowl.

-- 旭雲 Kyokuun'

金魚玉
射る日や壁の
虹丸し

Kin'gyo-dama
iru hi ya kabe-no
nizi marusi

The goldfish bowl
the sun hits ya The wall's
round rainbow.

-- 雪人 Setuzin'..

金魚玉
眺めてメロン
食ふことも

Kin'gyo-dama
nagame-te meron'
kuu koto-mo

Goldfish bowl
to look at, and a canteloupe
to eat, too.

-- かけい Kakei

金魚玉
夜の軽雷に
汗ばめり

Kin'gyo-dama
yo-no keirai-ni
asebame-ri

Goldfish bowl.
In the light thunder of night,
sweat beads formed.

-- 林火 Rin'ka

今朝もまた
小さき地震
金魚玉

Kesa-mo mata
tiisaki disin'
kin'gyo-dama

This morning, too,
a slight earthquake;
goldfish bowl.

-- 莫生 Bakusei

死にのこる
一つに淋し
金魚玉

Sini-nokoru
hitotu-ni sabisi
kin'gyo-dama

With the left-alive
lone one it is forlorn,
goldfish bowl.

-- 梨雲 Riun'

掬はれて
小さく躍る
金魚かな

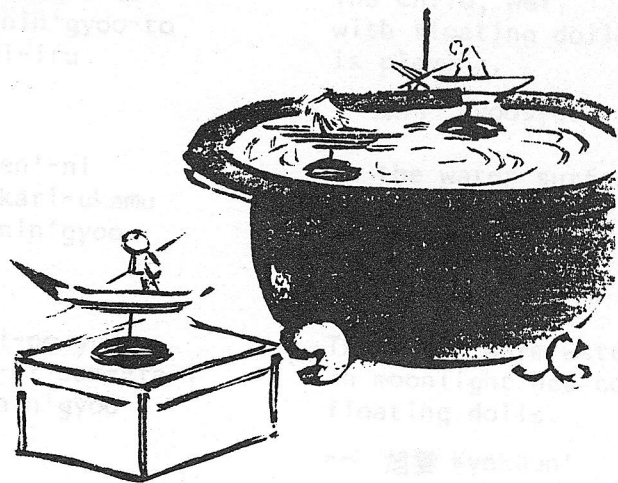
Sukuware-te
tiisaku odoru
kin'gyo kana

Scooped up,
he waggles a bit,
the goldfish kana

-- 湖州 Kosyuu

浮人形 UKI-NIN'GYOO (Floating Dolls) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

In Edo times, this toy was made of a doll set on a slab of wood. When camphor was put on the edge of the wood, the toy would run across the surface of the water. Later, the floating doll took the form of boats, goldfish, turtles, and so on, and was made of celluloid and plastic. Because it was a cooling thing to see children playing with these toys in tubs of water in the garden, it was made a kigo from the year Taisyoo 6 (1917).



浮人形
腹をかへして
揺れ合へる

Uki-nin'gyoo
hara-wo kaesi-te
yure-aeru

Floating dolls;
bellies turned up,
they rock together.

--月二郎 Tukiziroo

子は濡れて
浮人形と
遊びいる

Ko-wa nure-te
uki-nin'gyoo-to
asobi-iru

The child, wet,
with floating dolls
is playing.

--涼舟 Ryoosyuu

水面に
ぶつかり浮む
浮人形

Suimen'-ni
butukari-ukamu
uki-nin'gyoo

On the water surface
they bump and bob,
floating dolls.

--立子 Tatuko

盥の湯
月にさめたり
浮人形

Tarai-no yu
tuki-ni same-tari
uki-nin'gyoo

The tub's warm water
in moonlight has cooled;
floating dolls.

--旭雲 Kyokuun'

走馬燈 SOOMA-T00 (Revolving lamps) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

An invention of the Edo period, sooma-too means a "running-horse lantern". It is a toy lantern in box or cylindrical shape, made to revolve by the force of the air passage caused by a candle lit in its center. On the thin paper or silk shade are pictures of horses, birds, etc., which turn and give a cool effect on a Summer evening. Placed near the eaves or by the window, children take delight in watching it.

走馬燈
畳二枚に
廻りけり

Sooma-too
tatami ni-mai-ni
mawari keri

Revolving picture lamp;
over two straw mats
it turned keri

-- 桜碗子 Ookaisi

走馬燈
秋を追かけ
廻りけり

Sooma-too
aki-wo ok-kake-
mawari keri

Running horse lamp;
it chased after Autumn as it
went round keri

-- 黒洲 Kokusyuu

提げてゆく
廻り燈籠や
廻りつつ

Sage-te yuku
mawari-dooro ya
mawari-tutu

Carry along
the revolving picture lamp ya
It keeps turning.

-- 添水 Ten'sui

同じ影
廻り燈籠の
踊りかな

Onazi kage
mawari-dooroo-no
odori kana

The same shadows
turn, revolving picture lamp's
dance kana

-- 愚風 Guhuu

ミルクセーキ MIRUKU-SEEKI (Milkshakes) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

The yolk of egg is mixed with milk, sugar or honey, and flavouring added, to make a drink somewhat different from the American milkshake. During the Taisyoo period when it was first listed in the Sin'syuu Saiziki as a haiku kigo, it was considered a nourishing but extravagant drink.

タワー昇りて
ミルクセーキや
白帆見ゆ

Tawaa nobori-te
miruku-seeki ya
sira-ho miyu

The tower climbed,
milkshakes ya
White sails can be seen.

-- 登秋 Toosyuu

ミルクセーキ
女ばかりの
食堂車

Miruku-seeki
onna-bakari-no
syokudoo-sya

Milkshakes;
only women in
the dining car.

-- 明水 Meisui

玉簾
ミルクセーキを
廻す音

Tama-sudare
miruku-seeki-wo
mawasu oto

A fine bamboo blind.
milkshakes being
mixed, the sound.

-- 千燈 Sen'too

子に打ちて
我身にも打つ
天瓜粉

Ko-ni uti-te
waga mi-ni-mo utu
ten'kahun'

Pat some on the child,
pat some on oneself too,
talcum powder.

-- 喜美女 Kimidyō

目覚子に
乳房ふくませ
天瓜粉

Me-zame-go-ni
tibusa hukumase
ten'kahun'

For the child who woke up,
a nipple to suck;
talcum powder.

-- 兎人 Tozin'

天瓜粉
ところきはらず
打たれけり

Ten'kahun'
tokoro kirawa-zu
utare kerī

Talcum powder,
on every inch of the body
patted on kerī

-- 草城 Soozyōo

天瓜粉に
まみれて尖る
汗疹かな

Ten'kahun'-ni
mamire-te togaru
ase-mo kana

With talcum powder
smeared, it stands out,
the heat rash kana

-- 朱千 Syusen'

ソーダ水 SOODA-SUI (Soda Water) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

This includes the plain, unflavoured, as well as the various sodas flavoured with fruit syrups and ice cream. It became a kigo about the year 1923, with the following ku:

ソーダ水
くれない薄し
夕心

sooda-sui-no
kurenai ususi
yuu-gokoro

The soda pop's
crimson is faint;
the feeling of dusk.

-- 宵曲 Syockyoku

ソーダ水に
子は立ちあがり
椅子の上

Sooda-sui-ni
ko-wa tati-agari
isu-no ue

For soda pop,
the child stands up
on the chair.

-- 孝女 Koodyo

麦わらの
舌に音あり
ソーダ水

Mugi-wara-no
sita-ni oto ari
sooda-sui

Wheat straw;
on the tongue it makes a sound
soda pop.

-- 月舟 Gessyuu

ソーダ水
冷えにくもれる
コップかな

Sooda-sui
hie-ni kumoreru
koppu kana

Soda water.
With the chill it clouds over,
the glass kana

-- 旭雲 Kyokuun'

一生の
楽しきころの
ソーダ水

Is-syoo-no
tanosiki koro-no
sooda-sui

Of a lifetime
the happy times'
soda water.

-- 風生 Huusei

花火線香 HANABI-SEN'KOO (Hand Fireworks) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

While fireworks that are shot up for display are an Autumn kigo, small fireworks that can be held in the hand, considered toys for children to play with on Summer evenings, are called hanabi-sen'koo (firework incense), and are a Summer kigo. There are many varieties: te-hanabi, sparklers; sen'koo-hanabi, a twisted-paper type that produces small drops of fire and star-shaped sparks; ran'gyoku-hanabi, a miniature form of the large display fireworks; nedumi-hanabi, a firecracker that runs around like a mouse before bursting.

手火の
線香
火の色

te-hanabi-no
sen'koo
akidu-na iro

The hand fireworks
falling sparks' fire-colour
the colour of water.

手火の
線香
姉妹

te-hanabi-no
sen'koo
ane-imoto

Hand fireworks;
In the middle of the smoke
two sisters.

— 夏 ran'gyoku

手花火や
額あつめて
姉妹

Te-hanabi ya
hitai atume-te
ane-imoto

Hand fireworks ya
Foreheads come together,
two sisters.

-- 宿雨 Syukuu

手花火に
しばらく染まる
面輪かな

Te-hanabi-ni
sibaraku somaru
omowa kana

With a hand-sparkler
for an instant dyed,
the circle of the face kana

-- 晩紅星 Ban'koosei

手花火の
こぼす火の色
水の色

Te-hanabi-no
kobosu hi-no iro
midu-no iro

The hand firework's
falling sparks' fire-colour:
the colour of water.

-- 夜半 Yahan'

手花火の
煙の中の
姉妹

Te-hanabi-no
kemuri-no naka-no
ane-imoto

Hand fireworks;
in the middle of the smoke,
two sisters.

-- 一宿 Issyuku

氷水 KOORI-MIDU (Shaved Ice) / 夏 NATU (Summer)

Koori-midu, literally "iced water", means a dish of shaved ice on which a sweet syrup is poured, a cooling snack for a hot Summer afternoon. Although ice cream and other Western refreshments became popular, koori-midu flavoured with green tea or aduki beans is still an attractive dish for the Japanese taste. The old fashioned ice stall was put up under tree shades with a banner waving in the wind. These and small shops with bamboo or straw curtains were an integral part of the Summer scene, and a favourite subject of haizin'.

雲の峰の
麓に声や
氷賣

Kumo-no mine-no
humoto-no koe ya
koori-uri

At the cloud mountain's
foothill, a voice ya
Ice peddler.

-- 梧月 Gogetu

匙なめて
童たのしも
夏氷

Sazi name-te
warabe tanosi-mo
natu-goori

They lick the spoons,
happy young children!
Summer ice.

-- 誓子 Seisi

大波に
染めし簾や
氷店

Oo-nami-ni
some-si sudare ya
koori-mise

With big waves
stained, the bamboo blind ya
Ice shop.

-- 草猿 Sooen'

のれんみな
動く夜風や
氷店

Noren' mina
ugoku yo-kaze ya
koori-mise

The shop curtains all
stir, a night breeze ya
Ice shop.

-- 芒角星 Bookakusei

汗の手に
八百屋がたたく
西瓜哉

Ase-no te-ni
yaoya-ga tataku
suika kana

With a sweaty hand
the greengrocer taps
the watermelon kana

-- 春虎 Syun'ko

山水に
うたせて桶の
西瓜かな

Yama-midu-ni
utase-te oke-no
suika kana

Mountain water
made to fall on the tub's
watermelon kana

-- 夏泉 Kasen'

冷蔵函に
一ッ塞がる
西瓜かな

Reizoo-bako-ni
hitotu husagaru
suika kana

In the icebox,
even one leaves no space,
watermelon kana

-- 登秋 Toosyuu

海見ゆる
宿の二階や
西瓜割る

Umi miyuru
yado-no ni-kai ya
suika waru

A view of the ocean,
the inn's second floor ya
Slice watermelon.

-- 丁笑 Teisyoo

日除ゆらぐ
毎に日あたる
西瓜かな

Hi-yoke yuragu
goto-ni hi ataru
suika kana

Each time the sunshade
rocks, the sun hits
the watermelon kana

-- 樂天 Rakuten'

井戸深く
冷やしてありし
西瓜かな

Ido hukaku
hiyasi-te ari-si
suika kana

Deep in the well,
it's gotten quite chill,
watermelon kana

-- 碧村 Hekison'

冷えきりし
西瓜の肌の
雫かな

Hie-kiri-si
suika-no hada-no
siduku kana

Thoroughly chilled,
on the watermelon surface,
water drops kana

-- たけし Takesi

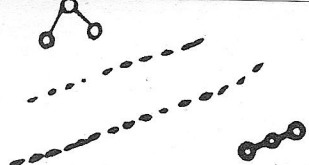
隅田川
西瓜の皮の
流れけり

Sumida-gawa
suika-no kawa-no
nagare keri

×

Sumida River--
watermelon peels
floated down keri

-- 子規 Siki



七夕 TANABATA (7th Night) / 秋 AKI (Autumn)

This kigo originally meant the lunar 7th Month 7th night, not July 7. It is a festival of Chinese origin in honour of two stars, the Oxherd Boy and the Weaver Lady, identified with Aquila and Vega. Although wedded, they are only able to meet on this one night of the year, as her father decreed, because the Weaver Lady became neglectful of her work after the marriage. The Oxherd Boy crosses the Milky Way from its eastern shore on a bridge made by a row of magpies, provided it does not rain.

This festival, celebrated in Japan for the first time at the imperial court in the 8th century, continued as one of the 5 seasonal occasions (go-sekku) throughout the Heian times. Along the way it became a general festival celebrated in every household. As the 7th Month was also called Letter Month, the custom was to wash the inkstone and purify everything in the study. Poems were then written on strips of paper of the five colours and tied on the boughs of two stalks of bamboo representing the two stars. These stalks were tied on opposite sides of a table set in the garden, and offerings of fruit and vegetables of the season placed on the table, together with something lent to the Weaver Lady for the evening, such as a hairpin, or a piece of garment. As it was considered indelicate to stare up directly at the stars, their reflections were looked for in a tub of water placed outdoors.

七夕の
結ふ間も舞へる
色紙かな

Tanabata-no
yuu-ma-mo maeru
sikisi kana

Tanabata;
even while tying them, they
coloured papers kana

-- 桜坡子 Oohasi

古里や
母も筆とる
星の歌

Huru-sato ya
haha-mo hude toru
hosi-no uta

Old village ya
Even mother takes the brush,
poems to the stars.

-- 蓼江 Ryookoo

負はれたる
子供が高し
星祭

Oware-taru
kodomo-ga takasi
hosi-maturi

Carried on the back,
high up is the child.
Stars' Festival.

-- 草太男 Kusatao

七夕や
色短冊の
乳母車

Tanabata ya
iro-tan'zaku-no
uba-guruma

Tanabata ya
Coloured poem cards adorn
the baby carriage.

-- 曲無 Kyokubu

花火 HANABI (Fireworks) / 秋 AKI (Autumn)

Literally, flowers' fire, because they produced fire in the shapes of peonies, plum flowers, cherry flowers, willow boughs and so on. It is said that the fireworks used today were brought into Japan in the late 13th century from Italy, and about the year 1600 from Portugal and the Netherlands. Because the sight is cooling, fireworks were displayed from late Summer into Autumn. Uti-age-hanabi (shooting-up fireworks) is one of the main types used at large riverside displays. They come in long, cylindrical tubes from which, when lit, coloured flowers open up. The other type, called sikake-hanabi, contains a device inside that causes various colours of fire to flow out in different shapes.

花火
はなび
はなび

花火
はなび
はなび

in hydrangeas
colours they bloom,
fireworks like

花火
はなび
はなび

花火
はなび
はなび

To the sky stretches
the firework's path,
curving.

花子 Hanako

こどもらの
鼠花火や
花火の夜

Kodomo-ra-no
nedumi-hanabi ya
hanabi-no yo

The children's
mouse-firecrackers ya
Fireworks night.

-- 迷子 Meisi

立ち居る子
かがみ居る子や
庭花火

Tati-iru ko
kagami-iru ko ya
niwa-hanabi

Children who stand,
children who crouch ya
Fireworks in the garden.

-- 愛女 Aidyo

紫陽花の
色に咲きたる
花火かな

Adisai-no
iro-ni saki-taru
hanabi kana

In hydrangea
colours they bloom,
fireworks kana

-- 淡路女 Awadidyô

空に延ぶ
花火の途の
曲りつつ

Sora-ni nobu
hanabi-no miti-no
magari-tutu

To the sky stretches
the firework's path,
curving.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

花火買ひし
一人に二人
ついて行く

Hanabi kai-si
hitori-ni hutari
tui-te yuku

Fireworks bought
by one child, two children
tag along.

-- 一水 Issui

赤と青と
三つ釣り行く
花火かな

Aka-to ao-to
hutatu turi-yuku
hanabi kana

Red and green,
two streaks curve,
fireworks kana

-- 魚波 Gyoha

遠花火
音して何も
なかりけり

Too-hanabi
oto si-te nani-mo
nakari keri

Distant fireworks;
they made sounds but nothing
was seen keri

-- 碧梧桐 Hekigodoo

草むらに
落ちて黄烟る
花火かな

Kusa-mura-ni
oti-te ki kemuru
hanabi kana

In a clump of grass
it fell; its smoke yellow,
firework kana

-- 奇骨 Kikotu

流れくる
花火の屑の
匂ひかな

Nagare-kuru
hanabi-no kudu-no
nioi kana

-- 五葉子 Goyoosi

They come floating,
the remnants of fireworks--
the scent kana

-- 荆兒 Keizi

ふりかかる
花火の花や
城の松

Huri-kakaru
hanabi-no hana ya
siro-no matu

Sprinkling down,
firework flowers ya
On the castle pines.

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

遠花火
星にまぎりて
消えにけり

Too-hanabi
hosi-ni magiri-te
kie-ni keri

The far-off fireworks,
for a moment among stars,
faded keri

-- 句堂 Kudoo

遠花火
消えて山影
残りけり

Too-hanabi
kie-te yama-kage
nokori keri

The distant fireworks
faded; the mountain's shape
remained keri

-- 五葉子 Goyoosi

流れくる
花火の屑の
匂ひかな

Nagare-kuru
hanabi-no kudu-no
nioi kana

They come floating,
the remnants of fireworks--
the scent kana

-- 荆兒 Keizi

鳴かぬとて
闇に移しぬ
虫の籠

Naka-nu-to-te
yami-ni utusi-nu
musi-no kago

"They don't sing,"
to a dark place, moved
the insect cage.

-- 金桜子 Kin'oosi

虫籠や
こちらで鳴けば
あちらでも

Musi-kago ya
kotira-de nake-ba
atira-de-mo

Insect cages ya
When here they cry,
there also.

-- 子規 Siki

虫籠に
蟬を入れたる
童かな

Musi-kago-ni
semi-wo ire-taru
warabe kana

Into an insect cage
they've put a cicada,
the children kana

-- 紅緑 Kooroku

虫籠に
朱の二筋や
昼の窓

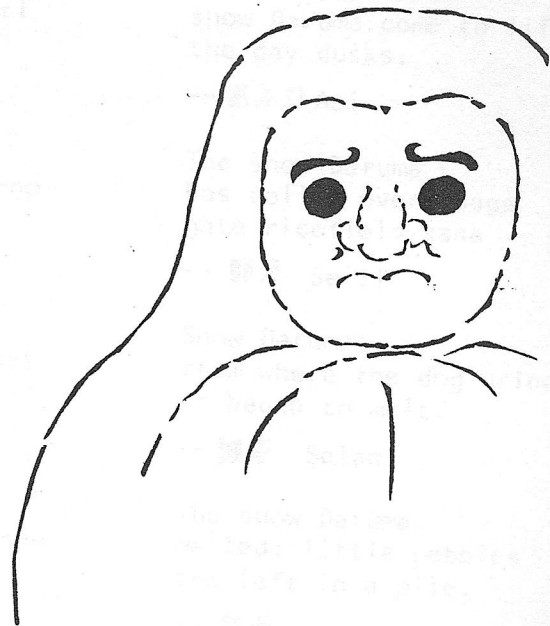
Musi-kago-ni
syu-no huta-sudi ya
hiru-no mado

In the insect cage,
two lines of red ya
Afternoon window.

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

雪達磨 YUKI-DARUMA (Snow Bodhidharma) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

The Japanese snow man is made in the egg shape prominent in all depictions of the Zen patriarch Bodhidharma, wrapped as he was from head to toe in his monk's garment. A large ball of snow for the body, and a smaller one for the head, the nose, eyes and mouth were commonly represented by pieces of charcoal or stones.



方々に
雪達磨あり
日の暮るる

Hooboo-ni
yuki-daruma ari
hi-no kururu

Everywhere
snow Daruma come to life,
the day dusks.

-- あふひ Aoi

雪達磨
転がる嵯峨の
門田哉

Yuki-daruma
korogaru Saga-no
kado-ta kana

The snow Daruma
has rolled over; Saga
gate ricefield kana

-- 静児 Seizi

雪達磨
犬のしとより
とけそめし

Yuki-daruma
inu-no sito-yori
toke-some-si

Snow Daruma;
from where the dog urinated,
it began to melt.

-- 誠奄 Seian'

雪達磨
解けて小石の
たまりいる

Yuki-daruma
toke-te ko-isi-no
tamari-iru

The snow Daruma
melted; little pebbles
are left in a pile.

-- 鵬于 Hooou

雪遊 YUKI-ASOBI (Playing with snow) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

Playing in the snow is a universal pastime of children. As soon as the first snow of the Winter falls, they wait eagerly for there to be enough to run out and start making snow balls, snow men, and having a good snow fight. Snow rabbits, snow balls, snow battles are some variations on this kigo.

雪遊

雪玉の玉に

雪玉の玉に

Yuki-tsubuta

dokusyo-no asado-ni

hiari kari

Snow balls

the book-reader's window

they hit her

-- 北風子 Katsukaze

雪遊

雪玉の玉に

雪玉の玉に

Yuki-gassen

yasumi-to wareru

tsukuru-taru

The snow fight

took a rest to let

us go by

-- 雪玉文 Yuki-tsubuta

雪玉の玉に

雪玉の玉に

雪玉の玉に

Yuki-take-y

yuki-wo take-ae

takeaeru

The about-former

snow grabbed hold of

no fights

-- 雪玉 Hokusai

靴紐を
むすぶ間も来る
雪つぶて

Kutu-himo-wo
musubu ma-mo kuru
yuki-tubute

Shoe laces;
even while tying them come
flying snow balls.

-- 汀女 Teidyo

雪礫
読書の窓に
あたりけり

Yuki-tubute
dokusyo-no mado-ni
atari keru

Snow balls;
the book-reader's window
they hit keru

-- 山梔子 Kutinasi

雪合戦
休みてわれ等
通らしむ

Yuki-gassen'
yasumi-te ware-ra
toora-simu

The snow fight
took a rest to let
us go by.

-- 波津女 Hatudyo

とけかかる
雪をつかんで
戦へる

Toke-kakaru
yuki-wo tukan'-de
tatakaeru

The about-to-melt
snow grabbed hold of,
he fights.

-- 黙静 Mokusei

雪やみて
豆撒の声
聞えけり

Yuki yami-te
mame-maki-no koe
kikoe keru

When the snow stopped,
bean-throwing voices
were heard keru

-- 麦奴 Bakudo

豆まきの
声隣より
向ひより

Mame-maki-no
koe tonari-yori
mukai-yori

Bean-throwing
voices, from next door,
from across.

-- 素堂 Sodoo

闇遠く
鬼打つ豆の
ころげゆく

Yami tooku
oni utu mame-no
koroge-yuku

Far into darkness
the beans that chase demons
roll away.

-- 得水 Tokusui

節分の
豆にまじろき
檻の鷲

Setubun-no
mame-ni mazirogi
ori-no wasi

The last-day-of-Winter
beans make him blink;
the caged eagle.

-- 鞆邸 Syuuson'

汽車のつく
頃幌機が
一つ来し

Kisya-no tuku
koro horo-zori-ga
hitotu ki-si

As the train pulled in,
one covered sled
came along.

-- 素十 Suzyuu

機の鈴
きこえしのみの
今宵かな

Sori-no suzu
kikoe-si-nomi-no
koyoi kana

Sleigh bells
were the only things heard,
this evening kana

-- 夢香 Mukoo

動けざる
汽車の間近を
機は行く

Ugoke-zaru
kisya-no ma-dika-wo
sori-wa yuku

A stalled
train; nearby it
a sled goes.

-- みづほ Miduho

医師の機
雪をかつぎて
着きにけり

Isi-no sori
yuki-wo katugi-te
tuki-ni keru

The doctor's sled;
carrying snow on it,
it came keru

-- 手古奈 Tekona

蜻蛉 TON'BO (Dragonflies) / 秋 AKI (Autumn)

The eggs, laid in or near fresh water, split open at the back, and this six-legged, four-winged creature with large eyes and mouth, comes forth. At first, its wings are too soft to fly, but staying in the sunlight, they get stronger and take on a shine. Seen here and there in late Summer, by Autumn the dragonflies come out in increasing numbers, adding the glitter of their transparent wings and the fascination of their now-stop now-start flight to Autumn fair weather scenes. Swift fliers, capable of sudden changes of direction, they catch their prey in flight, and are themselves hard to catch, also because their eyesight is extremely developed. Rarely seen on cloudy days, they are often observed sunning themselves on a rock or stone. The red dragonfly is perhaps the last to appear of the different varieties, in late Autumn.

蜻蛉や
りりととまって
つひと行く

Ton'boo ya
riri-to tomat-te
tui-to yuku

Dragonfly ya
With a start he stops,
abruptly he goes.

-- 子規 Siki

一杭に
とまらんとして
二蜻蛉

Hito-kui-ni
tomara-n'-to su
huta-ton'bo

On one picket,
about to land,
two dragonflies..

-- 途子 Tosi

立ちならぶ
大日車に
蜻蛉かな

Tati-narabu
oo-himawari-ni
ton'bo kana

Blooming in a row,
giant sunflowers--on them,
dragonflies kana

-- 巨口 Kyokoo

草刈の
籠につきゆく
夕蜻蛉

Kusa-kari-no
kago-ni tuki-yuku
yuu-ton'bo

The grass-cutter's
basket it accompanies,
dusk dragonfly.

-- 月堂 Getudoo

蜻蛉の
とまりて草の
撓みかな

Ton'boo-no
tomari-te kusa-no
tawami kana

A dragonfly
resting on it, the grass-blade
curve kana

-- 鳴雪 Meisetu

蜻蛉や
居向をかゆる
瀧しぶき

Ton'boo ya
i-muki-wo kayuru
taki-sibuki

Dragonfly ya
He changes his direction,
waterfall spray.

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

石抱いて
風の蜻蛉の
真平に

Isi dai-te
kaze-no ton'bo-no
ma-taira-ni

Clasping a stone
in the wind the dragonfly
perfectly level.

-- 自然 Sizen'

蜻蜓や
追ひつきかねる
下り船

Ton'boo ya
oituki-kaneru
kudari-bune

Dragonfly ya
He can't quite catch up with
the downstream boat.

-- 子規 Siki

蜻蛉の
眠むられもせぬ
眼玉かな

Ton'boo-no
nemu-rare-mo se-nu
medama kana

The dragonfly,
he cannot be sleeping!
Eyeballs kana

-- 子規 Siki

とどまれば
あたりにふゆる
蜻蛉かな

Todomare-ba
atari-ni huyuru
ton'bo kana

If you stop,
around you come more
dragonflies kana

-- 汀女 Teidyo

動かずに
早瀬の上の
蜻蛉かな

Ugoka-zu-ni
haya-se-no ue-no
ton'bo kana

Perfectly still,
over the quick rapids,
a dragonfly kana

-- 子規 Siki

蜻蛉の
羽根鳴らしとぶ
狭庭かな

Ton'boo-no
hane narasi-tobu
se-niwa kana

The dragonfly's
wings resound as he flies,
a narrow garden kana

-- 鬼城 Kizyoo

蜻蛉の
止るを待つて
居る子かな

Ton'boo-no
tomaru-wo mat-te
iru ko kana

For the dragonfly
to stop, he's waiting,
the child kana

-- 萩香女 Syuukoodyo

とんぼうに
ついて田に出る
草の径

Ton'boo-ni
tui-te ta-ni deru
kusa-no miti

Following a dragonfly,
come out to a ricefield;
grassy path.

-- 千里 Sen'ri

赤とんぼ
眼一っぱいに
空入れて

Aka-ton'boo
me ippai-ni
sora ire-te

Red dragonfly;
its eyes full
with sky.

-- 竺莊 Dikusoo .

赤蜻蛉
群にはなれて
飛んでいる

Aka-ton'bo
mure-ni hanare-te
ton'-de iru

Red dragonfly;
a pace apart from the swarm
it's flying.

-- 杏白 Kyooohaku

釣橋の
下は空なる
蜻蛉かな

Turibasi-no
sita-wa sora-naru
ton'bo kana

A hanging bridge,
and underneath, the sky--
dragonflies kana

-- 寅日子 Torahiko

大空に
蜻蛉のみち
ある如し

Oo-zora-ni
ton'boo-no miti
aru gotosi

In the great sky,
a road for dragonflies
seems to exist.

-- 三木 San'boku

木の影に
やすむ帽子や
とんぼとぶ

Ki-no kage-ni
yasumu boosi ya
ton'bo tobu

In the shade of a tree
resting, the hat ya
Dragonflies fly.

-- 翠園 Suien'

行水の
背をかすめゆく
蜻蛉かな

Gyoozui-no
se-wo kasume-yuku
ton'bo kana

The outdoor tub-bather's
back they go blearing,
dragonflies kana

-- 貞一 Teiiti

蜻蛉の
かげ長く引く
倉の壁

Ton'boo-no
kage nagaku hiku
kura-no kabe

The dragonfly's
shadow drawn out long,
on the storehouse wall.

-- 百琳 Hyakurin'

燕に
襲れて来し
蜻蛉かな

Tubakura-ni
osoware-te ki-si
ton'bo kana

By a swallow
pursued, it came along,
dragonfly kana

-- 雀子 Zyakusi

石橋の
石に喰ひつく
蜻蛉かな

Isi-basi-no
isi-ni kui-tuku
ton'bo kana

On a stone bridge's
stone he chews,
dragonfly kana

-- 子規 Siki

蜻蛉や
笠より長き
僧の杖

Ton'boo ya
kasa-yori nagaki
soo-no tue

Dragonflies ya
Higher than the wicker hat,
the monk's staff.

-- 余子 Yosi

赤蜻蛉
物干竿に
並びけり

Aka-ton'bo
mono-hosi-zao-ni
narabi keru

Red dragonflies;
on the laundry pole
they lined up keru

-- ゆけい Yukei

赤蜻蛉
筑波に雲も
なかりけり

Aka-ton'bo
Tukuba-ni kumo-mo
nakari keru

Red dragonflies;
over Mt. Tsukuba not a cloud
was there keru

-- 子規 Siki

赤蜻蛉
天馬の過ぎし
埃かな

Aka-ton'bo
ten'ma-no sugi-si
hokori kana

Red dragonflies--
after a fast horse went by,
in the dust kana

-- 蝶衣 Tyooi

蜻蛉の
障子にからむ
羽音かな

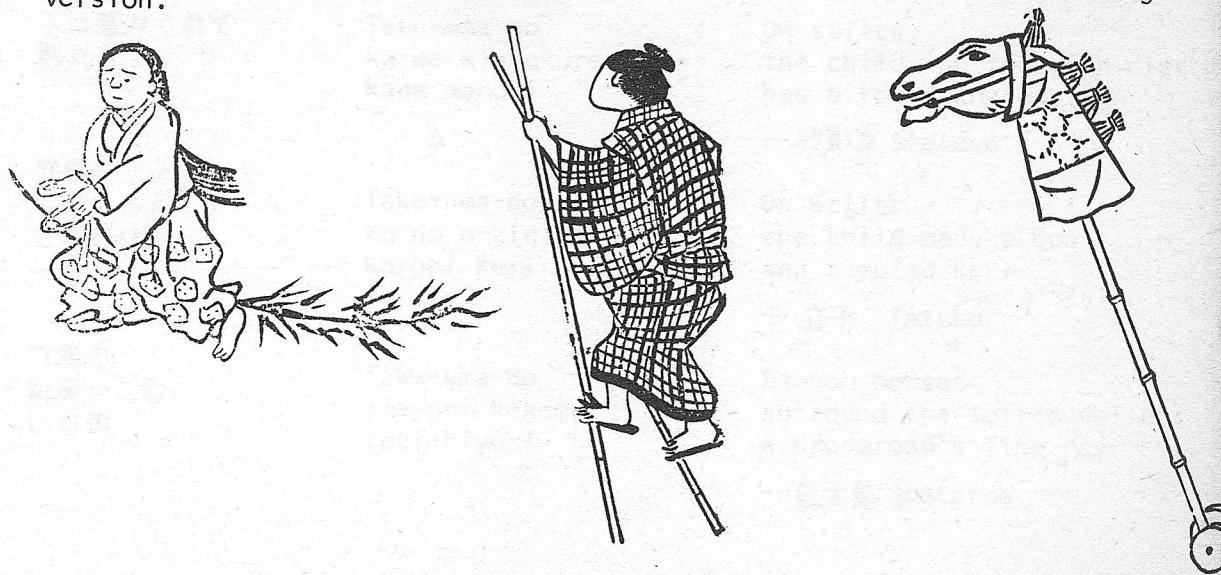
Ton'boo-no
syoozi-ni karamu
ha-oto kana

The dragonfly
fluttering against the shoji
the wing sounds kana

-- 十字路 Zyuuziro

竹馬 TAKE-UMA (Bamboo Horse) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

The older version of this toy was a bamboo branch with a few leaves still on it, held between the legs and ridden by children with a cord round the bare end and the leaves trailing on the ground. Around the Edo period, two sticks of bamboo were used, as stilts. A horse's head on one end and a wheel on the other was a more sophisticated form of the original version.



竹馬で
塀の上から
呼びに来る

Take-uma-de
hei-no ue-kara
yobi-ni kuru

On stilts,
looking over the fence,
he comes to call.

-- 凡骨 Bon'kotu

竹馬の
子は著ぶくれて
影丸き

Take-uma-no
ko-wa ki-bukure-te
kage maroki

On stilts,
the child, puffed with cloth
has a round shadow.

-- 枝影女 Sieidyo

竹馬の
子のあじぎして
ころびけり

Take-uma-no
ko-no o-zigi si-te
korobi keri

On stilts
the child made a bow
and tumbled keri

-- 立子 Tatuko

竹馬の
飴賣かこむ
辻日和

Take-uma-no
ame-uri kakomu
tuzi-biyori

Bamboo horses
surround the toffee seller;
a crossroad's fine day.

-- 草太郎 Sootaroo

竹馬の
羽織かむつて
かけりけり

Take-uma-no
haori kamut-te
kakeri keri

Bamboo horse;
with haori over head
he galloped keri

-- 石鼎 Sekitei

竹馬の
子にして遅き
使ひかな

Take-uma-no
ko-ni si-te osoki
tukai kana

For a bamboo-horsed
child, a slow
messenger kana

-- 吐月 Togetu

竹馬の
影近づきし
障子かな

Take-uma-no
kage tikaduki-si
syoozi kana

The stilts'
shadow has come close,
paper door kana

-- たかし Takasi

竹馬の
別るる声の
してゆふべ

Take-uma-no
wakaruru koe-no
si-te yuube

When bamboo-horse
voices say "goodbye",
dusk comes.

-- 拐童 Kaidoo

ねんねこ NEN'NEKO (Wadded Coat-for-Two) / 冬 HUYU (Winter)

This word means something like, "go to sleep, child", and means the wadded garment worn to go over the child being carried on the back of the carrier of the child, whether it be the mother, father, or nurse maid. It seems to have been invented in the early 19th century. It is a bit longer than the haori, roomy enough for two, and has a wide collar, usually with a wide collar of black or dark blue, to keep stains from showing.



ねんねこを
着て寺の影
山の影

Nen'neko-wo
ki-te tera-no kage
yama-no kage

With nenneko
on, the temple's shadow,
the mountain's shadow.

-- 宋淵 Sooen'

ねんねこに
子は卸されて
落葉搔

Nen'neko-ni
ko-wa orosare-te
oti-ba-kaki

In the wadded coat
the child put down,
rake the fallen leaves.

-- 礪山 Kizan'

ねんねこに
埋めたる頬に
櫛落つる

Nen'neko-ni
ume-taru hoho-ni
kusi oturu

Wadded coat-for-two;
on the buried cheek
a comb falls.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

ねんねこに
眠る子うづみ
百万辺

Nen'neko-ni
nemuru ko udumi
hyakuman'-ben'

In a nenneko
the sleeping child buried,
a million nembutsu.

-- 知世子 Tiyoiko

七五三
飴も袂も
ひきずりぬ

Siti-go-san'
ame-mo tamoto-mo
hikizuri-nu

Seven, five and three;
both taffy and sleeve
dragged along.

-- 種茅 Syuboo

七五三
妻も大人と
なりにけり

Siti-go-san'
tuma-mo otona-to
nari-ni keri

Seven, five and three;
even the wife, into an adult
has changed keri

-- 筍吉 Zyun'kiti

松風や
長き袋の
千歳飴

Matu-kaze ya
nagaki hukuro-no
ti-tose-ame

Pine-tree wind ya
A long sack of
"thousand-years taffy".

-- 白泉 Hakusen'

おもむろに
角ふりかぶり
兜蟲

Omomuro-ni
tuno huri-kaburi
kabuto-musi

Deliberately,
it moves its horns,
the beetle.

-- 多景王 Takeioo

かぶと虫
甲冑鳴らし
星より来

Kabuto-musi
kattyuu narasi
hosi-yori ku

Beetle:
rattling its armour,
from the stars it comes.

-- 寿秋 Zyusyuu

畳這ふ
爪の力や
兜蟲

Tatami hau
tume-no tikara ya
kabuto-musi

As it crawls on the mat,
its fingernails' power ya
The beetle.

-- 月斗 Getto

兜虫
甲冑重く
飛びにけり

Kabuto-musi
kattyuu omoku
tobi-ni keri

The beetle,
in heavy helmet and armour,
flew keri

-- 雨人 Uzin'

螢籠
深夜の坂を
提げゆけり

Hotaru-kago
sin'ya-no saka-wo
sage-yuke-ri

Firefly cage;
down deep night's hill
someone carries it.

-- かけい Kakei

水満つる
夜の笥や
螢籠

Midu mituru
yoru-no kakei ya
hotaru-kago

The water increases
in night's bamboo conduit ya
Firefly cage.

-- 五山 Gozan'

ころがりて
螢の籠の
灯り居り

Korogari-te
hotaru-no kago-no
tomori-ori

When it rolled over,
the firefly cage
lit up.

-- 一魯 Itiro

あけがたや
うすきひかりの
螢籠

Ake-gata ya
usuki hikari-no
hotaru-kago

Near dawn ya
A faint glimmer from
the firefly cage.

-- 林火 Rin'ka

ひとすぢの
茅の葉つらぬき
螢籠

Hito-sudi-no
ti-no ha turanuki
hotaru-kago

One straight
miscanthus leaf goes through
the firefly cage.

-- 烏頭子 Utoosi

螢籠
ともっているや
町のはし

Hotaru-kago
tomot-te iru ya
mati-no hasi

A firefly cage
is lighting up ya
The edge of town.

-- 青畝 Seiho

螢籠
微風の枝に
かかりけり

Hotaru-kago
bihuu-no eda-ni
kakari keri

Firefly cage--
where a breeze moves the bough
hung up keri

-- 紅葉 Kooyoo

螢籠
水ふけば草
蘇る

Hotaru-kago
midu huke-ba kusa
yomigaeru

Firefly cage--
water sprayed, the grasses
revive.

-- 青嵐 Seiran'

卒業子
緋衣とかはりて
花のみち

Sotugyoo-si
sii-to kawari-te
hana-no miti

Graduating youth;
From black uniforms changed,
a flowery road.

-- 静塔 Seitoo

校塔に
鳩多き日や
卒業す

Kootoo-ni
hato ooki hi ya
sotugyoo su

On the school tower
many pigeons today ya
Students graduate.

-- 草太男 Kusatao

一を知つて
二を知らぬなり
卒業す

Iti-wo sit-te
ni-wo sira-nu-nari
sotugyoo su

They know one,
but don't know two;
they graduate.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

卒業の
写真に入れる
桜かな

Sotugyoo-no
syasin'-ni ireru
sakura kana

In the graduation
photo, put in
the cherry flowers kana

-- 東州 Toosyuu

新らしき
靴そろへあり
入学児

Atarasiki
kutu soroe-ari
nyuugaku-si

Brand new
shoes in a row,
children begin school.

-- 虚子 Kyosi

入学の
子に高かりし
机かな

Nyuugaku-no
ko-ni takakari-si
tukue kana

For the begin-school
child, it was too high,
the desk kana

-- 葉末 Yoomatu

蝶と馬
入学の子が
描きて朱し

Tyoo-to uma
nyuugaku-no ko-ga
kaki-te akasi

A butterfly and a horse;
the begin-school child
drew and coloured red:

-- 時彦 Tokihiko

獅子舞の
獅子さげて畑
急ぐなり

Sisi-mai-no
sisi sage-te hata
isogu-nari

The lion dance's
lion carried, the vegetable patch
hurried along.

-- 澄雄 Sumio

獅子の頭
振るたびに日に
光りけり

Sisi-no kasira
huru tabi-ni hi-ni
hikari keri

The lion's head.
Each time it shook, with sunlight
it sparkled keri

-- 一之介 Itinosuke

獅子舞の
二人の足を
見詰めけり

Sisi-mai-no
hutari-no asi-wo
mitume keri

The lion dance;
two people's legs
were watched keri

-- 喜舟 Kisyuu

逆立てば
餅転ろげしよ
越後獅子

Sakadate-ba
moti koroge-si-yo
Etigo-zisi

When it stood upside down,
rice-cakes came rolling out!
Echigo lion.

-- 七狼 Sitiroo

頭痛む
子を獅子舞に
喰はせけり

Atama itamu
ko-wo sisi-mai-ni
kuwase keri

A head-aching
child; had the lion dancer
eat him keri

-- 忠夫 Tadao

獅子舞や
あの山越えむ
獅子の耳

Sisi-mai ya
ano yama koe-mu
sisi-no mimi

Lion dance ya
About to cross that mountain,
the lion's ears.

-- 万太郎 Man'taroo

獅子舞に
噛んで貰ひし
嫗かな

Sisi-mai-ni
kan'-de morai-si
oona kana

Dancing lion.
She had it take a bite of her
old woman kana

-- 刀郎 Tooroo

獅子舞の
巨口がっくり
舞ひ納む

Sisi-mai-no
kyokoo gakkuri
mai-osamu

The lion dance--
a giant mouth claps
and it ends.

-- 蓼汀 Ryotei

橙に
突当りけり
獅子の頭

Daidai-ni
tuki-atari keri
sisi-no kasira

The bitter orange
it ran into keri
the lion's head.

-- 松宇 Syoou

獅子舞は
顔むきだして
しまひけり

Sisi-mai-wa
kao muki-dasi-te
simai keri

The lion dancer
stuck out his face and
ended the dance keri

-- 唐月 Toogetu