

n e w s l e t t e r

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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Please note that due to space limitations, all items received may not be published in the next immediate issue.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 January 2007.
Send any item for publication by mid-December 2006 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 aim 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 some of our events or to join us, please visit our [Official Site](#) that also contains haiku written by members.

This issue and the previous ones may be downloaded [here](#)

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news

shiki haiku discovered

The Yomiuri Newspaper on July 26 announced a discovery of hitherto-unknown files - six files, each file (bound with thread) consisting of 9 to 46 pages of soft Japanese paper, total of 119 pages - of Shiki Masaoka's and his friend's Haiku and paintings.

Some of the pages show a joint work of Shiki and those friends - a painting and a Haiku (or several Haiku) in calligraphy to match the painting. Among those friends is the painter and calligrapher Fusetsu Nakamura. Those files were composed between 1892 and 1893.

Last fall the descendant of one of Shiki's disciples submitted those files to Shikian, the Museum of Shiki's last house in Tokyo (not Shiki Museum which is in Matsuyama).

The 119 pages of Haiku (in calligraphy) and paintings, some of them the work of collaboration between the Haiku calligrapher and the painter, others Shiki's copies of Nanga-painting (Chinese-style) and his sketches of things around him such as a broom and a desk reveal the way how Shiki developed his original idea and style of 'shasei' (catching life in a sketch) through his painting and through his dialogues with painter-friends in particular.

Shiki as a newspaper writer recommended and used Fusetsu's illustration for Haiku columns, and Fusetsu later provided Shiki with water-colours and a brush, with which he painted wonderful pictures of fruits, flowers, and in 1901-2 did his last diary *Gyoga-Manroku*, with illustrations of his own.

Only one of the newly-discovered pages was introduced on the newspaper as an example of the joint-work between Shiki and his painter-friend.

Shiki wrote a haiku:

Bamboo-shoots shoot,
two to three feet
in a rainy night.

Fusetsu added a painting, in black Chinese ink, of a bamboo-shoot shooting up like a pole through a rectangular hole made on the wooden floor, a classic toilet, with a classic sandal on each side. The picture was a man's joke, which must have made all the friends burst into laughter.

Article by **Masako Hirai**

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various news

Haiku Calendar Competition 2006 Results

The results of the well established Haiku Calendar Competition 2006 have been announced and are available on the Snapshot Press website at http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/haiku_competition_results.htm#calendar_comp

Details of The Haiku Calendar 2007 are at http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/the_haiku_calendar/2007.htm

The calendar can be ordered either online or by mail order at <http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/orderform.htm>

John Barlow
Editor, Snapshot Press
www.snapshotpress.co.uk

Falling Leaves

Falling Leaves at <http://autumhaiku.blogspot.com/> will be a collection of haiku, senryu, tanka, haibun, haiga and other works celebrating the season of autumn as it enfolds.

It will run from August 1st to October 30th 2006.

The blog is a follow-on from Ukku Spring Haiku <http://ukkuhaiku.blogspot.com/> and Summer Haiku <http://summerhaiku.blogspot.com/>

You will need to register with blogger in order to contribute, but you may comment on the contributions without been registered.

If you wish to contribute then please contact either administrator or use the form at <http://www.geraldengland.co.uk/fl.htm>

Gerald England
New Hope International; Haiku Talk
reviews, poetry, travel photos and more.
<http://www.geraldengland.co.uk/>
<http://hydedailyphoto.blogspot.com/>

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Renku

Norman Darlington has taken part in a traditional 36-verse Kasen renku to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the death of Kikaku, one of the most highly regarded of Basho's disciples.

Composed bilingually in Japanese and English, and led by Professor Nobuyuki Yuasa (translator of Basho's "Narrow Road to the Deep North"), the poem is now published as a limited-edition 57-page booklet under the title "Springtime in Edo".

Please visit http://haikai.eu/renku/kikaku_renku1.htm for details, where you can listen to the reading of the poem.

http://haikai.eu/renku/kikaku_renku1.htm

haiku festival in Ireland

This year the annual **samhain** literary festival in Gortahork, County Donegal will host a haiku festival recognised by the World Haiku Club.

Music and poetry activities start on Friday 27th October 2006 but the haiku activities will be held on Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 and will include a **Calligraphy workshop** with Susumu Takiguchi, the President of the WHC, a **Haiga Junior and Senior workshop** facilitated by Ion Codrescu, a **Renku workshop** with Norman Darlington, a **Ginko** led by Gabriel Rosenstock and Cathal O'Searcaigh (subject to weather) on the Saturday and on Sunday, the winner of the haiku competition (see below page 5 for more details) will be announced before a **Haiku workshop** with Gilles Fabre and a **Haibun workshop** with John W. Sexton.

An exhibition of Ion Codrescu **Haiga** will also be opened during this festival that also proposes music and poetry events (in English and Gaelic).

For more info, visit <http://www.samhainpoetry.com/Festival.htm>

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competitions

Samhain Poetry Competition

For the second year running, in conjunction with the Poetry Festival (see above), Samhain Festival holds a haiku competition with possibly The Worlds Richest First Prize for a HAIKU with a First Prize of \$5,000 or €4,000.

Fees:

€ 10 is requested with each European Entry or € 20 with each three haiku.

\$ 12.50 is requested with each American Entry or \$ 25 with each three haiku.

UK £ 7.50 is requested with each UK Entry or UK £15.00 with each three haiku.

2000 yen is requested with each Japanese entry or 5000 yen with each three haiku.

Deadline:

All entries must be postmarked and received on or before October 23rd 2006 together with fee.

Rules and conditions may be consulted at <http://www.samhainpoetry.com/Rules.htm>

The James W Hackett Annual International Award for Haiku

News about the 2006 James W Hackett International Haiku Award organised by the [British Haiku Society](#)

Haiku must be original, in English, not previously published nor under consideration for publication or entered in any other competition.

Fee:

An entry must be accompanied by the flat rate entry fee of £3.00 or US\$6.00 for up to three haiku, and £1.00 or US\$2.00 per haiku thereafter.

Deadline: in hand by 30 November 2006.

Award:

Two winning haiku will be chosen, each by a separate adjudicator (see below).

The winning authors will each receive a prize of £70 and Winning and commended haiku will be published in Volume 17 no. 2 of Blithe Spirit and on the BHS website

For more details on submission, visit <http://www.haikusoc.ndo.co.uk/>

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The Haiku Calendar Competition 2007

The Haiku Calendar Competition 2007 is now open. Full details are at http://www.snapshotpress.co.uk/haiku_competition_details.htm#calendar_comp

See above for Haiku Calendar 2006 results.

on the web

The **Mainichi Daily News** awaits your new, unpublished haiku, which are not restricted to any style, but should preferably contain a seasonal element. You can send your submissions by post or by email. More info (and haiku) at <http://mdn.mainichi-msn.co.jp/entertainment/etc/haiku/>

Roadrunner Haiku Journal

Editors Jason Sanford Brown and Scott Metz announce that Roadrunner Haiku Journal has a new look and location at <http://roadrunnerjournal.net>

Each issue has four sections: * haiku/senryu, * a spotlight on one writer's work, * a prize for the outstanding work in the previous issue, and * a special feature which may include other haiku genres.

sites related to - haiku ireland -

Haiku Spirit

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...) as well as hundreds of Japanese classic and contemporary haiku. Haiku Spirit also presents Western haiku and has a guest section for haiku submissions in English and French.

Redthread Haiku

- **haiku ireland** - member **Jim Norton** manages this site for a haiku group in the UK and Ireland that conducts workshops and publishes the haiku, haibun, and articles of members.

to find your (haiku) way on the net

This [Open Directory](#) under the supervision of William Higginson and this [Links Page](#) managed by Mark Alan Osterhaus contain links to most sites of haiku poets, associations, publishers, journals, forums...

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special guest

jim kacian

Jim Kacian is founder and owner of Red Moon Press, the largest and prestigious publisher dedicated to English-language haiku; co-founder of the World Haiku Association; erstwhile editor of Frogpond, the international membership journal of the Haiku Society of America, and prior to that, South by Southeast; author of more than a dozen volumes of haiku and editor of scores more, including the Red Moon Anthology series (celebrating its 10th year of publication), the Contemporary Haibun series (in its 7th year), and the tanka anthology.

3 questions

When and how did you discover and start writing haiku?

I've been writing haiku for a quarter century.

I first came to it through Jack Kerouac's novels *The Dharma Bums* and *Desolation Angels* in the former he specifically mentions the four volumes of R. H. Blyth's *Haiku* since he writes autobiographically so often, I decided to look them up of course they existed, and I was entranced when I read them I am less entranced now, since I have so much more experience in the genre, and recognize Blyth's agenda for what it is nevertheless, Blyth's work was important to me as to so many others who came to haiku primarily through literature.

I began writing haiku perhaps half a year after I'd begun reading Blyth, and I set myself the task of writing a thousand of them before I tried to publish any. I achieved this goal, but now feel it was a bit mistaken: it would have served to have written, say, 250 poems, and then gotten the valuable feedback of an editor when I did get such feedback, I learned quite as fast as I had learned in those first couple hundred poems since that time I've written fairly regularly, with the occasional dry spell, but many copious spells I also think I've gone through a dozen or so styles, shifts of emphasis, directions, or whatever else you'd like to label it.

What is haiku for you?

Haiku is art, and has as much importance to me as any art could that is, I have chosen to involve my life with it in nearly every aspect most of what I do is related to haiku, except for teaching tennis (I've been a professional for 35 years now, and the two worlds have very little overlap) but it is not a substitute for life indeed, I remember reading many years ago that haiku was the sort of thing one does when it is rainy and cold outdoors and you are loathe to go out I too would rather go out than write or read, but there are times when writing and reading are exactly the thing to do, and that's when I like to do them in fact, I invoke haiku a good deal more often than this, but nevertheless that would be the ideal I strive for...

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

It will be what we make of it. I would like to think that haiku, especially in its aspects of universal genre and art held in common, could be a model for bringing people together on the other hand, I recognize that even in the haiku world not everyone gets along, and that haiku is a very small gesture in a world of theatrics. I see haiku mattering to those who choose to let it matter, and if those people have some say in how the world is run, it will have some influence.

I'll be boring and say I don't have a favourite haiku, though I have many that matter to me, and I add and subtract poems from that collection all the time. I am most interested just now in haiku that reach readers in ways that are not the usual juxtaposition of images, or wabi/sabi sensibility-happily, these are becoming easier to find, even in the mainstream publications, and i think haiku is undergoing a growth spurt just now, expanding its own limits I can't think of anything more important for it as a genre than to keep changing, to become what is essential for poets to use for their expression some of my favourite poets just now include Sayumi Kamakura of Japan, Philip Rowland, a Brit living in Japan, Bill Ramsey of South Carolina and R. Grey of Pennsylvania these latter two write primarily in haibun form, and that, too, is a particular interest of mine, with my bent being towards edgier material, things that fall outside the defined scope of haikai, but are essential to life, and so must be written about but ask me again tomorrow and I'll probably have completely different answers.

haiku

jim kacian

Haiku from *dead reckoning* by Jim Kacian

driftwood the slight curve of the horizon

paddling through the gravity of another world spring tide

bubbles up through green water the heat

without islands in the dead center loneliness

dead reckoning the moment the tide reverses

a night ship adrift in any darkness

starry night some noise of the Big Bang still left

deep in space the red shift of my mind

long view to Sirius even the past isn't past

in a tent in the rain i become a climate

haiku

whiskey i sip it till it loves me

the wait for an owl the second time

by candlelight a mosquito slow with blood

skull held up to the ear the sound of the sea

on the verge of waking my self

dead reckoning: the calculation of a ship's position without astronomical observations, by means of the distances sailed on the various courses as shown by the log and compass, with corrections for currents, etc. Using this technique it is possible to reach destinations which cannot be seen from the departure point, and when there are no fixed reference points along the way.

The following poems have been previous published:

without islands: Frogpond XXVIII:2

a night ship: NOON 1

in a tent: NOON 2

whiskey: ginyu 25

on the verge: Reeds 2005

© Red Moon Press 2005

haiku

two haiku by Tito

Blustery beach -
In intent conversation
Till one stoops down
To pick up a stone.

Echoing into
The hermit's cell,
Sunday morning
Woodland birdsong.

St. Robert's Cave,
Knaresborough, Yorkshire, 25.6.06

- haiku ireland – members

having no thought
we've come to see them-
dogwoods in bloom

After the gale
a soft breeze
my breath eases

Michael McClintock
*2nd place, 2006 Harold G. Henderson
Haiku Contest*

Mary White

first date-
the little pile
of anchovies

hairpin bend
headlights on the edge
of a thunderhead

Ernest Berry

Roberta Beary
*1st place, 2006 Gerald Brady Senryu
Contest*

No matter how long I gaze
the gorilla's thoughts
are inscrutable

unexpectedly
cool on the nape of my neck
breeze of a wasp's wings

Brooding over an issue
across the park ~ I see
and hear fewer birds

Jim Norton

Gilles Fabre

haiku

lying amongst
wine-bottles' shadows
winos enjoying the sun

talk of war
the spin cycle's
steady hum

graveyard
overgrown -
life run riot

a path made by bears 2005 Red Moon Press

the train's shadow
passes over them:
country children

unripe tangerine
peeling it with his good hand
soldier on home-leave

*Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest
HM 2004*

John McDonald

Water calm and deep green
From the shadow of cedars-
A small trout rises.

summer's end
tapping the windchimes
all the dead soldiers

2nd Prize, 7th Mainichi Haiku Contest 2003

Mountains snow tipped
Above the timber line-
Water falls down cliffs

Roberta Beary

Sean Brophy

Postcards from Hollywood

Light at the shop door
she lifts one hand
to compare three smears of lipstick

photograph
"how did you meet your friend?"
fingerprints

He zips up their anoraks
clumsily
ready for the getaway

wafting
through the kitchen screen door
- pong of a skunk

Pauline Hall

Hillhurst & Avocado
under the jacaranda
goodbye hugs

Maeve O'Sullivan

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forthcoming events

book launch

- haiku ireland - is pleased to announce the book launch in Dublin of Ken Jones' latest collection of haibun and haiku:

THE PARSLEY BED (35 haibun and 75 haiku)

Haiku Stories by Ken Jones ("One of the chief practitioners of haibun in English today"
Jim Kacian, American haiku poet and publisher)

The launch is to take place on Thursday 28 September, 2006 (7pm) and will be followed by a Discussion on haiku and haibun, and how to write haibun and haiku with Ken Jones and **- haiku ireland -**

- haiku ireland - meetings

- haiku ireland - hosts a gathering (meeting/workshop) open to all in the Silk Road Café (Chester Beatty Library).

Next Meetings:

Saturday 7 October 2006

Saturday 2 December 2006

Time: 2.30-4.30pm

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

ginko

On Saturday 4th November **- haiku ireland -** member Neville Keery will lead a ginko including a visit of the Quaker burial ground at Temple Hill, Blackrock (co Dublin).

Meeting point at the Blackrock Public Library (Newtown Avenue): 2.15 pm

Departure 2.30pm

Discussion and Workshop at the Tonic Inn (at the junction of Temple Road, Carysfort Avenue, Main Street and Newtown Avenue): 4pm

For further details on these events, contact: info@haikuireland.org

thanks

- haiku ireland - wishes to thank the [Chester Beatty Library](#), the [Silk Road Café](#) and their friendly staff for hosting our meetings.