Through the Spirea

an international haiku anthology

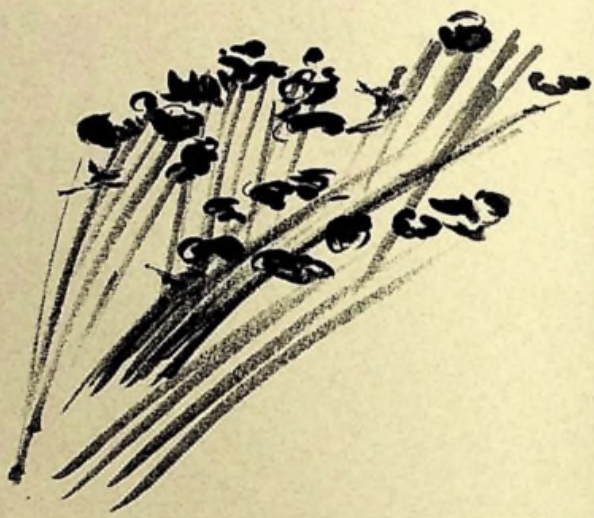
EDITED BY MICHAEL DYLAN WELCH

The Herb Barrett Award

Through the Spirea

field of poppies
stirred to undulating fire
by summer wind

Herb Barrett



Through the Spirea

an international haiku anthology

the winning poems of
The Herb Barrett Award, 1998

edited by Michael Dylan Welch

hamilton haiku press

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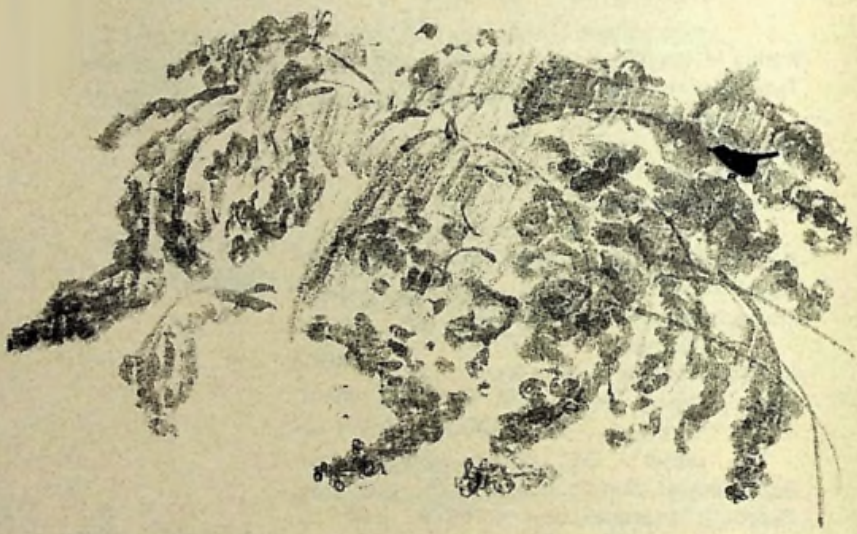
Timothy Russell

FIRST PRIZE

cold morning —
the sparrow's twitch
ripples through the spirea



A.C. Missias

SECOND PRIZE

city park —
the wind takes a leaf
from the chessboard

winter rain —
two puffed sparrows
call softly between trees

Ferris Gilli

THIRD PRIZE

white sand —
the injured wasp
draws another loop

rain pool
in a hollow stump . . .
shimmering maples

ashes drifting
beyond charred fields
a hawk's slow curve

stopped by a gate
the blind man and his dog
sniffing roses

Izak Bouwer

HONOURABLE MENTION

longer days —
behind the icicles
a little spider

Sandra Fuhringer

HONOURABLE MENTION

midnight rain
the vacancy sign
is turned off

winter moonlight
the music box plays
all by itself

no moon
the birch trees
lit by snow

crescent moon
a curve of snow in each corner
of the bay window

leaves in the wind
the carousel horses
riderless

in the long grass
of the old orchard
surveyor's stakes

late chores
a pair of moths
follow the lantern

the last basket
of rootcellar apples
rain in the orchard

Winona Baker

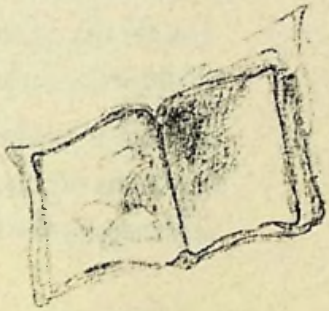
hunter's moon —
waves lap the woman
carved in the rock

snowflakes fill
the eye of the eagle
fallen totem pole

in the pocket
of his woodshed coveralls
a nest of deer mice

Ernest J. Berry

old gardening book
the loose leaves
changing colour

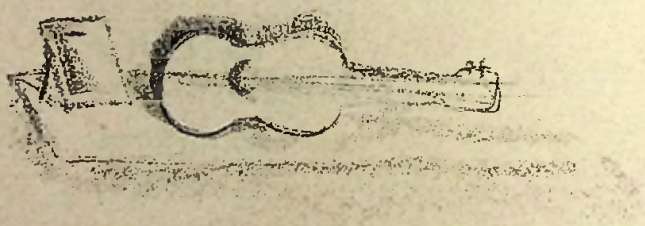


overnight café
a courier unloads
home-made cakes

school library
an occasional shush
from the door opener

Randy M. Brooks

missing in action . . .
she dusts off his guitar,
returns it to the shelf



Tom Clausen

sparse snowfall —
cracking an almond
in the low lamplight

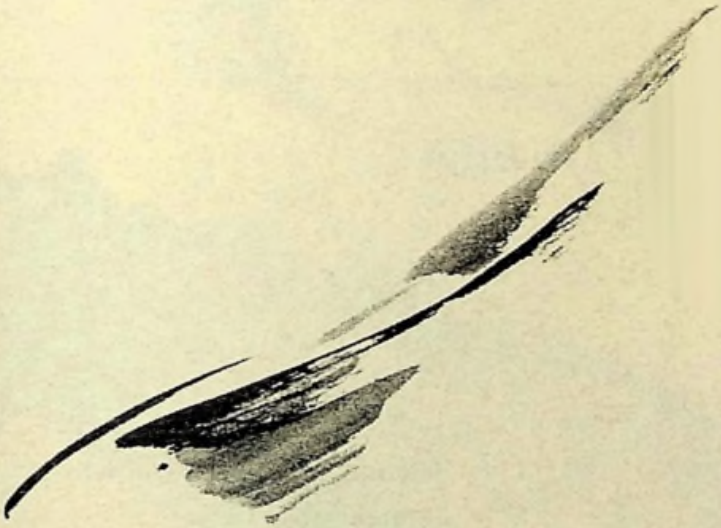
blustery election day —
outside the building a strong scent
of scrambled eggs

Denise Coney

leaves turning —
the grocer's change
cool in my hand

Ann Goldring

the busker's song
swept away
in a gust of wind



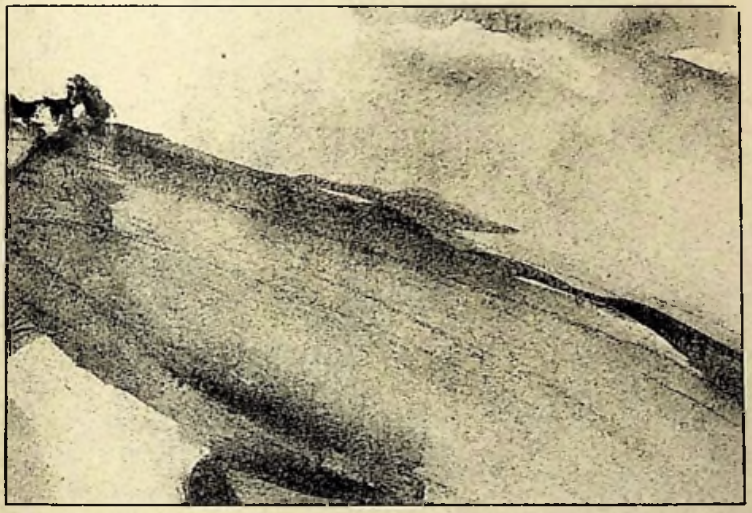
Larry Kimmel

hunter's moon —
the cat comes home
faintly smelling of wood smoke

listening for the barred owl —
a moth flutters
into my shirt

Dorothy McLaughlin

bank to bank,
the smooth river reflects
a fraction of sky



June Moreau

moss garden
even the rain
speaks softly

Francine Porad

winter sunshine
on a sawed-off branch
glittering amber

clear skies
for the lunar eclipse —
white moth folds its wings

Jeff Seffinga

the wooden fence
three inches higher
after the snowfall

Helen J. Sherry

dawn —
five shades of mist
to the far mountain

fog lifting . . .
lights slowly fit
into houses

sunset —
the crow flies its call
deep into the forest

Ruby Spriggs

clocks put back —
a bowl fills
with late sunshine

Elizabeth St Jacques

clear cool brook . . .
touching my toe
the silver minnow

in my palm
the small warm stone
from Jerusalem

Lilka Trzcinska-Croydon

In the camp hospital
a rat nibbles
her still-warm toes

Wendy Visser

The day he dies —
I mend his clothes
open his mail

Frances Ward

sundown in the hollow
green apples drop
from heavy branches

The Poets

Timothy Russell (first prize) lives in Toronto, Ohio, where he is a boiler repairman at Weirton Steel. He is the author of six books of poetry, among them *The Possibility of Turning to Salt, Communi*, and *In Consensus*. His haiku have appeared in *Gathering Light* and *Cold Morning*, the 1996 and 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthologies.

A.C. Missias (second prize) lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and aspires to doing poetry full-time. In the meantime the bills are paid by research in a biology lab. She divides her evenings between editorial efforts for the haiku journal *Acorn* and entertaining a large fuzzy cat.

Ferris Gilli (third prize) lives with her husband in Orlando, Florida. She is an avid birder, a mystery novelist, and a potter. She earned first place in the Adult English Language Division of the 1998 Alabama Sakura Festival Haiku Competition. Her poetry can be seen in on-line journals such as *Poetry in the Light, Reflections, Haiku Dawn, Tanka's Haiku Page*, and *Haiga Online*.

Izak Bouwer (honourable mention) lives with his wife in Ottawa, Ontario, where he writes poems and stories. He is a retired mathematics professor who has published a number of research articles in mathematical journals.

Sandra Fuhringer (two honourable mentions) lives in Hamilton, Ontario, with her husband and son. She credits haiku for sustaining her creative abilities through eight 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). Her work appeared in *Gathering Light* and *Cold Morning*, the 1996 and 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthologies.

Winona Baker lives in Nanaimo, British Columbia. She is the author of five poetry collections: *Beyond the Lighthouse, Moss-Hung Trees: Haiku of the West Coast, Not So Scarlet a Woman, Clouds Empty Themselves: Island Haiku*, and *wild strawberries*. Widely published internationally, she was the 1989 International Grand Prize winner of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Prize in the Bashō contest, and has received a Societatea Romana de Haiku medallion and a Croatian Haiku Association award. Her work appeared in *Gathering Light* and *Cold Morning*, the 1996 and 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthologies, and *Doors of the Morning, Sing for the Inner Ear*, and *Waiting for You to Speak*, the 1996, 1997, and 1998 Sandburg-Livesay Award anthologies.

Ernest J. Berry is a 1929 model, manufactured in Christchurch, New Zealand, where he worked until 1950, when he was driven to the Korean War. After a few years as cowboy/shepherd in the New Zealand high country, he started up in business in Auckland as an importer-exporter of sewing machines. Eventually he retired to a remote Mexican beach, where for ten years he indulged in poetry, dune-buggying, frisbeeing, and a little fishing. On

return to NZ, he discovered haiku. His haiku appeared in *Cold Morning*, the 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthology and in *Waiting for You to Speak*, the current Sandburg-Livesay anthology.

Randy M. Brooks lives in Decatur, Illinois but grew up in Kansas, where his ancestors were homesteaders and farmers. In Decatur he is a professor of English at Millikin University. He is the publisher of Brooks Books (formerly High/Coo Press), which he founded in 1976 with his wife Shirley. His books and chapbooks are *Where Will Mockingbird Nest?, The Rosebud Bursts, Barbwire Holds Its Ground, The Last Quarter Mile, Me Too!, The Collected Haiku of Randy Brooks, Black Ant's Journey to Japan, In Her Blue Eyes, The Homestead Cedars*, and *School's Out: Selected Haiku*. In addition to his own titles, Dr. Brooks has edited four haiku anthologies. Currently, he and his wife publish the haiku magazine *Mayfly*. In 1998 he was presented with the Haiku Society of America's Harold G. Henderson Award.

Tom Clausen is a life-long resident of Ithaca, New York, where he works at the library of Cornell University. He and his wife Berta have two children. His chapbooks are *Autumn Wind In The Cracks, Unraked Leaves, A Work of Love*, and *Standing Here*. He feels that haiku can convey the poetic in the ordinary anywhere, anytime.

Denise Coney was born in Toronto, Ontario, in 1957 and now lives in a forest north of that city. She used to co-edit *Inkstone*, Canada's leading haiku journal. Her work has been anthologized, most recently in *Haiku Moment* and in *Waiting for You to Speak*, the current Sandburg-Livesay anthology. She placed in the top .5 percent of 40,000 entries in the Japan Airlines Contest.

Ann Goldring lives in rural Stouffville, Ontario, where she serves as Ontario's regional coordinator for Haiku Canada. She is a founding member of a Toronto group of haiku poets, Haiku Deer Park. Her haiku have been published in a Haiku Canada sheet, *small bird's small breath*, in *Gathering Light* and *Cold Morning*, the 1996 and 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthologies, and in the 1997 Sandburg-Livesay Award anthology, *Sing for the Inner Ear*.

Larry Kimmel was born in 1940 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, and lives in Colrain, Massachusetts. He has poetry in the current Sandburg-Livesay anthology, *Waiting for You to Speak*. His two poetry collections are *Lights Across The River* and *alone tonight*. He is also the author of the novel, *A Small Silent Ordeal*.

Dorothy McLaughlin was born and educated in Massachusetts but has lived in New Jersey for the past thirty-four years. A former teacher, she and her husband are now retired. She is the haiku editor of *Piedmont Literary Review* and co-author of *Connecting Our Houses*, a perpetual calendar of haiku and senryu. Her work has been widely anthologized in collections like *A Haiku Path, Haiku World*, and *Haiku Moment*.

June Moreau lives in Lexington, Massachusetts; she enjoys the forests of New England and is a mountaineer. She writes haiku, tanka, and free verse, and her poetry has been widely published.

Francine Porad lives, writes, and paints in the Seattle, Washington area. She is a former President of The Haiku Society of America and she has edited *Brussels Sprout* for eight years. Her twenty-one publications are *Connections; Pen and Inklings; After Autumn Rain; Blues on the Run; Free of Clouds; Round Renga Round; Without Haste; Hundreds of Wishes; A Mural of Leaves; Joy is My Middle Name; The Patchwork Quilt; Waterways; All Eyes; Ladies and Jellyspoons; Extended Wings; A Haiku Selection; Moon, Moon; Fog Lifting; All the Games; Let's Count the Trees*; and *Cur*rent*. Ms. Porad has won several awards and prizes, including first place, Japan Poetry Society's International Tanka Competition and first place, National League of American Pen Women's Oregon State Haiku Contest.

Jeff Seffinga, a poet from Hamilton, Ontario, spends much of his time attempting to distill the true meaning of life out of random bits of the natural world. His four books are *Three Crows Flying, Lunatic Hands, Tight Shorts*, and *Bailey's Mill*.

Helen J. Sherry lives in San Diego, California. A visual artist in addition to being a haikuist, her paintings have been exhibited throughout the U.S. and she has designed stained glass windows for two Ohio churches. She is a recipient of The Levy Memorial Award in the Arts and the Woman of Achievement Award from the National League of American Pen Women. Among her many awards are first place in the New Zealand Haiku Contest, the Florida State Poet's Association Contest, and the Ohio Poetry Day Contest. Her poetry collections are *Tapestry, Colors of Haiku*, and *Splashes*.

Ruby Spriggs lives in Ottawa, Ontario. She is a former editor of *Haiku Canada Newsletter* and, in 1994, helped Dorothy Howard kick-start *Raw NerVZ Haiku*. Her work appears in many anthologies, and her three books are *Sun Shadow, Moon Shadow; The Swan's Wings*; and *Switching Off the Shadows*.

Elizabeth St Jacques lives in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. Her haiku collection *A Dance of Light* earned first prize in The Haiku Society of America's 1995 Merit Book Award, a 1995 Albatross Award (Romania), and was a "November Pick" of *Small Press Review*. Also, her collection *landings soft* won the Cicada Haiku Chapbook Award, published by Amelia Press, 1994. Her other poetry titles include *curve of light, echoes all strung out, Around The Tree of Light, Silver Sign & Shadows Blue*, and *Diary of Thoughts*. Ms. St Jacques' non-fiction book is *Survivors: The Great Depression*. She currently serves as Associate Editor of *Sijo West*. Her poetry appeared in *Gathering Light* and *Cold Morning*, the 1996 and 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthologies, and *Doors of the Morning* and *Sing for the Inner Ear*, the 1996 and 1997

Sandburg-Livesay Award anthologies. She maintains "Poetry In The Light," an award-winning website showcasing haiku, tanka, and sijo: http://members.tripod.com/~Startag/Contents.html.

Lilka Trzcinska-Croydon was born in Poland in 1925. She and her family were arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 for their involvement in the Resistance. Her mother died in Auschwitz, but the rest of the family survived. After liberation from Bergen-Belsen, Ms. Trzcinska went to Italy and later to England. She moved to Toronto, Ontario, in 1948 and became a psychoanalytic child therapist. Her longer poetry can be found in the two most recent Sandburg-Livesay anthologies, *Sing for the Inner Ear* and *Waiting for You to Speak*.

Wendy Visser lives in rural Cambridge, Ontario. She writes short stories and poetry, and she has contributed to the last two volumes of *Writers Undercover*, the anthology of the Cambridge Writers Collective.

Frances Ward was born in Manchester, England, but has lived in Hamilton, Ontario, for most of her adult life. Her paintings have been exhibited across southern Ontario. Her poetry has recently appeared in *Top 40* (1995) and *Ingots*. Her haiku have appeared in *Gathering Light* and *Cold Morning*, the 1996 and 1997 Herb Barrett Award anthologies, as well as in the anthology *Paradise Poems*.

The editor
Michael Dylan Welch

Michael Dylan Welch was born in 1962 in Watford, England. He holds dual British/Canadian citizenship and has lived in Ghana, Australia, Manitoba, and Alberta, but now lives in Foster City, California. For many years he edited the quarterly haiku journal *Woodnotes*, and now edits *Tundra*, a journal for short poetry. Besides his own writing and editing, he also operates Press Here, a small California literary publishing house. He has an M.A. in English and works as an editor for IDG Books Worldwide, publisher of the yellow For Dummies books. He is a co-founder of the American Haiku Archives at the California State Library, and also of the Haiku North America conference that meets around the continent every two years. He has also served as an officer of The Haiku Society of America and the Haiku Poets of Northern California. His books include *The Haijin's Tweed Coat* and *Tremors* (both 1990) and he has edited various anthologies, including *Fig Newtons: Senryu to Go* (senryu, 1993), *Footsteps in the Fog* (tanka, 1994), *Wedge of Light* (haibun, 1999), and five Haiku North America conference anthologies. Mr. Welch brings to haiku an awareness of the transcendent or spiritual world that lies behind, and informs, our surface reality. His own poetry has been widely published and collected, and he is generally considered a leading authority on English-language haiku.

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 Penumbra 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
Milton Acorn & Cedric Smith, ***The Road to Charlottetown***
Becky D. Alexander (editor), ***Paradise Poems:***
haiku from Cootes Paradise
Herb Barrett, ***The Light Between***
Fred Cogswell (judge), ***Doors of the Morning:***
The Sandburg-Livesay Award, 1996
James Deahl (editor), ***Mix Six***
James Deahl (editor), ***The Northern Red Oak:***
Poems for and about Milton Acorn
Simon Frank, ***Imaginary Poems***
LeRoy Gorman (editor), ***Gathering Light:***
The Herb Barrett Award, 1996
Albert W.J. Harper, ***Poems of Reflection***
John B. Lee, ***The Echo of Your Words Has Reached Me***
Tanis MacDonald, ***This Speaking Plant***
The Acorn-Rukeyser Award, 1996
Audrey Duncan Major, ***Light and Lively Poems, Book II***
Judge Mazebedi, ***Chicken Cries Out***
Walt Peterson, ***In the Waiting Room of the Speedy Muffler King***
The Acorn-Rukeyser Award, 1998
Ted Plantos (editor), ***Not to Rest in Silence:***
A celebration of people's poetry
Anna Plesums, ***Intrinsic Revelations***
Anna Plesums, ***Love and Words***
Al Purdy (judge), ***Sing for the Inner Ear:***
The Sandburg-Livesay Award, 1997
Kay Redhead, ***The Song of the Artichoke Lover***
Linda Rogers, ***Picking the Stones***
The Acorn-Rukeyser Award, 1997
Margaret Saunders (editor), ***Cold Morning:***
The Herb Barrett Award, 1997
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***
Jim C. Wilson (judge), ***Waiting for You to Speak:***
The Sandburg-Livesay Award, 1998

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 1999 is November 30.

Mekler & Deahl also offers two People's Poetry contests:

The Acorn-Rukeyser Chapbook Award

(1999 deadline September 30)

The Sandburg-Livesay Anthology Award

(1999 deadline October 31)

Both offer cash prizes as well as publication.

For full details on these contests, check out our website
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