

Haiku (*The Essential Haiku*, Ecco Press)

By Basho:

Felling a tree
and seeing the cut end--
tonight's moon.

The crane's legs
have gotten shorter
in the spring rain.

The sea darkening--
the wild duck's call
is faintly white.

A bucket of azaleas,
in its shadow
the woman tearing codfish.

A bee
staggers out
of the peony.

Awake at night--
the sound of the water jar
cracking in the cold.

Cats making love--
when it's over, hazy moonlight
in the bedroom.

Still alive
and frozen in one lump--
the sea slugs.

By Buson:

Coolness--
the sound of the bell
as it leaves the bell.

Fallen petals of red plum--
they seem to be burning
on the clods of horse shit.

Blow of an axe,
pine scent,
the winter woods.

The sound of a bell
struck off center
vanishes in haze.

A heavy cart rumbles by
and the peonies
quiver

Butterfly
sleeping
on the temple bell.

The mason's finger
bleeds
near azaleas.

A tethered horse,
snow
in both stirrups

Japanese Poetry Resources

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Waka/Tanka

- *Traditional Japanese Poetry: An Anthology*, Steven D. Carter, Stanford University Press, 1993. Covers all forms of traditional poetry, including waka/tanka, haiku, and renga.
- *Japanese Court Poetry*, Robert Brower & Earl Miner, Stanford University Press, 1988.
- Tanka Online: <http://www.tankaonline.com/>
- Tanka Society of America: <http://www.tankasocietyofamerica.org/links>

Haiku

- *The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, & Issa*, Robert Hass, ed., Ecco Press, 1995. My favorite collection; includes some haibun and a good introduction. Hass is a major American poet and his ear makes a difference.
- *The Haiku Handbook: How to Write, Share, and Teach Haiku*, William J. Higginson, Kodansha USA, 1992. Good teaching ideas.
- Haiku Foundation: <https://www.thehaikufoundation.org/>. Extensive resources, including lesson plans for teaching haiku, grades K-12, and materials on haibun and renga.
- Haiku Society of America: <http://www.hsa-haiku.org/>

Renga

- *Japanese Linked Poetry: An Account With Translations of Renga and Haikai Sequences*, Earl Miner, Princeton University Press (1980)

Haibun

- *Basho's Narrow Road: Spring and Autumn Passages*, Hiroaki Sato, trans., Stone Bridge Press. A translation of Basho's most famous travelogue, "Narrow Road to the Interior," along with two renga. Sato is a major translator of Japanese poetry.
- Poets.org: "More than the Birds, Bees, and Trees: A Closer Look at Writing Haibun," Aimee Nezhukumatathil (<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/text/more-birds-bees-and-trees-closer-look-writing-haibun>)