

Biting the Sun includes a brief history of the group by John Ziemba, as well as a conversation / interview with himself about the genre. It also includes a section that explains how their haiku workshops function and a large selection of haiku from the BHS membership. Familiar names of current and one-time members include Kaji Aso, Brad Bennett, John Bergstrom, Raffael de Gruttola, Judson Evans, Karen Klein, Paul Mena, Zinovy Vayman, and John Ziemba. Like the other group anthologies, *Biting the Sun* showcases a lively group dedicated to the genre.

All three anthologies would make a welcome addition to any haiku library.

BRIEFLY NOTED

Thrip (No place [Charleston, Ill.]: Samuddo / Ocean, 2014). 88 pages; 4¼" x 6¾". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-312-38714-0. *Monera* (No place [Charleston, Ill.]: Samuddo / Ocean, 2014). 96 pages; 5¾" x 8¼". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-312-41892-9. All by John Martone. All available free online at <http://www.scribd.com/john-martone-2968>

Two new collections by the ever-prolific Martone. *Thrip* is a collection of several smaller books while *Monera*—a biological classification of unicellular organisms—contains pairings of slide reproductions with poems. Always a deft writer!

Aftermaths, by LeRoy Gorman (Canada: Puddles of Sky Press, 2014). 20 pages; 4½" x 5½". Gray card covers; hand-sewn. ISBN 978-0-9881230-7-6. Price: \$5.00 from www.puddlesofskypress.com

Minimal poems that include mathematical symbols and formulas. An interesting experiment. While most struggle to move beyond the intellectual, a few are surprisingly elusive. One titled "to die in one's sleep": Z^z

The Half-Finished Bridge, edited by David Grayson (Santa Rosa, Calif.: Two Autumns Press, 2014). 32 pages; 5¼" x 8½". Glossy card cover; saddle-stapled. No ISBN. Price: \$8.00 from jwrobello@hotmail.com

The anthology that accompanies the 2014 Haiku Poets of Northern California's annual Two Autumns haiku reading—their twenty-fifth! Surely the longest-running reading series outside Japan. The present volume contains the work of four poets plus an insightful introduction from the editor. Attractively assembled and always a satisfying read. One haiku from each reader:

condoms:
the checker asks me to slide
my card more slowly

Rich Krivcher

B-2 flyover
for a moment I forget
its purpose

Tanya McDonald

deep winterback
a stack of white tea bowl
still warm from the kiln

Linda Papanicolaou

splicing
sa mooring line
talk of home

Joseph Robello

Haiku Forest Afterlife, by Robert Epstein (West Union, W.Va.: Middle Island Press, 2014). 132 pages; 5" x 8". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-0-6922-2170-9. Price: \$13.00 from online booksellers.

Epstein has been exploring the dark side of haiku for many years through successful anthologies such as *Checkout Time is Noon: Death Awareness in Haiku* and *Dreams Wander On: Contemporary Poems of Death Awareness*, and he would be the first to suggest that death is more mystery to be embraced than event to be feared. *Haiku Forest Afterlife* contains over a hundred short poems on the subject of death, yet unfortunately many of them are too explanatory to be considered haiku. This distinction doesn't necessarily preclude enjoyment of them, but perhaps in some cases "epigram" might be a better label. One that invites further exploration and one that doesn't:

1	comes a time
billion	when the corpse pose
days	no longer is
here	
i	
am	
again	
snow-	
man	

A Firefly's Signature, by Jörgen Johansson (Winchester, Va.: Red Moon Press, 2014). 54 pages; 4¼" x 6½". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-936848-29-4. Price: \$12.00 from www.red-moonpress.com

A slim collection that mostly succeeds—but when it does, we are grateful that the author writes in English as well as his native Swedish. A good range in the work. ett eko / I det tomma rummet / ... utmötningen *echo* / *in the empty room* / ... *foreclosure*

Collected Poems, by William Eiden (No place [Elk Grove Village, Ill.]: Privately Printed, 2014). 24 pages; 5½" x 8½". Black and white card covers; saddle-stapled. No ISBN. Price: Inquire of the author at 1139 Hawthorne Lane, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

A collection of longer poetry that includes many haiku, mostly shasei.
stars / trace evening / shore

After the Night Rain, by James G. Brueggemann (Oberlin, Ohio: Dankworth Publishing, 2014). 89 pages; 5½" x 8½". Matte four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-0-9855676-2-0. Price: \$12.95 from online booksellers.

An uneven collection of over 150 haiku. While Brueggemann shows that he knows what he is doing in a number of them, there are far more haiku that fall flat. One of the better ones: *Watching / His IV bottle being hung / Rain on the window*

Broken Rooms: Haiku and Sculpture, by Ellis Avery and William Corwin (Brooklyn, N.Y.: Crumpled Press, 2014). 42 pages; 7" x 10". Hand-sewn. ISBN 978-0-9796969-8-5. Price: \$40.00 from www.crumpledpress.org

Lauded by the likes of Maxine Hong Kingston and singer Michael Stipe, the poems by Avery come in many varieties—simple descriptions, commentaries, lists—but unfortunately most fail to be more than that. The collected whole is poetry, an ode to urban life made with brief haiku-like pieces, many with affecting images, but each piece is rarely strong enough to stand on its own. The poems are paired with photographs of plaster and clay building figures in various states of disrepair that add to the sense of civilization lost. Best to think of it as a long poem. One interesting link: *On the ground beneath an air conditioner: a tiny, broken egg.*