

*No Longer Strangers: Haiku Northwest 25th Anniversary Anthology*, edited by Tanya McDonald, Marilyn Sandall, Michelle Schaefer, and Angela Terry (Bellevue, Wash.: Haiku Northwest / Vandina Press, 2014). 152 pages; 6" x 9". Matte four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-887381-27-7. Price: \$15.00 from online booksellers.

*One Song*, edited by Garry Gay (Santa Rosa, Calif.: Two Autumns Press, 2014). 71 pages; 5¼" x 8½". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-163443616-8. Price: \$12.00 from susantolin@gmail.com

*Biting the Sun*, edited by John Ziemba (Boston, Mass.: Privately printed, 2014). 13 pages; 5½" x 8½". Black and white card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-0-692343-90-6. Price: \$10.58 from online booksellers

*Reviewed by Paul Miller*

In 2014 three regional haiku groups—Haiku Northwest, the Haiku Poets of Northern California, and the Boston Haiku Society—celebrated their twenty-fifth anniversaries with retrospective anthologies.

*No Longer Strangers*, Haiku Northwest's twenty-fifth anniversary anthology, contains haiku, senryu, haibun, and a list of the group's publications since 1992. It also includes a detailed and informative history of this vibrant group by Connie Hutchinson.

Haiku Northwest was formed in 1988 by Francine Porad. The first meeting took place at the Bellevue Public Library and, like much of its early history, was described in an issue of *Brussels Sprout*—the journal Porad took over from Alexis Rotella. Since then the group has continued to meet every other month in a variety of places, including a regular stint at Porad's home. Hutchinson's history does a nice job of incorporating other Washington regional groups and their interwoven relationship to Haiku Northwest, including some that pre-date the group.

While the history's descriptions of numerous readings, conferences, publications, and other (including two Haiku North America hostings

and their annual Seabeck outing) made me wish I lived in the Seattle area, the heart of the anthology is the haiku. Many notable haiku poets have been at one time or are still members of the organization. Poets include Maggie Chula, Alice Frampton, Lorraine Ellis Harr, Christopher Herold, anne mckay, Ce Rosenow, Michael Dylan Welch, and Ruth Yarrow—to name but a few. Most poets have two or three poems in the book. *No Longer Strangers* does an excellent job celebrating the group's past as well as showcasing its current talent.

The Haiku Poets of Northern California was founded in San Francisco in 1989. While Garry Gay was but one of its founding members, it wouldn't be unfair to say that he has been instrumental in both keeping it alive as well as expanding its scope. Over the years he has been its longest serving president as well as the creator of its Two Autumns reading series (see this year's anthology in the "Briefly Noted" section). Additionally, he is the editor of this anniversary anthology.

*One Song* is a celebration of HPNC's annual Two Autumns series. The series is the longest-running haiku reading series outside of Japan. It presents four readers (two experienced poets paired with two newer poets) and is accompanied by an annual, edited anthology. While HPNC is a San Francisco Bay Area group, they do have members far afield, and the Two Autumns series includes several of them.

*One Song* selects a haiku from each reader from each of its twenty-five years. Jerry Ball, Cherie Hunter Day, Stanford Forrester, Carolyn Hall, Michael McClintock, John Stevenson, Ebba Story, vince tripi—to once again name but a few—are some of the poets included.

The anthology also includes an interview with Garry Gay conducted by David Grayson, which focuses on the Two Autumns series: its origins, methods, and future.

The Boston Haiku Society was founded in November of 1988 by John Ziemba, although due to Ziemba's absence from 1995 to 2007, through much of its history Raffael de Gruttola's leadership has been its foundation. The Society has met since its inception on the third Saturday of the month at the art studio of Kaji Aso.

*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!