

The review copy sent to Modern Haiku contained some printer's errors that are assumed to have been fixed. They were primarily related to the introductions so would not detract from the reader's enjoyment of the poems.

While readers may find fault with omissions of poets and schools of haiku, these concerns pale against the volume's ambition. The editors are to be rewarded for taking on the challenge of a global anthology that goes further afield than most. Worth a look!

BRIEFLY NOTED

Haiku 2015, ed. by Lee Gurga and Scott Metz (Lincoln, Ill.: Modern Haiku Press, 2015). 110 pages; 5½"×4¼". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 0-9741894-7-2. Price: \$8.00 from the publisher at www.modernhaiku.org

The latest anthology from editors Gurga and Metz introduces the haiku using a list from Martin Lucas and Stuart Quine's essay "Haiku as Poetic Spell" (*Presence* 41) as an invocation to what lies within the anthology's pages. The list distinguishes desirable characteristics in a haiku from those that are often staid and predictable. The result is a collection of lively, shape-shifting, and surprising haiku. Most of all, they are strong representations of the form. Buy it!

The Sunflower, by Steve April (Mountain View, Calif.: Barberry Press, 2014). 55 pages, 5½"×8½". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-0-9744686-3-1. Price: \$12.00 from online booksellers

A collection of seven haiku sequences that are too often narrative and too abstract to truly be haiku. *Vessels of peril, midway / Between a past and a future / Blueprint.*

Who I Am, by Michael Ketchek (Rochester, New York: Free Food Press, 2015). 76 pages; 5½"x8½". Glossy black and white card covers; perfectbound. No ISBN. Price: \$10.00 from the publisher at www.free-foodpress.com

Ketchek is one of our most unique voices. Tom Clausen, who introduces *Who I Am*, calls him "in tune with the wandering Zen Buddhist Monks of China and Japan, a champion of the lifestyle of the Beats and Hippies, a cousin in perspective to Bukowski and Kerouac, and comfortably at home with the spirit of Thoreau, Emerson and Muir." An apt description. Through his public readings I tend to think of him as a comic/trickster who points out the ironies and injustices of life, often through senryu, but he is much more than that as this collection nicely illustrates. *standing in the dark / waving to our neighbor / Mars*

A Memorial Memoir, by Frank Edward Beutler (Pittsburgh, Pa.: Dorrance Publishing Co., 2015). 78 pages; 6"x9". Glossy four-color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-480910-82-9. Price: \$11.00 from Dorrance Publishing, 701 Smithfield Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

A collection of haiku and other poems to memorialize the poet's life with his wife. Each poem is followed by a brief explanation; and each titled! "Snowstorm": *swirling flakes, low visibility, / A new ghostly world / Immense whiteness abounds now.*

Mostly Water, by Rick Tarquinio (No place: Privately printed, 2015). 82 pages; 4½"x7". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1631101-58-8. Price: \$12.00 from the author at soundingplace@gmail.com

According to the brief, one paragraph description of the book, the poems within were written primarily between 2013 and 2014. It was clearly a fertile and rewarding period. The poems primarily inhabit a natural

environment and do what the best haiku do: reveal the little, oft-overlooked truths of the world. With a lone exception, none of the 120 poems have been published elsewhere—which seems a shame. He is a poet whose work should be shared. These are surprising and eye-opening poems. I suspect I will return to this book often. *tiny waterfall / one leaf / changes everything*

Petals in the Dark, ed. by Marshall Hryciuk (Canada: Imago Press, 2015). 76 pages; 5"×7". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-928163-02-2. Price: \$20.00 from the publisher at 30 Laws Street, Toronto ON, M6P 2Y7

A collection of fifteen selected renku that Hryciuk has led since 2003. The book contains a brief, but informative introduction to the form, and end notes to the renku themselves on when and where the renku was composed, including some interesting circumstances. There are not a lot of collections of contemporary renku so the volume is welcome.

That Kind of Life (No place [Charleston, Ill.]: Ocean / Samuddo, 2015). 20 pages; 4"×3". Beige card covers; saddle-stapled. No ISBN. *A Lamp* (No place [Charleston, Ill.]: Ocean / Samuddo, 2015). 54 pages; 5½"×4¼". Beige card covers; saddle-stapled. No ISBN. *A Sailing Book* (No place [Charleston, Ill.]: Samuddo / Ocean, 2016). 40 pages; 6"×8¼". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-312-64343-7. All by John Martone. Price: Available from the author or free online at www.scribd.com/john-martone-2968

Three new volumes from Martone. While the first two focus on his relationship to his home (or poet Martone as aspect of his home), the third focuses on what seems to be a sunfish sailboat. It is the more substantial of the three new books and includes a couple of imbedded haibun. Always an interesting writer! *rain / writing // on / herself*

All the Words are Yours: Haiku on Love, by Tyler Knott Gregson (New York: Perigree Books, 2015). 144 pages; 5½"×7½". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-0-399-17600-5. Price: \$18.00 from online booksellers

Gregson has a large online following where he posts photographs of everyday objects that include a poem handwritten on a small slip of paper. This volume collects many of those photographs in addition to other small poems. The photographs are striking and the appearance of the collection overall is pleasing, except when he refers to the poems as haiku. Rather, they are short statements—all, in this case, on love. *What all could we be / And how far could we travel / If we trust our feet?*

The Divine Farmer's Renga: A Materia Medica of Chinese Medicine and Haiku, by Alexander Lucksmith (No place: Pigeonpine Press, 2015). 389 pages; 6"×9". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISBN 978-0692448-30-4. Price: \$19.95 from online booksellers

An interesting book that combines the author's love of herbal medicine with three stanza renga. Each page lists an herb, its common English and Latin names, plus its uses. The haiku usually don't relate to the selected herb and are little stories rather than true haiku. *In the Sahara / you ask a tree to cry / to avoid weeping // Who is to say it is sad? / It could be weeping with joy // A blood donation / irregardless of species / or even phylum*

True Colour: Solo Rengay Poems, by Michael Dylan Welch (Redmond, Wash.: No publisher, 2015). 33 pages; 3½"×8". Matte four color card covers; fan presentation. No ISBN. Price: \$5.00 from the city of Redmond. Contact jarubenacker@redmond.gov for more information.

Welch is the poet laureate of Redmond, Washington. His latest collection includes thirteen solo rengay on themes of color: "Yellow Streak," "Pink Elephant," "Painting the Town," etc... The presentation is

delightful: the pages fan out like paint samples. Welch is a strong poet and the renga themselves equally delight. His work often has a humorous touch. *red in the face / the twelfth juror / at the obscenity hearing*

The Moon Over Tagoto: Selected Haiku of Buson, trans. Gabriel Rosenstock and John McDonald (United Kingdom: Beehive Publishers, 2015). 172 pages; ebook. Glossy dark blue and white card covers; perfectbound. No ISBN. Price: \$9.70 from online booksellers.

With little self-promotion (the book jumps into the poems on page three) Rosenstock and McDonald translate 148 of Buson's haiku into English, Irish, and Scots. While we can't speak to the quality of the Japanese to other language translations, we can say that the English translations are lean and to the point. Rosenstock has a good grasp of haiku, especially Zen-influenced work, so the book is pleasing.

Samoborski Haiku Susreti 2015 / Samobor Haiku Meeting 2015, ed. by Ivo Markulin (Croatia: Ogranak Matice hrvatske u Samoboru, 2015). 111 pages; 5¾"x8". Glossy four color card covers; perfectbound. ISSN 1845-1349. Price: \$10.00 from Tomislav Maretić at Majdakova 40A, Zagreb 10090, Croatia

Since 1993, Croatian haiku poets gather each spring in the small town of Samobor to meet and discuss haiku. The current volume, in Croatian and English, celebrates the 2015 meeting.