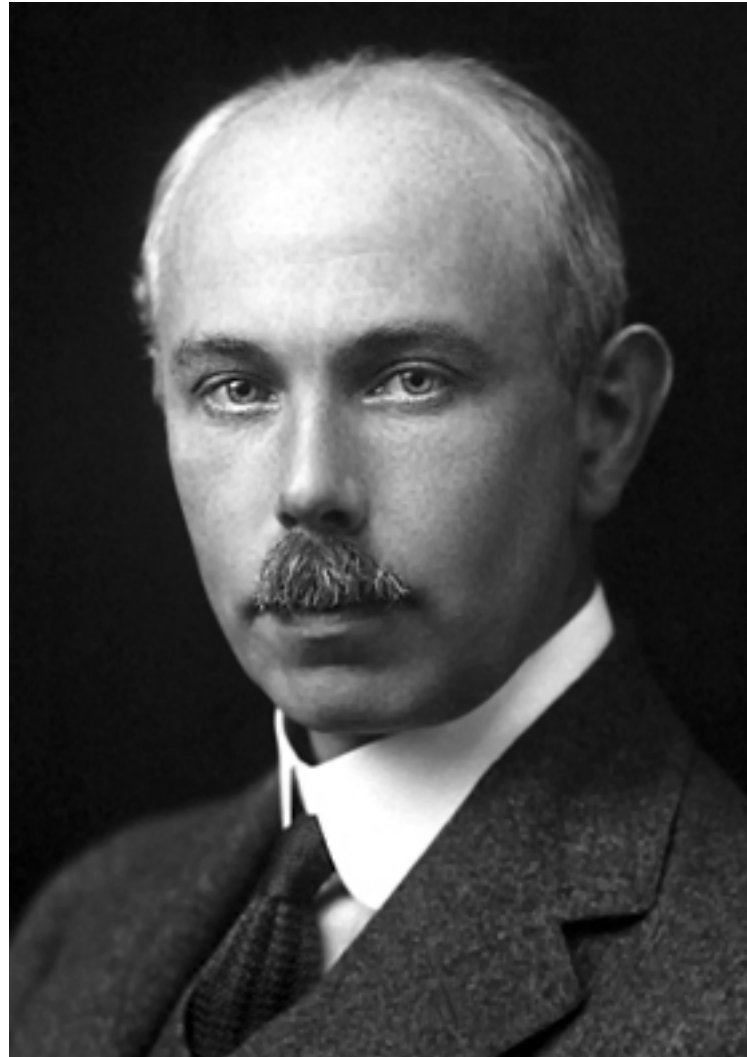


International haiku

国際俳句

Lars Vargö

William George Aston (1841-1911)



William George Aston (1841-1911)

- Pioneer in the Western study of Japanese literature
- The three *hokku* quoted in his *Grammar of the Japanese Written Language* (1877) are possibly the first in English.
- One of them:

FUJI CONCEALED IN A MIST

Into a sea of mist whither hath Mt. Fuji sunk?

小泉八雲 Lafcadio Hearn, 1850-1904



Some important works by Lafcadio Hearn

- Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan (1894)
- Kokoro: Hints and Echoes of Japanese Inner Life (1896)
- Exotics and Retroperspectives (1898)
- Japanese Lyrics (1900)
- Kottô: Being Japanese Curios, with Sundry Cobwebs (1902)
- Japan: An attempt at interpretation (1904)

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Examples of *hokku* in Hearn's book
'Kottô' (1902), in chapter "Fireflies"

*Mayoi-go no
Naku-naku tsukamu
Hotaru kana!*

Ah! The lost child!
Though crying and crying,
still he catches fireflies!

Examples of *hokku* in Hearn's book
'Kottô' (1902), in chapter "Fireflies"

*Kusakari no
Sode yori idzuru,
Hotaru kana!*

See! a firefly
flies out of the sleeve
of the grass-cutter!

Examples of *hokku* in Hearn's book
'Kottô' (1902), in chapter "Fireflies"

*Yo ga akete,
Mushi ni naritaru
Hotaru kana!*

With the coming of the dawn
they change into insects again,
these fireflies!

Examples of *hokku* in Hearn's book
'Kottô' (1902), in chapter "Fireflies"

Hotarubi ya!
Kusa ni osamaru
Yoakegata

Ah, these firefly-lights!
As the darkness begins to break,
they bury themselves in the grass

First Haiku in English?

Noguchi Yone (1875-1947)

Tell me the street to Heaven
This? Or that? Oh, which?
What webs of streets!
(*Through the Torii*, 1914)



First haiku in English?

Ezra Pound (1885-1972)



IN A STATION OF THE METRO

The apparition of these faces in the crowd:
Petals on a wet, black bough

(The Fortnightly Review 571, 1914)

First haiku in English?

Sadakichi Hartman (1867-1944)

White petals afloat
On a winding woodland stream –
What else is life's dream!



(Tanka and Haikai: Japanese Rhythms, 1916)

Basil Hall Chamberlain 1850-1935

- *The Classical Poetry of the Japanese* (1880)
- *Bashô and the Japanese Poetical Epigram* (1902; Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan, Vol 2, No 30)
- *Japanese Poetry* (1910)
- *Things Japanese*
6 vols. (1890-1936)



Chamberlain, *Things Japanese*, 1904

”Haikai or Hokku, an ultra-Lilliputian class of poem having but seventeen syllables (5, 7, 5).

Here are a couple of specimens:

Rakkwa eda ni Kaeru to mireba Kochô kana!

What I saw as a fallen blossom returning to the branch, lo! it was a butterfly.

Arthur Waley (1889-1966)

An English sinologist who also translated Japanese works:

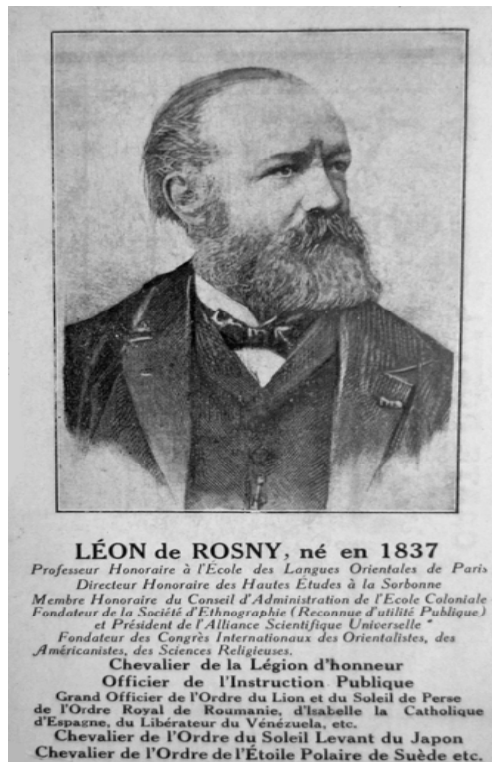
- *Japanese Poetry: The 'Uta'* (1919)
- *The Nô Plays of Japan* (1921)
- *The Tale of Genji* (1925-1933)
- *The Pillow Book of Sei Shônagon* (1928)



Early translations

- English and Japanese have different grammatical structures
- Early European poetry put emphasis on rhyme
- Brevity was not necessarily favoured by European poets
- Vagueness was expressed by words, not by lack of words

LEON de ROSNY (1837-1914)
*Anthologie japonaise, poésies
anciennes et modernes des insulaires
du Nippon (1871)*
first French translation of tanka



Judith Gautier 1845-1917

- Poet and scholar in Oriental studies, mainly China and Japan
- *Poèmes de la Libellule* (1884)



Paul Louis Couchoud (1879-1959)

Published

Au fil de l'eau (1905) (Along the waterways)
together with André Fau and Albert Poncin



Contained 72 haikai

Dans le soir brûlant / Nous cherchons une auberge. / O ces
capucines!

In the hot evening / Looking for an inn. / O the nasturtium!

I arrived tired / Looking for an inn / Ah! The wisteria (Bashô)

Paul Louis Couchoud

A simple paper flower / In a vase / Rustic
church.

Simply / An anemone in a pot / Rustic temple
(Buson)

Published also

Le pampre, haïkai / The grapevine, haikai (1906)

Julien Vocance (1878-1954)

Published haïkaï in:

”Fantômes d’hier et d’aujourd’hui”, La Grande Revue, Mai 1917

”Au cirque”, La Nouvelle Revue Française, 1920
(Also haïkaï by Couchoud and others)

”Art poétique”, La Connaissance, 1921

”Le haïkaï Français”, 1923

Julien Vocance

Cent visions de guerre (1915):

Des croix de bois blanc / Surgissent du sol, /
Chaque jour, ca et là,

White wooden crosses /Surging from the soil,
/Each day, here and there.

Dans un trou du sol, la nuit / en face d'une
armée immense / deux hommes

In a hole in the ground at night / facing an
immense army / two men

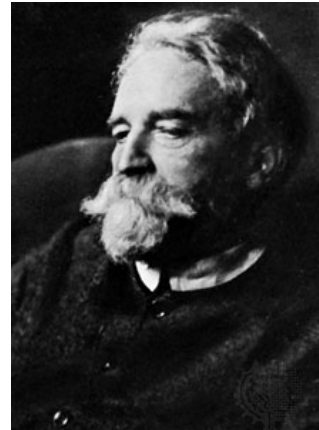
Some other French "haijin"

- Paul Claudel 1868-1955. French poet, dramatist and diplomat. Most famous for verse dramas. 1927: "One hundred poems for fun"



- Georges Bonneau. Director of the Franco-Japanese Institute in Kyoto 1933-35: *La sensibilité japonaise* (1934), *Le Haiku* (1935), *La probléme de la poésie japonaise* (1938).

Carl Friedrich Paul Ernst (1866-1933)



”Polymer” 1898

- Eine Wasserrose / Die aus der Tiefe auftaucht.
/ Kräuselt sich das Wasser.
- A water lily / Emerging from the depth /
Ripples of water
- (Translation by Klaus-Dieter Wirth)

The imagists

The imagist movement included English and American poets in the early twentieth century who wrote free verse and were devoted to “clarity of expression through the use of precise visual images.” A strand of modernism, imagism was officially launched in 1912 when Ezra Pound read and marked up a poem by Hilda Doolittle, signed it “H.D. Imagiste”, and sent it to Poetry Magazine.

The imagists

- Pound's definition of the image was "that which presents an intellectual and emotional complex in an instant of time." Pound defined the tenets of imagist poetry as:
 - I. Direct treatment of the "thing," whether subjective or objective.
 - II. To use absolutely no word that does not contribute to the presentation.
 - III. As regarding rhythm: to compose in sequence of the musical phrase, not in sequence of the metronome.

The imagists

- *Des Imagistes: An anthology*. Edited by Ezra Pound in 1914
- Included: William Carlos Williams, Richard Aldington, James Joyce, H. D. (Hilda Doolittle)
- Other imagists included F.S. Flint, D. H. Lawrence, John Gould Fletcher, Amy Lowell
- Imagism as a poetic movement ended in 1917, but it had a profound influence on 20th century free verse poets.

The imagists

William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)

The red wheelbarrow

so much depends
upon

a red wheel
barrow

glazed with rain
water

beside the white
chickens



Amy Lowell (1874-1925)

Falling snow

The snow whispers about me,
And my wooden clogs
Leave holes behind me in the snow.
But no one will pass this way
seeking my footsteps
And when the temple bell rings again
They will be covered and gone.



Amy Lowell, 2

Hoar-Frost

In the cloud-gray mornings
I heard the herons flying;
And when I came into my garden,
My silken outer-garment
Trailed over withered leaves.
A dried leaf crumbles at a touch,
But I have seen many Autumns
With herons blowing like smoke
Across the sky.

H. D. / Hilda Doolittle (1886-1961)

OREAD

Whirl up, sea –
whirl your pointed pines,
splash your great pines
on our rocks,
hurl your green over us,
cover us with your pools of fit.



Wallace Stevens 1879-1955

Thirteen ways of looking at a blackbird

1



Among twenty snowy mountains,
The only moving thing
was the eye of the blackbird

Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)

Fog

The fog comes
on little cat feet

It sits looking
over harbor and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.



Carl Sandburg

Window

Night from a railroad car window
Is a great, dark, soft thing

Broken across with slashes of light.

Gunnar Björling 1887-1960

Och jord och träd och löv
eller sanden
säg det enkla ljusa
blåochfria
som en sollyst sten i sanden

*And earth and trees and leaves
or the sand
name the simple light
blueandfree
like a sunlit stone in the sand*



Miyamori Asatarô (1869-1952)

- *An anthology of haiku, ancient and modern* (1932)
- *Masterpieces of Japanese poetry, ancient and modern, 2 vols.* (1936)

Reginald Horace Blyth 1898-1964



- "Haiku", 4 vols, (1949-1952)
- "Senryu: Japanese Satirical Verses" (1949)
- "A History of Haiku", 2 vols (1963-1964)

Harald Gould Henderson (1890-1974)

- *The Bamboo Broom, an introduction to Japanese haiku* (1934)
- *An introduction to Haiku: An anthology of*
anthology of
Poems and Poets from Bashô to Shiki
(1958)
- *Haiku in English* (1967)

Richard Wright (1908-1960)

- Wrote haiku that were mostly published after his death, in magazines such as *Ebony* and *Studies in Black Literature*.
- His posthumous book *Haiku. This other world* (1998) contains 817 haiku.



Richard Wright

Haiku. This Other World

A falling petal
Strikes one floating on a pond,
And they both sink

The scent of an orange
By an ice-coated window
In a rocking train

How lonely it is:
The snowstorm has made the world
The size of my yard.

The Beat Generation

Jack Kerouac (1922-1969)

- Author of the novel "On the road" (1957)
- "The Dharma Bums" (1958)
- "Book of Haikus", published posthumously (2003)



Jack Kerouac, "Book of Haikus"
Penguin Poets, 2003

- *I propose that the "Western haiku" simply say a lot in these three lines in any Western language. Above all, a Haiku must be very simple and free from all poetic trickery and make a little picture and yet be as airy and graceful as a Vivaldi Pastorella.*

Haiku by Jack Kerouac, 1

Tuesday – one more
drop of rain
From my roof

No telegram today
- Only more
Leaves fell

Haiku by Jack Kerouac, 2

Straining at the padlock,
the garage doors
At noon

Missing a kick
at the icebox door
it closed anyway

Haiku by Jack Kerouac, 5

Every cat in Kyoto
can see through the fog

Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)

- *Vägmärken* (1963)
- Translated as *Markings* (1964)
- Contains 117 poems in three lines, many of them in the 17 syllable form (although not 5-7-5)



Dag Hammarskjöld (1905-1961)

Sjutton stavelser

öppnade dörren

för minnet och dess mening.

Seventeen syllables

Opened the door

To memory, to meaning.

Du återvänder aldrig.

En annan man

finner en annan stad.

You never return.

Another man

Will find another town.

Dag Hammarskjöld

I slottets skugga
slöto sig blommorna
långt före aftonen.

*In the shadow of the castle
The flowers closed
Long before nightfall.*

Jan Vintilescu

- Japansk miniatyrlyrik 1959

Swedish Haiku Society

- Kaj Falkman 1934-2018