



The Haiku Handbook -25th Anniversary Edition: How to Write, Teach, and Appreciate Haiku

By William J. Higginson

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The Haiku Handbook is the first book to give readers everything they need to begin appreciating, writing, or teaching haiku. In this groundbreaking and now-classic volume, the authors present haiku poets writing in English, Spanish, French, German, and five other languages on an equal footing with Japanese poets. Not only are the four great Japanese masters of the haiku represented (Basho, Buson, Issa, and Shiki) but also major Western authors not commonly known to have written poetry in this form, including Gary Snyder, Jack Kerouac and Richard Wright.

With a new foreword by poet, translator, and author Jane Reichhold (*Basho: The Complete Haiku*), this anniversary edition presents a concise history of the Japanese haiku, including the dynamic changes throughout the twentieth century as this beloved poetry form has been adapted to modern and urban settings. Full chapters are offered on form, the seasons in haiku, and haiku craft, plus background on the Japanese poetic tradition and the effect of translation on our understanding of haiku. Other unique features are chapters on teaching and sharing haiku, with lesson plans for both elementary and secondary school use; a seasonal word index of poetic words; a comprehensive glossary; and a list of enduring classic resources for further exploration. By any standard, *The Haiku Handbook* is the defining volume in the genre.

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Review

"The most thorough treatment haiku has received in English." —*Los Angeles Times*

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"*The Haiku Handbook* is an indispensable and exhilarating overview, as inviting and clear as it is scholarly, as exuberantly passionate as it is informative and comprehensive. All who write, read, or teach poetry will find themselves broadened, magnetized, and welcomed by these gate-opening pages." —Jane Hirshfield poet, co-translator of *The Ink Dark Moon: Love Poems by Komachi and Shikibu, Women of the Ancient Court of Japan*

"For many years, *The Haiku Handbook* has been without rival and the fullest, clearest, and most engaging guide to its profound and fascinating subject." —X. J. Kennedy

About the Author

WILLIAM J. HIGGINSON (1938-2008) has been called "the guru of American haiku." For over 40 years, Higginson translated, wrote, commented about, lectured and taught haiku. He was the author or editor of more than 30 books.

PENNY HARTER is a much-published and award-winning poet, a poet-in-residence for the New Jersey State Council of the Arts and a teacher who travels widely giving workshops and lectures.

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