

23 by Gary Hotham (2019 Longhouse Publications, West Brattleboro, Vermont) 4 page foldout, 4 1/2" by 3" \$15 available from Longhouse PO Box 2454 West Brattleboro, Vermont 05303 or online at

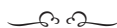
<http://longhousepoetryandpublishers.blogspot.com/search/label/gary%20Hotham>

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

23, like the TARDIS in Dr. Who, is a lot bigger on the inside than on the outside. Open the shiny green cover and enter a world of wonder; twenty-three artfully presented haiku by Gary Hotham. These expertly crafted haiku are meant to be savored, slowly, in order to get the full flavor of each one. A fine collection, in a delightful package, these haiku will occupy a tiny but important space in your haiku library.

full moon  
the side with nothing  
to hide

far into the dark  
rain on  
rain



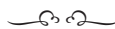
*Jack Kerouac and the Traditions of Classic and Modern Haiku* by Yoshinobu Hakutani (2019, Lexington Books, Lanham, Maryland) 193 pages, 9" by 6" Hardcover, ISBN 978-1-4985-5827-3, \$95.00

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

*Jack Kerouac and the Traditions of Classic and Modern Haiku* is an informative and thought-provoking book. It gives a historical perspective on the influences that shaped Kerouac's haiku and English language haiku in general. This book traces the history of haiku and the Buddhist influence on haiku poets, especially Basho and Issa. Hakutani shows how various Japanese poets,

especially Yone Noguchi influenced poets such as Yeats and Pound and brought the knowledge of haiku poetic sensibilities to the west. He further explains how the second wave of haiku enthusiasm that occurred in the 1950s can largely be attributed to the popularity of Blyth's four volumes on haiku. It was this work that brought haiku to the attention of such major figures in American literature as Richard Wright, Jack Kerouac, Allan Ginsberg and Gary Snyder. Considerable space is allotted to the relationship of Snyder and Kerouac and how Snyder introduced Kerouac to Buddhism and Blyth. Kerouac's spiritual growth and how he synthesized the Buddhist idea of compassion with the Christian idea of mercy and how it was central to many of his haiku is also discussed at length.

This is a far-ranging book, and while I might not fully agree with everything that Hakutani postulates (in a work of this scope that would be nearly impossible), I highly recommend this book to all who are interested in the history of haiku and the philosophical underpinnings of English language haiku and Kerouac's haiku in particular.



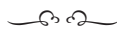
*the weight of moon light* by Spring Street Haiku Group, 2019, stapled, available for \$6.00 ppd from: Seidboard World Ent. POB 137, New York, NY 10012

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

Starting with the beautiful cover, which sets the mood for this fine collection of haiku by the Spring Street Haiku Group, this chapbook is a pleasure to read. There are twelve contributors, all of whom are almost as well known as Cor van den Heuvel who is one of the twelve. This is a collection by some of the best and best known writers of haiku. Each poet has up to four haiku included in this collection. The high quality of haiku found in these pages makes it difficult to choose a few examples, so I will just pick the first and last haiku and assure you that all the ones in between are just as worthy.

Central Park  
in a birder's binoculars  
rain on a maple leaf  
*Carl Patrick*

this endless road...  
everywhere but nowhere  
the prairie  
*Jay Friedenber*

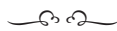


*An Ocean in My Ink Pot* by Ricka Shaw, 2018, perfect bound,  
available for \$11.95 at The Manager, PO Box 12311 Las Vegas,  
Nevada 89112

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

This book is a collection of short poems, some of which are haiku. These poems have been written with an obvious enthusiasm for life and many are humorous. The poems are set on unnumbered pages, one to a page. The following poem exemplifies the spirit of this collection:

As she dances,  
Her anklets clink  
...And the party begins!



*HUMORESQUES: lyric poetry, haibun & haiku* by Hans Jongman (2019, Catkin Press Carlton Place, Ontario) 79 pages, 5" by 7" perfect softbond, ISBN 978-1-928163-32-9, \$15 shipping included. Available from the author at [hansjongman381@gmail.com](mailto:hansjongman381@gmail.com)

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

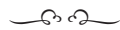
This latest book by Hans Jongman, a Dutch poet living in Canada, is an enjoyable collection of various forms of poetry.

Thanks to his letter, which saved me the trouble of counting, I can report that there are 23 haibun, one haiku sequence, and “46 haiku inspired lyric poems.” These poems cover many topics, more than a few include his wife Frieda, to whom he has been married over 50 years. Many of the poems are lighthearted or humorous. One of the three sections in the book is titled, ‘Nonsense poems,’ but he does sneak in a more serious poem now and then. One of the haibun recalls how, as a boy, he worked one day for a Carney in the hope of a free ticket. A haiku from that haibun:

stockade  
plastered with posters  
the lion-tamer lionized

Another from his sequence:

Niagara River  
grebes bobbing  
in the drizzle



*A New Resonance 11: Emerging Voices in English Language Haiku*  
edited by Jim Kacian and Julie Warther (2019 Red Moon Press,  
Winchester VA) 5¼“ by 8¼” 175 pages, perfectbound, ISBN  
978-1-947271-38-8, \$17 [www.redmoonpress.com](http://www.redmoonpress.com)

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

Another fine collection of haiku in the *A New Resonance* series which began in 1999. There are seventeen poets featured in this book. For each there is their: photo, profession, birthday, birthplace and current residence, as well as an introductory paragraph about their poetry. While I could fill up this page singing the praises of this collection (that would be easy to do). I will instead just give a sample of the many fine haiku that can be found in these pages.

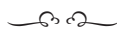
calling into my dreams morning birds  
*Joseph Salvatore Aversano*

dandelion fluff  
the silly things  
I still wish for  
*Jessica Latham*

bus stop  
the old man  
never gets on  
*Anna Maris*

halloween  
death takes two  
pieces of candy  
*Elliot Nicely*

rollercoaster  
a small boy eyes  
the minimum height bar  
*Jacquie Pearce*



*a hole in the light: Red Moon Anthology of English-Language haiku 2018*, Jim Kacian, Editor-in-Chief (2019, Red Moon Press, Winchester VA) 208 pages, 5 ½ “ by 8 ¼ “, Perfectbound, ISBN 978-1-947271-37-1, \$17 at [www.redmoonpress.com](http://www.redmoonpress.com)

*Reviewed by Michael Ketchek*

This is the twenty-third volume of this annual series. Jim Kacian and 10 other editors have combed through publications from 2018 and brought forth this very fine collection of haiku, senryu, articles, haibun and other linked forms. The articles include a review of ‘Haiku How-to Books’ by Randy Brooks, an installment of Charles Trumbull’s popular A Field Guide

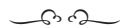
to North American Haiku titled, *Naked Haiku*, Terry Ann Carter's informative article on, 'Female Pioneer Haiku Poets in Canada,' and several other articles as well. The largest section of the book is dedicated to haiku and senryu and with so many good haiku to choose from it's hard to pick, but to give you a bit of sense what is included I offer these examples:

evolution—  
my son draws a dinosaur  
for a girl  
*Julie Bloss Kelsey*

north star  
she says we'll find  
a way  
*Joe McKeon*

the door  
locks behind me...  
autumn chill  
*Dave Read*

midwinter  
the tethered mare  
paws the ground  
*Jennifer Sutherland*



*postmark* by John Martone , Tufo, 2019, 4" x 6" , 117 pages , white cover with black type title and author.

*Reviewed by Tom Clausen*

John Martone is one of the most prolific writers of English language haiku and the author of a succession of unassuming chapbooks in which he presents indelible details and intimate portraits from his life. The poems in *postmark* appear in one, two and three lines with a variety of spacing and formats.