

## Third 1999 HSA Quarterly Meeting

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XIV, No. 4, autumn 1999]

**Executive Committee Meeting.** The Executive Committee of the Haiku Society of America met at Columbia University on September 18, 1999, at 10:30 a.m. Present were Paul O. Williams, Raffael de Gruttola, and Jim Kacian.

1. The minutes of the last executive committee were reviewed. The problem of the higher charge for overseas members was discussed and the idea of a new category of membership, an institutional membership, was brought up. This would entail a somewhat higher dues, which would bring perhaps four copies of *Frogpond*. But this needs to be talked out by the full board at much greater length. The problem is that we want to be fair to everyone including ourselves. If anyone would like to make a proposal regarding institutional membership, including
  - a. its advisability
  - b. the dues
  - c. the benefits,we could circulate it among the board for further discussion.

2. Raffael presented the Treasurer's report.
3. Jim asked about what to do with the extra copies of *Frogpond*. Nothing was decided.

4. The archives were briefly discussed and the idea of perhaps creating another archives on the east coast. An advantage would be to give the materials another home. A disadvantage would be that it might divide up the unique materials such as people's personal papers. No conclusion was arrived at.

5. Pamela Ness presented the Educational Committee report, with a revised packet of materials for teachers. The materials as they now stand would cost, mailed \$8.75 if sent priority and \$7.75 if sent book rate. Raffael wanted to include a packet of winning student poems as examples. Jim wants to redesign the front sticker. The packet needs to say HSA somewhere on it. A revision was proposed for our December meeting. It was also suggested that we include a copy of *Frogpond* and charge \$15 for the packet. A next project would be a small introductory book that we would produce for educational outreach.

6. The Merit Book Award cost was brought up again, and it was decided by the EC members present that the charge should be \$10 for any publisher submitting books no matter how many. It was thought that this would defray the costs, which is what the charge was intended to do.

7. The question of an electronic edition of *Frogpond* was raised. This might be useful for overseas members. But it was decided that this would be too much work for those involved, and so it was dropped. However, this raised a related question of electronically disseminated information. It was proposed that we

establish a new position, an Electronic Communications Officer, through a change in the HSA Bylaws. This officer would be in charge of the Web site and would disseminate information by e-mail to members about such matters as contests, which at times have deadlines not convenient to those depending on our newsletter. The members present approved of the idea.

8. It was announced that the members' anthology was under way with Andrea Missias editing.

9. It was asked if we wanted to support the World Haiku Festival financially. The amounts of \$50 and \$100 were proposed, but no decision was arrived at for presentation to the full Executive Committee.

10. Jim Kacian announced that work was under way on a book to commemorate the first 25 years of Frogpond.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

— *Paul O. Williams, President*

**General Meeting.** The fall 1999 HSA Quarterly meeting was hosted by the Northeast Metropolitan Region the weekend of September 17–18, 1999. Twelve haijin met Friday evening at Pamela's apartment to compose renku, breaking into two groups led by Raffael de Gruttola and Dee Evetts. At 1:00 on Saturday afternoon, 40 members and guests met in the East Asian Lounge at Columbia University.

The meeting began with the traditional sharing of introductions and a haiku by each member and guest: Two haiku of note:

full moon  
in the garden my shadow  
pulls up onions

Carl Patrick

frozen pond  
even the ceramic frog  
looks surprised

Jaxon Teck

Paul Williams opened the business meeting by welcoming the group, updating us on the American Haiku Archives, and presenting a summary of the Executive Committee meeting held that morning. Raffael de Gruttola presented the Treasurer's report.

The program continued with a reading by Cor van den Heuvel from the newly published third edition of The Haiku Anthology. He began by saying that there is so much good haiku being written in English that he could easily have published two volumes. Cor focused his talk on an overview of haiku in America from Gary Snyder through the present, sharing poems by Jack Kerouac, Nick Virgilio, John Wills, Anita Virgil, Alexis Rotella, Lee Gurga, and Dee Evetts.

Hiroaki Sato then presented a talk on “Divergence in Haiku,” a thought-provoking discussion of the essential definition of haiku, illustrated with numerous examples of English and Japanese haiku.

Following a break for conversation and refreshments, Raffael de Gruttola gave an illuminating slide talk on “Abstract Expressionism and Haiga.” He traced the origins of haiga in classical Japan, focusing on the increasing abstraction of the form, and then jumped 300 years to make the connection to Abstract Expressionism. He concluded by sharing many examples of the fascinating collaboration in which he is currently engaged with the artist Wilfred Croteou, showing us both slides and original haiga paintings.

The program concluded with a stimulating workshop by Mykel Board entitled “Haiku for Beginners.” Mykel presented a series of quick exercises designed to encourage participants to recall very specific sensory experiences and begin to put these into language. Although most of us didn’t have time to actually compose haiku, everyone went home with a wealth of images, and Arlene Teck composed the following haiku during the workshop:

low tide beach  
every rock I pick up ~  
heart-shaped

Following the workshop, a large group of us concluded the evening with more conversation and a delicious Chinese and Vietnamese banquet at a local restaurant.

—Pamela Miller Ness