

Minutes from the Second 2000 HSA Quarterly Meeting Washington, DC, June 17, 2000

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XV, No. 3, summer 2000]

Executive Committee Meeting. The Haiku Society of America held its second quarterly meeting in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 17, 2000. The Executive Committee meeting was called to order by President John Stevenson at 11:00 a.m. Present in the conference room of the Japan Information and Culture Center were John Stevenson, Jerry Ball, and Jim Kacian. The minutes for the Spring Quarterly Meeting were accepted as posted in the last Newsletter.

Treasurer's report. A preliminary report of the second quarter was reviewed and the general fiscal situation was discussed. The consensus of those present was that current membership dues do not fully support HSA services to members and that other sources of income, especially donations in excess of dues, are the factors that will determine whether we are able to maintain services at current levels without tapping next year's income. Methods of encouraging more of such donations were discussed, including offering gift premiums for various "levels of membership." Jerry volunteered to administer such a program if it is adopted. He also volunteered to contact university sources about the process of applying for grant funding and to report on this subject to the executive committee.

On a related topic, Jim volunteered to prepare an HSA logo, based on a graphic representation in the letter style which has appeared on the cover of *Frogpond* for the past several years. This could be used for promotional materials and for letterhead.

Web site: John noted that *Newsletter* editor Charles Trumbull has been working with Dave Russo of North Carolina on further improvement of the HSA Web site and on securing a domain name, which will make our site easier to find and identify.

International associations: Much activity has been undertaken this year toward the formation of international haiku associations, with more of this anticipated in the immediate future. In each instance, one or more HSA members has been actively involved in the groups undertaking these actions and HSA has been asked to provide various expressions of support: moral, material, or both. Fiscal concerns affect our ability to respond to some of these requests. There is a need for a better sense of the will of the membership in these matters.

Slate of officers for 2001: 1999 HSA president Paul O. Williams has agreed to serve as chairperson of the nominations committee.

The meeting was adjourned at quarter after twelve.

Respectfully submitted,

*John Stevenson
(in the absence of Howard Lee Kilby)*

General Meeting. After a morning ginkô featuring an urban mansion-museum and garden, members gathered at the Japan Information and Culture Center for a luncheon buffet and the general meeting. President John Stevenson reported to the membership on the Executive Committee meeting.

In his paper, “International Haiku in the New Millennium,” Jim Kacian discussed what a “national” haiku might be, and what “international” might mean in haiku terms. He commented on the state of the haiku art in countries around the world and offered his projections for the next few decades. Discussion was lively, suggesting the interest in global haiku does not just happen to coincide with the change of millennium.

Dee Evetts led a workshop, “The Conscious Eye: An Exploration of Social and Political Awareness in Haiku.” Dee offered haiku by several poets, each of which addressed a social, political, or environmental issue, and the group discussed their appropriateness for the haiku form. Poems were deemed successful when they simply presented an arresting image, allowing the reader to ponder the implications — for example, Tom Painting’s

deeper
into the back country
a spit of asphalt

Kristen Deming’s piece on Frogpond’s frog included a brief survey of the frog as symbol in myth and poetry, and suggested a comparison of haiku with songs emanating from Bashô’s pond.

Lee Giesecke read a selection of haiku and senryu, some of which were from his contribution to *New Resonances*. Roberta Beary’s reading included poems from her years of residence in Japan as well as work written since her return to the Washington area.

Stephen Addiss and Josh Hockensmith read poems by members of the Richmond Haiku Workshop, then returned later to demonstrate how poets who are not musicians might use music to complement their haiku.

Professional musicians Kyoko Okamoto and Yuriko Gandolfo, of the Washington Toho Koto Society, performed on traditional Japanese instruments: *Rokuden no Shirab* (six variations) by Yatsushashi Kengyo, 1644; *Sakura Sakura* (Cherry Blossom) Hirai Kozaburo, arr. 1967; and *Hana Ikada* (Flower Raft) by Sawai Tadao, 1968.

In the evening the group gathered at a nearby restaurant for socializing and a dinner featuring Asian noodles.

— *Ellen Compton*