

Minutes of the HSA Annual Meeting (Third Quarterly Meeting) September 23, 2000

[as reported in the *HSA Newsletter*, Vol. XV, No. 4, autumn 2000]

Business Meeting. The meeting was called to order by President John Stevenson at 10:45 a.m. Present were John Stevenson and Raffael de Gruttola. The minutes for the previous (June 2000) meeting were accepted as posted in the last Newsletter.

Treasurer's report. An annual report and a report covering the third quarter were presented and discussed. A summary appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Education Committee report: A report from Pamela Miller Ness was received and reviewed. The Education Committee recommends that we raise the price of the third edition of the "HSA Resources for Teachers" packet from the current \$15 to \$20 postpaid or \$15 when purchased directly or in quantity by institutions. The Executive Committee will be asked to discuss and vote on this recommendation via e-mail.

Membership listing: A decision has been made by the Executive Committee to resume printing full addresses on the Membership listings. John felt that it was important to advise members, however, that it has proven impossible to control the commercial or other uses made of the listing and that members should realize that the information becomes essentially public, even though HSA does not provide it to nonmembers. Individual members may, if they wish, request that the secretary delete their addresses from the general listing which is provided to the entire membership.

HSA Members' Anthology: Editor Claire Gallagher has reported that the 2000 Members' Anthology, Crinkled Sunlight, will be available this fall, in time for holiday orders.

Merit Book Awards: The report of the judges, Tom Clausen and Ebba Story, was reviewed prior to its presentation to the membership during the general meeting. John indicated that he had mailed letters of congratulations to the winning authors and editors earlier in the week.

Location of members: A report from Howard Lee Kilby was presented that indicated that HSA's current (September) membership is 804: 709 residing in the United States and 95 residing in other countries, including Canada (34 members), Japan (20 members), Great Britain (16 members) and 15 other countries.

Nominating Committee: The report of the Nominating Committee was reviewed prior to its presentation in the general meeting (during which the nominations were seconded and additional nominations were solicited from the floor, though none were offered).

Web site: It was noted that the new HSA Web site debuted on September 1, a very marked improvement, thanks to the efforts of Electronic Media Officer Dave Russo and Newsletter Editor, Charles Trumbull.

By-law Amendments: Raffael indicated that he would propose amendments of the by-laws to create a new office of Corresponding Secretary and to make the position of Electronic Media Officer a permanent office, with a role in the Executive Committee. Raffael will prepare a proposal for the Executive Committee to review and discuss via e-mail.

Stipends Waived: John and Raffael agreed to waive their stipends for attending the annual meeting, although Raffael indicated that he will take reimbursement for some incidental travel expenses.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

General Meeting. The third HSA Quarterly Meeting of 2000, hosted by the Northeast Metropolitan Region, was held on Friday, September 22 and Saturday, September 23 at Columbia University.

The festivities began Friday evening when 18 poets gathered to write renku in two groups led by Raffael de Gruttola and John Stevenson. One group completed a 20-link poem, while the other worked slowly to complete about 10 links. On Saturday morning, while the Executive Committee met at Columbia, Pamela led about a dozen poets on a ginko at Riverside Cathedral. We spent an hour quietly exploring this vast cathedral before gathering in the Poets Corner to share our work. A haiku of note by Jeanne Emrich:

poets corner
at the cathedral
I walk on words

After lunch at local restaurants, about 45 regional and national members and guests attended the afternoon program. We opened with our usual introductions and round-robin sharing of haiku, after which John and Raffael presented a summary of the Executive Committee meeting. Our first speaker was Tom Clausen, who read from his latest chapbook, *Homework*, in which he explores the theme of familial conflict as a source of haiku:

playing a child's game

I learn all
his rules

The program continued with a talk and reading by several poets from Rochester, N.Y., entitled "Haiku and the Self." Michael Ketchek introduced the topic, noting that the self is "the most slippery of subjects." Each poet read several examples of his or her work from their recent chapbook, *Oneself*:

even at home
I become homesick
gazing at the moon

Michael Ketchek

first yellow crocus ...
i release
my winter heart

Pamela A. Babusci

my little girl
pouring water on a stone —
waits for it to grow

Tom Painting

Climbing Mt. Algonquin
the blue of the sky
touches my clothes

Donatella Cardillo-Young

a quarter slips through
a hole in my pocket
hand-me-down

Will Brideau

After a break for conversation, refreshments, and browsing the book table, the program continued with a slide lecture by Jeanne Emrich on "Contemporary Haiga." Jeanne noted that "the secret lies in the chemistry between poem and painting; neither stands alone." Raffael de Gruttola expanded on this topic with his slide talk on "Haiga & Visual Poetry," in which he presented an overview of visual poetry, of which he considers haiga a subset.

The afternoon concluded with a thought-provoking talk by A.C. Missias on "The Struggle for Definitions: An Exploration of Prototype Theory and Our Approach to Haiku." Andrea began by reading 12 definitions of haiku that appear in the current issue of *Modern Haiku* (XXXI: 3, Fall 2000) and analyzing the essential features in order to

arrive at a model for a prototypical haiku. She creatively used a starfish as a metaphor, with the prototypical haiku at the center and variations radiating into the arms.

Following the formal program, most participants continued to socialize while enjoying a Chinese/Vietnamese banquet at Van West.

— *Pamela Miller Ness*