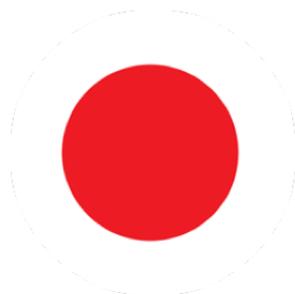


# HAIKU SAMPLERS FROM JAPAN

## 3. Shiki through The World Wars

Selected and Translated by JIM KACIAN



### Shiki

shadow on the window  
of an late autumn dragonfly  
once in a while

### Meisetsu

spring day —  
from the peacock's feathers  
light

### Seisei

in the water  
the fish are still —  
autumn wind

### Kyoshi

in winter  
rain stops and starts  
the darkness

## **Suiha**

a bright day  
like myself  
falling leaves

## **Shihōda**

the storyteller  
has finished his tale —  
the long night

## **Tōyōjō**

a wife to lean on  
I've decided against —  
autumn evening

## **Otsuji**

rain starts and stops,  
wind starts and stops —  
the quiet night

## **Kanrō**

May rains –  
where I go to leak,  
the roof does too

## **Roseki**

near the ocean  
a millet field  
in the summer sun

## **Chikurei**

in the evening sky  
the treetops all line up —  
second spring

## **Kōyō**

a beggar loiters  
by the temple gate —  
falling willow leaves

## **Shachiku**

in a stone hollow  
guarded by a maple  
water gathers

## **Rogetsu**

sucking on seaweed  
I wonder if I'm real  
or just an actor

## **Sōseki**

above the bay  
where the stakes are being driven  
their sound

## **Keion**

a black cloud  
hangs over them —  
cherry blossoms

## **Hōsai**

a whole day  
without speaking  
butterfly silhouettes

## **Dakotsu**

the black iron  
windbell of autumn  
as it happens

### **Fūsei**

evening cherry blossoms —  
gazing back toward them,  
they recede

### **Sekitei**

spring rumble —  
somewhere in the distance  
a skylark

### **Fura**

winter mountains —  
where the roads meet,  
the one flat spot

### **Takeshi**

spring ends —  
in a garden without cherry blossoms,  
fallen leaves

### **Santōka**

my home  
so far away —  
tree buds

### **Hekigodō**

this road —  
other than that, it's  
all His

### **Seisensui**

at my house  
I own a rice bowl —  
going home

## Hōsha

first to the ear  
from returning home  
becomes the flow

## Ippekirō

a flock of gulls  
makes for the woods —  
coping

## Issekiro

just now cutting  
down a tree — how still  
as I look up

## Seison

hanging there,  
a wild boar before  
snow

## Sujū

like feathers dividing  
a flying beetle  
jumps off

## Takeji

frigid water  
green hills  
day darkener

## Seiho

Katsuragi Mountain  
and lying in its' bosom  
The Buddha

### **Kusatao**

as with courage  
so it is with salt —  
the white of new plum

### **Seishi**

at the crossroads  
as it is everywhere —  
autumn evening

### **Fukio**

cold crow —  
onto its shadow  
it descends

### **Takashi**

the sound of rain  
bitten into by their cries —  
the insect cage

### **Gyōsui**

the night clerk —  
how stupid, his having  
a child bride

### **Hisajo**

mending socks  
I am no Nora —  
teacher's wife

### **Shizunojo**

short night —  
this one without milk . . .  
throw it away?

## Yorie

a farewell —  
an equinox flower blooming  
barely

## Midorijo

autumn wind —  
a stone-laden horse  
doesn't move

## Takako

broken clouds  
as soon as I leave the house  
I think of home

## Teijo

goldfish and  
my May rain  
umbrella drops

## Sōjō

scudding, scudding  
until the lungs feel blue —  
ocean travel

## Zenjidō

roof garden —  
cherry blossoms against the sky  
round to the horizon

## Hakkō

mountain fire —  
the dusty coal mine with  
fog above

## Seihō

shop window —  
on the cheap paper  
winter sunbeams

## Hakyō

a firefly's light  
the flower left behind  
still swayed

## Hakuu

a cricket cries  
just once suddenly  
my life

## Sanki

sweet grapes  
quiet at his death  
my anger

## Hakusen

red lilies  
so the railroad guard  
is black

## Shūson

I've become a teacher  
and hold within me  
a cough

## Tomoji

a period of drinking  
then returning quietly  
to the Milky Way

## **Bakunan**

wakened at noon —  
the scissors-grinder  
passes by

## **Sosei**

my friend is free . . .  
tears today at  
the high wild geese

## **Akio**

into the sunset  
into the sunset  
a red army

## **Tōshi**

broken ones,  
unbroken ones —  
summer butterflies