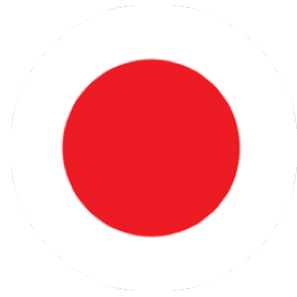


NOTES TOWARD A HISTORY OF HAIKU IN JAPAN

JIM KACIAN



It would be extremely presumptuous of The Haiku Foundation to offer anything like a comprehensive overview of the history of haiku in Japan. In our opinion, nothing substantial on the topic has been done since R H Blyth's *A History of Haiku* (in two volumes, 1963/64), which is still useful, if quite biased and out of date. And of course it says nothing of the half-century of haiku wars that have ensued since that time. A reckoning of Japanese haiku in English awaits its avatar. In the meantime, we will offer a series of samplers: one each for the ages of Bashō, Buson, Issa, Shiki, and the 20th century. And we encourage anyone considering tackling this imposing edifice of a topic — you will find a publisher in The Haiku Foundation, and a grateful readership worldwide.