

The Rainbow Petal



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THE RAINBOW PETAL



Haiku Newsletter from Belgrade

Belgrade, No. 1, Summer-Autumn 1997

by
Vid Vukasovic

HAIKU IN YUGOSLAVIA

The Yugoslav haiku poetry has a rich tradition. One of the most famous Serbian writers Milos Crnjanski made first Serbian translations of classical haiku and wrote about it already in 1928. After that, and especially from sixties and seventies, haiku poetry has gained in popularity. Nowadays there are hundreds of haiku poets in Yugoslavia and haiku poems are being published not only in specialized haiku periodicals but also in the literary periodicals devoted to the so called mainstream literature. Known theoreticians and literary critics (late Professor of Belgrade University Zivan Zivkovic, Mileta Acimovic Ivkov, Dimitar Anakiev and others) have written and published many articles and a number of books devoted to haiku poetry in general and to haiku writing in the Former Yugoslavia, as well as in the present FR Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in particular.

There are several haiku clubs and societies, haiku festivals (the Yugoslav Haiku Festival in Odzaci has become an international festival), haiku contests are organized and many collections of haiku poems have been published (for example, only the Haiku biblioteka (Library) "Matsuo Basho" from Odzaci published 38 titles). It is also important to mention that Yugoslav haikuists often appear in foreign haiku periodicals and that they are suprisingly successful in winning prizes and being honourably mentioned on important international haiku contests. The latest examples are the ITOEN 1996 haiku Contest on which four Yugoslav authors were among the winners and honourably mentioned (Branislav Nestic, Lola Stamenkovic and Nebojsa Milenkovic and Milutin Djurickovic) and the AZAMI spring contest on which two Yugoslav authors were among the winners (Nikola Nilic and Dimitar Anakiev).

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A SELECTION OF CONTEMPORARY YUGOSLAV HAIKU IN ENGLISH



(The authors are listed by alphabetical order)

Pavle Adjanski

Among dry leaves
there are green burs
without chesnuts

Dimitar Anakiev

Thinking on life
my wife changes a lace
on the winter shoe

(Honourable mention, AZAMI 1996 spring haiku contest)

Veljko Bosnic

After the storm
each pool has
its own sun

(First published in KO, spring-summer, 1995)

Miriana Bozin

Moment of sadness
tulip's petal
falls

(First published in KO, spring-summer, 1995)

Ilija Bratic

Ripples in the water
a sudden leap
of a fish

Milijan Despotovic

At the sunset:
horses slowed down their pace
in the furrow

Milutin Djurickovic

In the clear water
walnut leaf falls
blue and green

(Honourable mention, 1996 ITOEN contest)

Sladjana Jovic

Sunrise
makes clearer
the cloudless sky
*(First prize on the IX Yugoslav Haiku
Festival Competition
1996)*

Nebojsa Milenkovic

Through broken roof
of an old bus:
summer clouds
(Honourable mention, 1996 ITOEN contest)

Svetlana Mladenovic

Wet of the dawn
the sun slides through leaves
and flower fragrance

Branislav Nesic

The fragrance
of golden quinces carries me
into dreams-autumnal dusk
*(One of winners of the 1996
ITOEN haiku contest)*

Nikola Nilic

Sadly beautiful
the empty vase on the table-
dreaming spring
*(First prize, AZAMI 1996
spring haiku contest)*

Dragan J. Ristic

The side streets
welcome me with the smell
of baked paprika
*(First published in KO,
autumn-winter 1995)*

Nebojsa Simin

No grass no birds.
from the distance
nothing is heard

Lola Stamenkovic

Water bird
in a shadow of water lily
seeking the eyes lost
(Honourable mention,
1996 ITOEN haiku contest)

Vid Vukasovic

The noisy crickets
make even deeper
the summer day silence

Vitomir Miletic-Witata

Tonight are together
the full moon
and the risen rive

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THE LITTLE SPARROW



An Internet Haiku Collection
by Vid Vukasovic

Belgrade, Yugoslavia, May 1997.

If a haiku poem has already been published elsewhere, it is
indicated in brackets. Only in two first poems original

Serbian text is also given.

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A petal falling
the others still wait on tree
for the morning dew
(Pada latica/druge jos cekaju/jutarnju rosu)

Spring night lightnings

make transparent leaves
of young chesnut trees
(Prolecne munje/ cine prozirim lisce/ mladih kestena)

Dreams interwoven
in the rhythmic time of dawn
and first sparrow chirps
(AZAMI No. 40, Osaka)

Opening the window
I let in a summer bee
now I'm not alone
(AZAMI No. 36, Osaka)

Early in the morning
birds of our dreams
fly to some other place
(First published in the author's haiku collection "The
Little Laughing Rainbows", Belgrade 1995)

The white bird's beak
touches the lake's surface
-it's early morning
(Woodpecker, 1996-2)

A small frog
just about to jump
in the morning fog

A flying fish
seen from the distance
a speck of light
(The Daily Yomiuri, Tokyo, 20 January, 1997)

The distant mountain
blue, high and mysterious
and a flock of white birds

Weeping willows
along the muddy river
and a lonely crow
(The Daily Yomiuri, March 24, 1997)

The incessant din
of innumerable cicadae
frames this noon
(Woodpecker 1997/1, Holland)

Floating flowers
above the field in bloom
-paragliders
(The Daily Yomiuri, April 1, 1996)

Shoals of fish
fleeing from shadows
of afternoon clouds
(KO, spring-summer, 1996)

Faces of children
mirrored among flowers
in the old pond

The dog's snout
and the forest turtle
knock, knock!
(The Mainichi Daily, March 9, 1996)

Like a fallen leaf
floats down stream
a dead grasshopper
(AZAMI No. 31)

Paragliding drop
of a falling maple leaf-
sunset by the river
(The Daily Yomiuri, January 20, 1997)

Sunset at the river
the giant water course
tributary of the night

At midnight
the moon wears strange robes
woven of gossamer clouds

The old pine's needles
look somehow elongated
in the moonlight

A lonely night
the moon my only torch
and crickets my only music



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SOME USEFUL FACTS

about Haiku in Yugoslavia



Haiku periodicals:

"Paun" (Peacock), haiku magazine
Editor: Milijan Despotovic,
address:
Brace Lekovica 9
31210 Pozega, Yugoslavia

"Haiku pismo" (Haiku letter)
Editor: Nebojsa Simin,
address:
Balzakova 53,
21000 Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

"Haiku novine" (Haiku newspaper)
Editor: Dragan J. Ristic,
address:
Ljubomira Nikolica 148/10
18000 Nis, Yugoslavia

Haiku Clubs and Societies

Haiku club **"Shiki"**
c/o Moma Dimic
Francuska 7
11000 Beograd, Yugoslavia

Haiku club **"Aleksandar Nejgebauer"**
c/o Ljiljana Petrovic
Balzakova 39
21000 Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

Haiku publisher

Biblioteka (Library) **"Matsuo Basho"**
c/o Nebojsa Milenkovic
address:
Kulturno prosvetna zajednica
25250 Odzaci, Yugoslavia

Most recent publications

"Lepo je biti lasta" (It is nice to be a swallow),
A collection of haiku poems in Serbian published by the
haiku club "Shiki". Edited by Nebojsa Milenkovic), Belgrade
1996.

"Topole siroko sume". A collection of haiku poems
in Serbian published by the Haiku club "Aleksandar
Nejgebauer", Novi Sad, 1996.

Haiku events

10th Yugoslav Haiku Festival
To be held in Odzaci. An international haiku contest
is the main feature of the festival.
Address:
Kulturno prosvetna zajednica
10th Yugoslav Haiku Festival
P.Fah 28
25250 Odzaci, Yugoslavia
