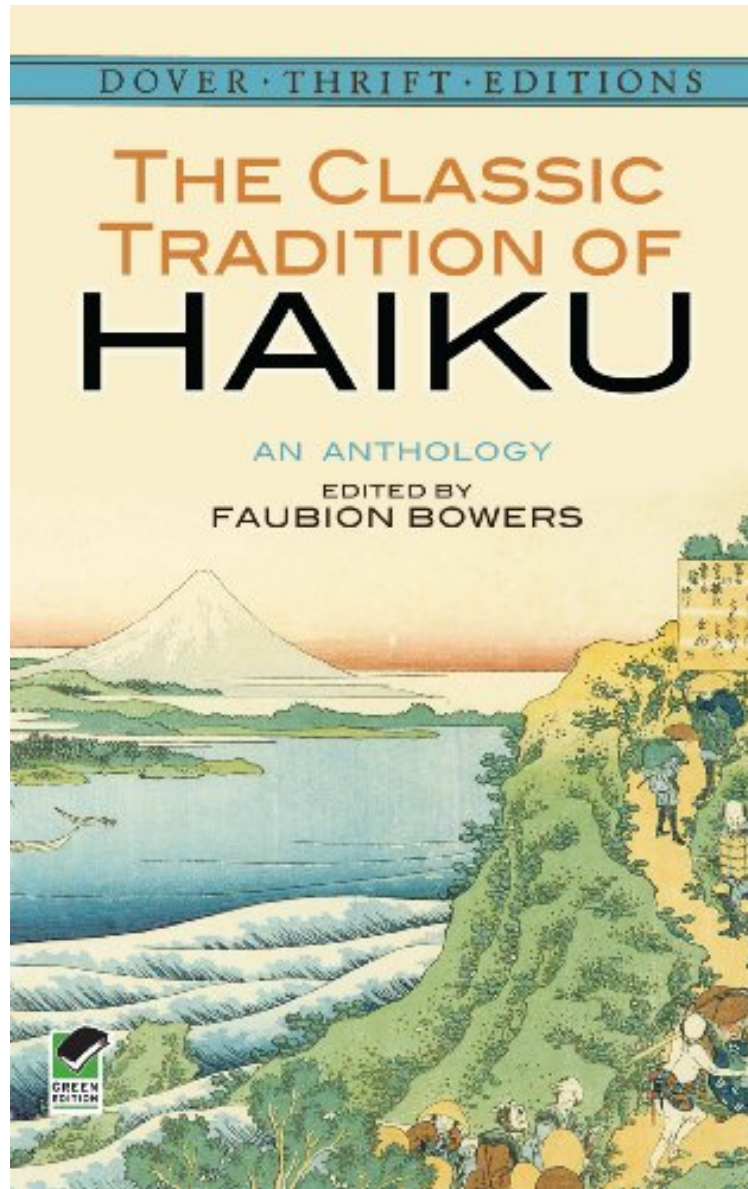


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## The Classic Tradition of Haiku: An Anthology (Dover Thrift Editions)

*Von Faubion Bowers*

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**Von Faubion Bowers : The Classic Tradition of Haiku: An Anthology (Dover Thrift Editions)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Classic Tradition of Haiku: An Anthology (Dover Thrift Editions):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A Delightful BargainVon Ein KundeMost of us will remember reading a few selected haiku poems in grade school, but this anthology offers over 200 poems from a 400-year period. Faubion Bowers did a superb job of introducing, selecting, and annotating the poems, and the translations are accompanied by their transliterated Japanese originals, a feature that helps English readers to see the economy of haiku, as well as the alliteration often lost in translation. Works of this caliber seldom cost so little.Haiku (roughly translated as "unusual verse") is a highly compact form of Japanese poetry. Its origins are in popular literature, and it was somewhat of a superficial fad until Basho and other writers raised it to an art form. One of the key characteristics of haiku is its evocative, reflective nature--it can offer complex ideas in a distilled form. To take one example, from an anonymous writer: I regret picking and not picking violets At first glance, this seems to be a contradictory and perhaps pointless statement. Why would one regret and not regret picking violets at the same time? On further reflection, however, the answer emerges: picking violets is a pleasurable activity but it kills the violet. Hence, one can both regret picking violets (i.e. killing a thing of beauty) and not picking violets (i.e. missing a pleasant pastime). An interesting parallel would be the opening line of Dickens' \*A Tale of Two Cities\*: "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." Haiku revels in this kind of elliptical thinking, challenging its readers to reflect beyond the literal meaning of a statement. Even for non-poetry readers, this volume is a delightful bargain. So make some green tea, sit in a quiet garden, and enjoy this book. Bill Ramey1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A great overview of literary translation by translation.Von Ein KundeThis book is not only the best haiku bargain for the buck, but a valuable snapshot of the trials and tribulations any literature is likely to go through in the translation process. Bowers has given the reader a semester's worth of translation styles and problems to consider. Anyone interested in the problems of translation, or in taking on the translation of haiku, can learn from this book. Also, anyone attempting to review the literature on haiku in English should probably start here, for it gives sample translation from virtually every serious book on the subject in or out of print at the time of compilation (1996). Bowers knows his stuff, and his Japanese, and contributes some very fine translations occasionally himself.You couldn't go wrong on this for a first book of haiku!1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. This would be wonderful, even if it cost more.Von Ein KundeYou're unlikely to find a better bargain this year on a book. My favorite thing about this book is that the editor often presents multiple English translations of single poems. This illustrates as dramatically as I can imagine how complex the problem of translation is. The format is a bit awkward and the paper isn't of the best quality, but I'm glad to have added this to my collection.

Kurzbeschreibung A highly distilled form of Japanese poetry, haiku consists of seventeen syllables, usually divided among three lines. Though brief, they tell a story or paint a vivid picture, leaving it to the reader to draw out the meanings and complete them in the mind's eye. Haiku often contains a hidden dualism (near and far, then and now, etc.) and has a seasonal tie-in, as well as specific word-images that reveal deeper layers in each poem.This unique collection spans over 400 years (1488-1902) of haiku history by the greatest masters: Basho, Issa, Shiki, and many more, in translations by top-flight scholars in the field. Haiku commands enormous respect in Japan. Now readers of poetry in the West can savor these expressive masterpieces in this treasury compiled by noted writer Faubion Bowers, who provides a Foreword and many informative notes to the poems.