

# High/Coo



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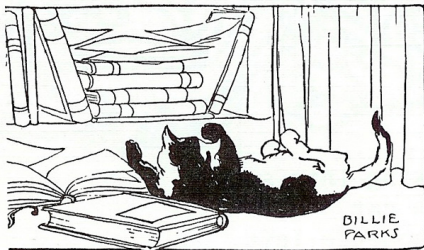
# High/Coo

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A Quarterly of Short Poetry

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Vol. 2, no. 8      May, 1978



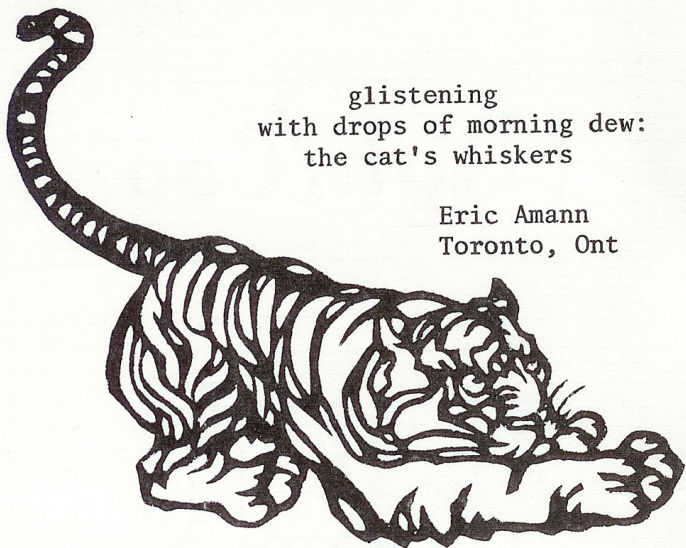
Special issue featuring cats.  
Dedicated to the cat editor--Mitzy.

Randy & Shirley Brooks, Editors  
26-11 Hilltop Dr., W. Lafayette, IN  
47906

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glistening  
with drops of morning dew:  
the cat's whiskers

Eric Amann  
Toronto, Ont



soaking into snow  
a white cat  
silhouette left

cats moaning  
to ours  
such a starry night

Nubuo F. Hirasawa  
Tokyo, Japan

the priest and his cat  
laughing down  
autumn leaves

the cat  
in his arms  
defines the man

tornado watch:  
above our breathing  
the cat's purr

the cat  
lowers his ears  
to the master's fart

Raymond Roseliep  
Dubuque, IA



country road cat dropped off bellyfull

Marlene Wills

g  
n  
i  
t  
n  
i  
o  
dead cat p  
to each car that p a s s e s

Marlene Morelock Wills  
Hampton, TN

A cat scratches  
his face  
on the end of this pen

Gary Hines  
Tucson, AZ

Two kittens  
spar silently  
on the sofa

Gary Hines  
Tucson, AZ



Zoë

awakened by wheezing    old cat and I    staredown

withered teats...  
She washes them  
along with the fur.

talking to myself    now that she's gone    old cat

just ahead of my pacing    her padding ghost

MaryEllen Ponsford  
Worth, IL

first day of spring socks beside the bed

\*

at dusk hot water from the hose

Marlene Morelock Wills  
Hampton, TN

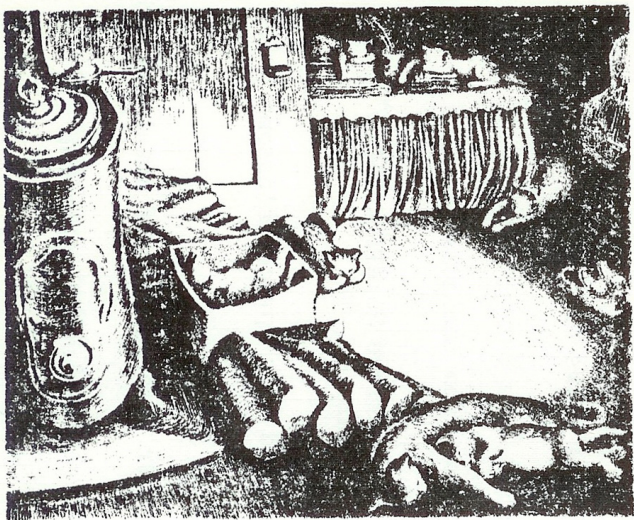
flute arpeggios tangled in apricot blossoms

\*

on my new bed grandmother's faded Star of Bethlehem quilt

Elizabeth Searle Lamb  
Santa Fe, NM





sunlight throws  
window  
to the rug--  
I daydream  
in shadow

Rick Adams  
Marion, IN

Jade plant  
On the floor  
A white tail  
From behind  
The couch

I see you!  
Two eyes  
And a tail  
And a humped,  
Lumped rug!

Warm lump  
Between the sheets  
Crawls to the edge  
And then  
Drops off!

Beth B. Rohlik  
W. Lafayette, IN

### SPRING THAW

the world simmers & crackles  
sheds its fat  
in ghosts of smoke

### AFTER AN ICESTORM

crow caw black  
echoes bounce down  
iron white woods

### BALD EAGLES

rustblack winds  
snatch pike & bass  
silvered fat  
wrapped in spikes

Robert Schuler  
Mt. Carroll, IL

## SHORT TALE OF A CAT

cat  
a  
mount

cat  
a  
log

cat  
er  
cornered

cat  
a  
pult

cat  
a  
wampus

cat  
er  
waul

cat  
a  
ract

cat  
a  
clysm

cat  
e  
gory

cat  
as  
trophe

cat  
a  
comb

cat-  
o-nine-  
tails

Bill Pauly  
Dubuque, IA





the white cat  
licking moonlight  
from its back

the cat stretches  
shakes out night  
and funneling fleas

string quartet:  
Haydn and the three  
white cats in heat

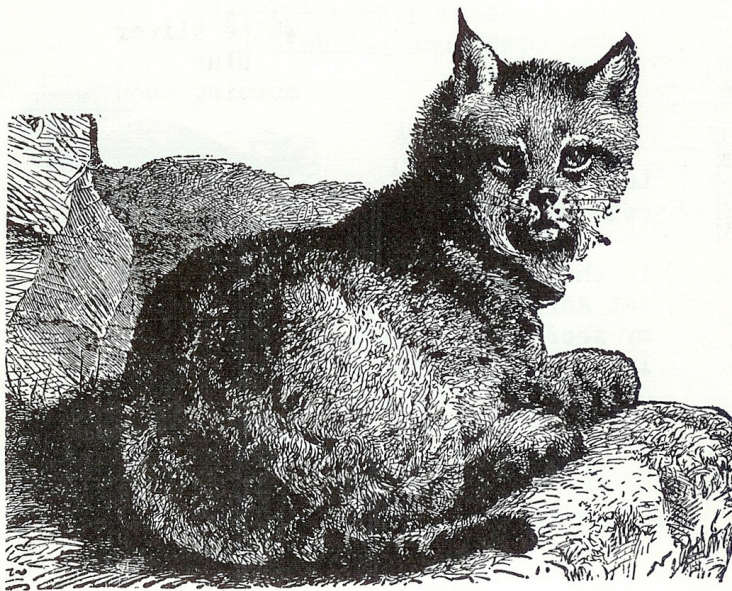
Bill Pauly  
Dubuque, IA

Jonquil the cat  
balances on the rail  
fleas hopscotch below

Sr. Mary Marguerite  
Dubuque, IA

an old man  
whittling a cat:  
winter afternoon

Elizabeth Searle Lamb  
Santa Fe, NM



seeping in  
around  
the edges

--dawn

white sliver  
blue  
morning moon

Love is a pile of  
cold mashed potatoes.

In the fourth grade I  
sat across the lunch table from Toni,  
my secret sweetheart.  
I couldn't eat a bite.

Ron Bedford  
Newport, WA

winter night;  
the prints of a late cat  
come and go.

Spring morning rain;  
under the picnic table...  
a nibbling squirrel.



Aki  
Centerville, MA

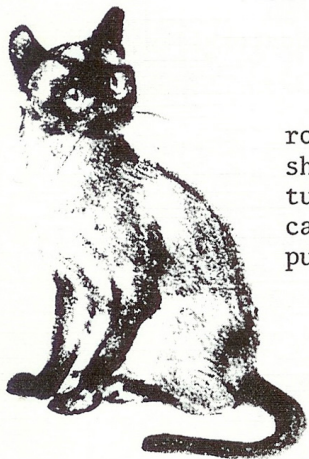
perfectly balanced  
the alley cat walks the fence  
dusting hollyhocks

Sister Mary Thomas Eulberg  
Dubuque, IA



wearing a sweater  
for the cat  
in the window

apartment chimes  
dead still  
kitty fixes



#### FLIGHT PATTERN

round-n-round  
she circles  
tucked into half-moon  
calico  
purrs

her mice  
drop out  
of our kitchen  
faucet

Shirley Brooks

the cat  
snacks a couple  
violet blooms

cat scratches  
browned in  
the dieffenbachia leaf

snow halfway up  
all the windows...  
the cat whines

Randy Brooks

WHERE WILL MOCKINGBIRD NEST? is  
a collection of 14 city nature  
high/coo by Randy Brooks. It is  
available for \$1.00 from Juniper  
Press, 1310 Shorewood Dr., La Crosse,  
Wisconsin, 54601.

one acorn falls another oak

\*

the long winter,  
and now the grey melting snow  
taking its time

\*

shadows of raindrops  
fall across the sleeping child  
the first night of spring

Joyce Walker Currier  
Homewood, IL

School bomb scare  
Forcing us out into blizzard--  
Not minding.

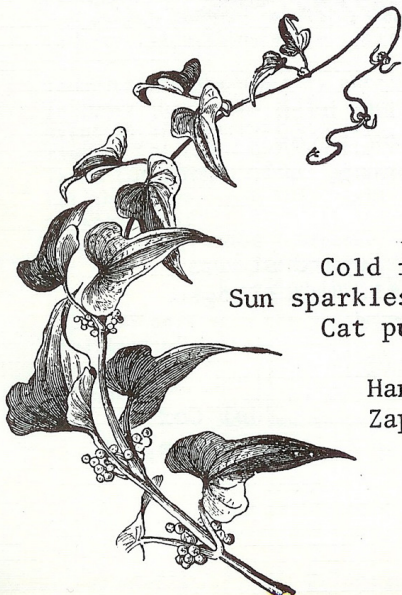
Sr. Mary Lawrence Franklin  
Erie, PA



## EASTER

Across wintry fields  
A row of black crosses.  
The power line,

LaVerne González  
W. Lafayette, IN



Cold frosty morning.  
Sun sparkles on bird feeder.  
Cat pussy foots.

Hannah Mendelsohn  
Zapata, TX





out of the barn  
a swallow flies  
it's spring, it's spring

the cattleyard steams  
the cattle truck bogs  
in the mire

Joel Cox  
Lawrence, KS

UNDERSTANDING JAPANESE REFORMIST TANKA: A BOOK REVIEW  
OF TAKUBOKU'S SAD TOYS

SAD TOYS, by Takuboku Ishikawa, translated by Sanford Goldstein and Seishi Shinoda, Purdue University Press, South Campus Courts--D, West Lafayette, IN 47907. 205 pages perfect bound for \$5.95.

Takuboku Ishikawa (1885-1912) believed tanka poets should be free to use more than the "traditional" 5-7-5-7-7 rhythm, and that the content of tanka need not be limited by conventions of "acceptability" or "appropriateness". In an essay published in 1909, Takuboku wrote: "Poetry must not be what is usually called poetry. It must be an exact report, an honest diary, of the changes in a man's emotional life . . . Tanka will not die as long as man holds dear the momentary impressions which flash across his mind."

Takuboku's tanka are very autobiographical. His life is tanka, his tanka life. Each tanka is an actual event in his personal history. SAD TOYS is a collection of 194 tanka written his last two years of life. There is a consciousness of impending death throughout the tanka. SAD TOYS begins with the sound of his tuberculosis:

When I breathe,  
This sound in my chest  
Lonelier than the winter wind

SAD TOYS ends with the psychological and physical realities of dying:

Their only son  
Grown up to this!  
How sad my parents must be!

\*

Not cured  
And still not dying---

This bitterness more and more each day these last  
several months!

\*

Awake and feeling somehow  
As if these lungs had shrunk,  
O this morning so close to fall!

Unlike most books of translations, SAD TOYS is a complete translation of the exact book published in Japan shortly after Takuboku's death. Romanji versions of the tanka and photos of the original calligraphy of the Japanese publication are included. There are 25 pages of notes about individual tanka. Many of the cultural associations and idiomatic phrases are explained to help the Western reader realize the richness and evocativeness Takuboku's tanka offer to the Japanese reader. The translators, Sanford Goldstein and Shinoda, briefly explain the principals of their translations: "Our attempt in SAD TOYS has been to translate these poems in the spirit of Takuboku . . . We have avoided syllabic count and rhyme in order to preserve the spontaneity, naturalness, and simplicity of tanka, and as Takuboku himself wrote these poems in three lines, we have created three line tanka." The translators have also written an excellent introduction to Takuboku's life and his development as a tanka writer. Over forty of his earlier tanka and excerpts from his essays on tanka writing are included. For example, a tanka focused on Takuboku's identification with a pathetic looking woodpecker is translated:

So thin have I grown,  
As ugly as some slim woodpecker scurrying  
About in the bush

His adopted poet's name, Takuboku, is the Chinese pronunciation of kitsutsuki (woodpecker).

In an article, Takuboku explains his concept of "poems to eat." They are "Poems made with both feet upon the ground. It means poems written without putting any distance from actual life. They are not delicacies or dainty dishes, but food indispensable for us in our daily meal."

Throat parched  
I went hunting for fruit stalls  
Late this autumn night

SAD TOYS are contemporary poems; we are still living similar moments. I quote the conclusion to their introduction: "Takuboku felt the necessity of preserving the most ephemeral element in man's life, the individual moment, whether that moment was high or low, bright or dark, inspiring or frustrating, and he set for himself a task no other tanka poet before him had undertaken--- that of extending tanka's range, of revising its form and content . . . Takuboku gave to the Everyman in each of us moments we can immediately recognize and value as commonplace, real, honest, compassionate, unflinching, and human."

That whim on the way  
And again I took the day off  
To roam the river's edge

Step into Takuboku's world of tanka, his life. Anyone who enjoys reading how it feels to live should get a copy of SAD TOYS. The Japanese have been aware of free form tanka, the psychological tanka, since the turn of the century. Many Western haiku writers, as well as Japanese, have accepted free form haiku. However, tanka are still viewed as little more than 5-7-5-7-7 haiku in many of the English haiku magazines. It seems to me, an appropriate time for English haiku and tanka writers to re-examine their concept of tanka. SAD TOYS would be an excellent start.

Randy Brooks

HIGH/COO is supported and financed solely by subscriptions. We solicit your subscription! \$5.00 buys four issues and two chapbooks and eight poemcards. As a special bonus to all new and current subscribers, we will send a sample of HIGH/COO # 8 to the person of your choice. (FREE this one time only.) We would appreciate help with postage (25¢) but that is optional for you.



### HIGH/COO NOTES

We were very pleased with the response to our first mini-chapbook contest. There were 35 entries which meant we had to turn down some excellent manuscripts. There were four winners: Gary Hines, Marlene Wills, Alan Gettis, and Gary Hotham. Each will receive \$10.00 and ten copies of their published mini-chapbook. There is no first, second, third or fourth places, just winners. Their mini-chapbooks are not included in HIGH/COO subscription.

There are three new haiku magazines this Spring! The Haiku Society of America has started FROGPOND \$6 yearly for membership: 875 E. Broadway, Stratford, CT 06497. The Haiku Appreciation Club has also started a publication, PORTALS. Membership is \$5 yearly: 4431 Aldrich Rd., Bellingham, WA 98225. The third magazine is GUSTO, an 80 page quarterly edited by M. Karl Kulikowski. It will have a large haiku section and is available for \$5 yearly from 2960 Phillip Ave., Bronx, NY 10465.

Haiku Society of America is open for entries to its Harold G. Henderson competition. Deadline is June 10. Write for entry rules: 875 E. Broadway, Stratford, CT 06497. DRAGONFLY magazine is also having its annual haiku contest. Write for a full page of rules to try to follow: Lorraine Ellis Harr, 4102 N E 130th Place, Portland, OR 97230.

Carrow De Vries has a tape on Sherwood Anderson and haiku (an interview by Jean Frazier). It can be obtained by sending \$3 and a Scotch c-60 tape to Jean Frazier, 617 Winfred Ave., Lansing, MI 48917.

HIGH/COO strongly recommends AXLE OF THE OAK by Robert Schuler. It is available for \$1.35 from Juniper Press, 1310 Shorewood Drive, La Crosse, WI 54601.

Nick Virgilio announces that haiku poets interested in reading at the Walt Whitman Poetry Center should contact him: Poet-in-residence, Walt Whitman Poetry CTR, 2nd and ~~Conner~~ Conner Streets. Camden, NJ 08102.



HIGH/COO Publications in Print:

poemcards: (\$1.50 per dozen)

1. "the budding rain"--Raymond Roseliep
2. "this February light"--Sanford Goldstein
3. "dead tree Janus"--Sr. Mary Thomas Eulberg
4. "lights of the city"--Sr. Mary T. Eulberg
5. "how many since she left"--L. Fitzgerald
6. "cats in heat"--Nubuo F. Hirasawa
7. "the cat in his arms"--Raymond Roseliep

chapbooks: (\$1.50 + 25¢ postage)

1. SUN IN HIS BELLY--Raymond Roseliep
2. WIND THE CLOCK BY BITTERSWEET--Bill Pauly
3. RAIN IN HER VOICE--Lawrence Fitzgerald
4. BIRD DAY AFTERNOON--R. C. Matsuo-Allard  
(Number 4 will be released August, 1978)

mini-chapbooks: (\$1.00 postpaid)

1. ROADSIGNS--Gary Hines
2. MOMENT/MOMENT MOMENTS--Marlene Wills
3. OFF AND ON RAIN--Gary Hotham
4. SNOWED IN--Alan Gettis

(Numbers 3 and 4 will be released Nov. 1978)

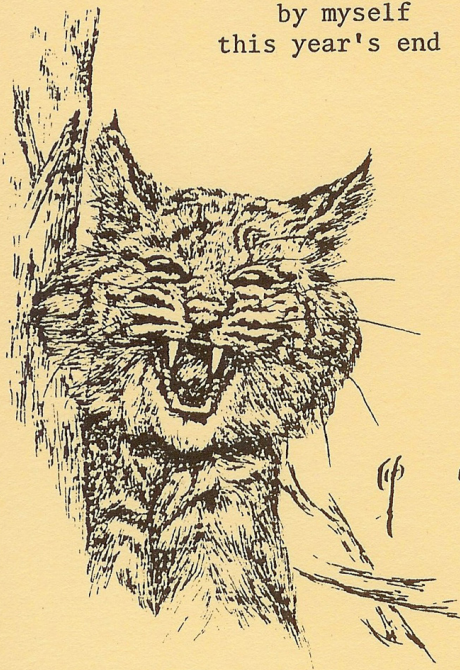
Subscription to HIGH/COO magazine--\$5.00 yearly  
(includes 4 issues, 2 chapbooks, & 8 poemcards)

HIGH/COO, 26-11 Hilltop Dr, W. Lafayette, IN  
47906

\$1.00



cat's in heat--  
by myself  
this year's end



恋猫  
我  
あ  
っ  
っ

し  
し  
し  
し  
し

印



HIGH/COO 26-11 Hilltop Dr W Lafayette IN 47906  
USA

HIGH/COO POEMCARD #6  
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*A Quarterly of Short Verse*

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