3-1-2004

A Poetic Form for the Internet

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Rights

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Posted on **March 1, 2004** by **Editor**

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Introduction:

As spring has truly started in Oregon, we wanted to do something a bit more lighthearted by way of an article for this issue. Poetry came naturally to mind, so we wish to nominate an appropriate or modal type of poetry for the Internet. Many possible archetypal poetic forms come to mind: Sometimes the Internet seems like a poorly translated Icelandic saga, pages and pages of strange gods and narrative confusion; at other times more like a Shakespeare or Browning sonnet: "How do I love thee? Let me count the clicks… "

But while we wish to emphasize that we are very much open to audience participation [1] we do have a type in mind: The Japanese haiku.

Probably few of us are totally unfamiliar with the haiku, but let us remind ourselves that it is most basically a 17-character poem written in Japanese in three lines (5-7-5). As Japanese characters are not syllables, international versions of the form are somewhat looser. [2] The most famous exponent of the haiku, its virtual inventor, is Basho Matsuo (1644-94). [3]

Probably every poet has at one time tried his or her hand at the form. Billy Collins, the noted contemporary poet, has a pleasant and very artful poem about reading a haiku, called "Japan." [4] One particular verse seems to capture the essence of reading many haiku:

It feels like eating
the same small, perfect grape
again and again.

Recently I asked a class of Pacific University students to write a haiku on the subject of the Internet for extra credit on a mid-term exam. Their poems were the inspiration for this piece, because they reveal so much about the impact of the Internet itself. All the poems are reprinted

below. [5] A variety of themes which show students' relationship to the Internet emerge.

The submission closest to a true haiku, because it nicely incorporates the element of surprise seen in many, while being faithful to the topic, is this one by one of our Berglund student editors Andy Arsvold:

Just surfing along
Looking for random wisdom
Those cursed pop-ups!

Another one of our Berglund student editors, our video guy, Ben Bagley, contributed the following:

Electric culture
The world is one library
And I have the card.

Many others adopted Asian themes in clever ways. This example is by Nick Chapman:

My monitor lights
The room is filled with a glow
I am web monkey.

This one, by Jason Salzman, faithfully recreates the surfing experience of many students surfing in developing countries:

Point, click goes the mouse
Access to the world anytime
Darkness… No more power.

Many of the students' poems were faithful to the haiku, which should usually refer to nature, while also constructing the Internet experience:

Electric light
Drawing moths to data packets
Burning in knowledge.

Beth Hatchel

A good haiku should also give us a moment of recognition that we have shared an experience or a perception with the poet:

Speeding faster now

Wires, links and addresses
World outside faded.

Emily Hull

Or:

Turn on computer
Load up the Internet
Sound of the modem.

Aaron Cottam

A common theme that runs through many of the contributions is the dual nature of the Internet, both threat and promise:

Connected to all
Communication to share
Yet, spiders haunt webs.

William Ryan Crughan

Another common theme, also threatening, to a student at least, is the distraction from study the Internet presents:

My Internet glows
It seems very nice but is
A time-sucking pig.

Stephen Millett

Conclusion:

We think, as these examples and others printed below show, that the haiku is the perfect poetic form for the Internet. This is true for a number of reasons. First, it is brief, perfectly sized for the Internet span of attention–about as long as one can hold one's breath or read a haiku. It is a rather rigid poetic form but loose enough to encompass many themes appropriate to browsing. At their best, haiku should also contain elusive truths and surprising turns, very like the Internet itself.

Notes:

[1] If you wish to nominate an appropriate poetic type or style, send a poem in that form on the

subject of the Internet to us; we promise to publish it in a future issue.

[2] And international it has become; A Google search "haiku" turns up 1,460.000 references on the Web. See:
http://www.google.com/search?q=haiku&sourceid=
mozilla-search&start=0&start=0&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8
Accessed 3/22/04
I also note that two native speakers of Japanese who wrote haiku for this assignment were not totally convinced that the form can be written in any language other than Japanese.

[3] For a very nice Haiku site with many poems by Basho see:
http://www.toyomasu.com/haiku/
Accessed 3/22/04

[4] See it at:
http://www.contemporarypoetry.com/dialect/poetry/collinsjapan.htm
accessed 3/22/04

[5] See them all here.

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5 THOUGHTS ON "A POETIC FORM FOR THE INTERNET"

Tyree Bord
on **January 30, 2014 at 6:13 PM** said:

As I site possessor I believe the content matter here is rattling excellent , appreciate it for your hard work. You should keep it up forever! Good Luck.

naija
on **February 3, 2014 at 1:42 AM** said:

One much more point I wish to talk about is that as an selection to trying to accommodate all your on the net degree lessons on times that you just end jobs (since the majority men and women are tired after they get home), try to acquire most of the instructional classes on the week-ends and only a couple courses in weekdays, even if it means a small time away from the saturday and sunday. This can be beneficial since on

the saturdays and sundays, you will be much more rested along with concentrated in school work. Thanks much for your various elements I have figured out through the site.

community
on **February 4, 2014 at 10:15 AM** said:

for that finest cost on the marketplace super genuine all

nigeria entertainment news
on **February 4, 2014 at 10:26 AM** said:

I am always browsing on the net for content that will benefit me. Thx!

nigeria entertainment news
on **February 4, 2014 at 10:35 AM** said:

I also agree with you. i believe that there are many lessons being learned from this book. By not reading the book, we miss out on some elements that are a certain impact to our life. However, I do think you need to be a certain maturity to be able to get from this book what you need

Comic poetic texts poroshki are popular among Russian Internet users and reflect the reality of modern life. The novelty of the work lies in the new literary paradigm of interpreting poetic texts poroshki, which originally appeared within the Russian Internet. The article aims at finding the mechanisms of decoding creolized â€œsmallâ€ poetic forms as they appear in the Russian language and their English variants. Poetic Form can be understood as the physical structure of the poem: the length of lines, their rhythms, their system of rhymes and repetition. In this sense, it is normally reserved for the type of poem where these features have been shaped into a pattern, especially a familiar pattern. This glossary includes full definitions of the most usual forms with examples :- 1. Sonnet: It is a poem of 14 lines that is popular from Late Middle Ages on. By the 14th century and the Italian Renaissance, the form had further made well defined under the pen of Petrarch, whose sonnets were translated in the 16th century by Sir Thomas Wyatt, who is credited with introducing the sonnet form into English literature. A traditional Italian or Petrarchan sonnet follows the rhyme scheme abba, abba, cdecde. Poetry (derived from the Greek poiesis, "making") is a form of literature that uses aesthetic and often rhythmic qualities of languageâ€"such as phonaesthetics, sound symbolism, and metreâ€"to evoke meanings in addition to, or in place of, the prosaic ostensible meaning. Poetry has a long history â€" dating back to prehistoric times with hunting poetry in Africa, and to panegyric and elegiac court poetry of the empires of the Nile, Niger, and Volta River valleys. Some of the earliest written poetry in... The #lang line declares a poetic form. Poetic forms can specify the number of lines, number of stanzas, rhyme scheme, and number of syllables in the following text. See Defining a new iPoe Language for more details. ipoe checks the internet to get the spelling, number of syllables, and rhymes for a given word. If you have an ipoe database, it stores this information. Otherwise, the data for words is cached locally (in ./compiled/ipoe.cache). Poems can start with a few keyword/value pairs to alter the poem-checker. 1.2 iPoe Concepts. An iPoe poem is a text file with #lang as its first line, where refers to an iPoe poetic form. A poetic form is a grammar; it specifies how a class of poems should look and sound.