

***The Dance of Her Napkin* by William E. Cooper**

Resume for discussion at the WHA workshop, 29 April 2013

Topics

1. Free form (not restricted to the fixed form of fixed verse and season word)
2. American countryside and daily life. Subjects are very typical of modern American haiku, though occasionally, there are oddly amazing subjects and expressions unique to the poet.
3. Mastery of *shoryaku* (omission of redundant words when other words are enough to convey implicit images) ; crisp conciseness
4. Classic, orthodox style with noticeable influence of traditional masters, e.g., Basho and Issa; proof that the poet has “studied” well and proof of his intellect
5. Majority are in *toriawase* style (haiku combining two objects) but some are in *ichibutsu* style (haiku depicting one main object, usually the season word or the main keyword)
6. Good blend of *kokkei* (humor) and *jojou* (lyricism)
7. Not restricted to three-line form. The one-line form with some space between two phrases remind us of similar spacing techniques used by some avant-garde haiku poets in Japan during the 20th century

Cited haiku

silver maple 5
letting the kayak
drift awhile

red dwarf star 6
the slow burn
of apple wood

tea room 8
an enameled frog
poised in silence

almost a sigh lemongrass 32

old lobster 57
no interest
in box or cable

summer dream 83
sea shells
collecting us

hammock 97
the sway
of Orion