

## Fly-Ku!



Filesize: 1.4 MB

### **Reviews**

*Excellent electronic book and helpful one. Better then never, though i am quite late in start reading this one. You wont truly feel monotony at whenever you want of your time (that's what catalogues are for relating to when you question me).*

***(Mabelle Dach III)***

## FLY-KU!



Paraverse Press, United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 183 x 135 mm. Language: English Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.One of a line of books of translated haiku (from Japanese) about single themes by Robin D. Gill. Fly-ku! introduces hundreds of haiku about flies, fly-swatters and fly-paper, scores of which are by Issa (1763-1827), whose famous ku about a fly begging not to be swatted has long been controversial because of its alleged maudlinity and anthropomorphism. Gill defends Issa and his famous fly-ku, while showing that Issa-lovers, on their part, are wrong to assume he was the first to notice flies rubbing their limbs together. There already was a century of such flies in haiku and an even older tradition of expressive hands in bracken that is given a whole chapter in this book otherwise dedicated exclusively to *musca maledicta* (and, occasionally, *benedicta*). Similarly to Gill's earlier *Rise, Ye Sea Slugs!* most of the poems included are hundreds of years old and thematically chaptered, but the approach is phenomenological rather than metamorphic: flies that beg, flies that are swatted, flies that escape, flies that stay, etc. To balance the picture, there is a long chapter with 100 modern and contemporary fly-ku, and part of the longest chapter (Sundry Flies) introduces a dozen or two foreign (English language) fly-ku. Gill, himself, professes more interest in the poetry of mosquitoes, fleas, silverfish, cicada and lightning bugs, but making a big (and totally accidental) discovery about Issa's famous fly-ku - it would seem to borrow from an unknown senryu about the warrior Benkei - he decided to do this book first. In addition to the original Japanese to all poems, there is an essay in Japanese about this discovery and its significance appended. It adds a bit to...



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