



## HA I K U   I N   M A T S U Y A M A

Jerald Ball

Oh Matsuyama!

The road to your door is lined

With rape blossoms

so small, and blue

tiny flower with no name

by the railroad tracks

Stephen McDonald

ball in the air

ocean of orange

go Tokyo giants !

running barefoot

the sunflowers Sway

as the sun sets

Jack William

Sunbeams

Tickling trees

Silly Buddha

half moon

alone

hot green tea

Patricia A DeCaro

cherry blossoms

victorious

After the rain

the deaf men

listen to the waterfall

under young leaves



Jerome Cushman  
Matsuyama home  
of cherry blossoms, poets  
and my heart

Lily pad  
covered with cherry petals  
waiting —

Patricia Machmiller  
at the waterfall  
sometimes I feel an answer  
sometimes the wind

top of the castle —  
even here the mystery  
of cherry blossoms

Angelee Deodhar  
camphor wood floor  
I follow the path  
of neon-green slippers

purple bamboo  
through the Shichiku Gate  
all these foreigners

\*shichiku means purple bamboo



Beverley George  
the hands  
of the deaf haiku poet  
warm the air

she rests my chopsticks  
on a twig of sakura —  
Hanami

\* hanami means a cherry blossom –  
viewing picnic



## Encounter with Prof. Cushman and Visit at Matsuyama Deaf School

I met Prof. Jerome Cushman for the first time when I participated in the first Haiku Pacific Rim Conference at the long beach campus of the California State University. My husband and I took a walk along the beach. Then, we saw him rubbing a small black dog on the head, which was for sale on the sidewalk. We spoke to him for a short time. Later, we heard from Prof. Ikuyo Yoshimura, he supported haiku contests for deaf students. I gave him my bilingual haiku book instead of a name card. In return he gave me a poster on which photos of excellent students are. I saw him again at the second Haiku Pacific Rim Conference which was held in Ogaki, Japan. At the conference party he told me that Kijo and Sugiyama Sanpu were hearing-impaired people. As Kijo is a disciple of Masaoka Shiki, he told me that he would



like to visit Matsuyama to study on the relationship between them. Coincidentally, Prof. Jerry Ball wanted to hold the third Haiku Pacific Rim Conference in Matsuyama and Prof. Cushman agreed with him saying, "Matsuyama! Matsuyama!". Other people there also reached a consensus on this matter while I started to think of hosting the conference in Matsuyama.

When I came back to Matsuyama, I asked several questions, from Prof. Cushman, to the staff at the Shiki Museum. However, no staff knew about Kijo well. I went to a library to search about him. Mr. Mitarai gave me some information about Kijo. We found in a book, that there is a Kijo Museum and Kijo's grandson, 'Mikiya', is the director of the Museum. I looked for some more books on Kijo by visiting second hand book stores and found some books about him, which are not found at the Shiki Museum. I ordered two copies of "Haikai Kijo" written by Mikiya from the Kijo Museum. I sent one copy to Prof. Cushman. He sent me an e-mail to request any English translation of Kijo's Haiku. I asked about it to Mikiya and he sent me a brief English pamphlet translated by Tsuruta Kyoko.

Students at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (Rochester, New York) led by Prof. Cushman visited Tsukuba University. I gave them a suggestion, visit the Kijo Museum as well. When they went to see the museum at Takasaki, they drew some haiga and had various



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**The 3<sup>rd</sup> Haiku Pacific Rim Conference**