

— haiku ireland —

renku - On Mother's Knees

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A 'New Shisan' Renku

Side 1

tiny feet
resting on mother's knees
May shadows

Marian

toasting the new birth
summer wine, a candle

Maeve

customers
with the shopkeeper
smoking outside

Gilles

Side 2

is that the North wind
all night at the door?

Dermot

footfalls on the stairs
my heart a rope of knots
pulls me to the depths

Bernadette+Jessica

at dawn she steps
from the last carriage

Michael

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Side 3

beyond the street
the moon over wheat fields
commands attention

Dermot

aroma of blackberries
heavy in the air

Marian

uilleann pipes
the way their sound
fills the session

Maeve

Side 4

raising Persia
dusty swirls from beaten rugs

Jessica

with every blossom
the boy picks up
a dream

Bernadette

tadpoles bend and stretch
in the old pond

Norman

This renku was written during a Renku Day organised by - **haiku ireland** - in Club na Muinteoiri / Teachers Club, Dublin on Saturday 26 May, 2007 with the following participants:

Marian Neary Burke, Gilles Fabre, Dermot O'Brien, Bernadette O'Reilly, Maeve O'Sullivan, Jessica Peart, Michael Smay and Norman Darlington, Renku Editor of the online journal Simply Haiku at **www.simplyhaiku.com**, as *sabaki*

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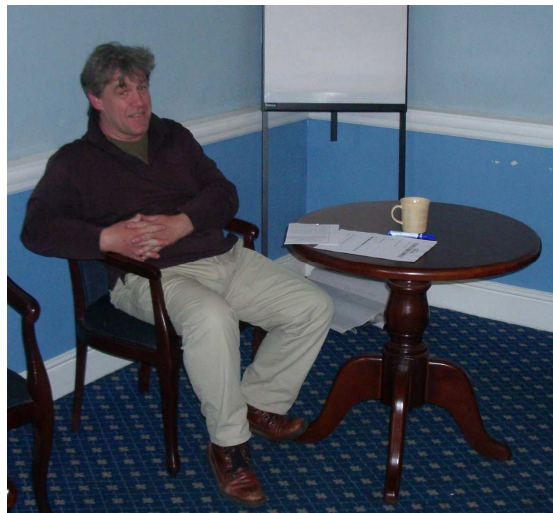


***Club na Muinteoiri / Teachers Club,
the Georgian House where the renku was held***



Some participants in studious mood

*Norman Darlington, the sabaki for
the day*



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Comment by Maeve O'Sullivan on the renku day:

"I was fairly new to renku, having only once participated in one online one quite a few years ago. I was familiar with the fact that haiku came from the opening verse of the renku, and was curious to learn more.

I found it to be a fascinating process, creatively and socially. Creatively, apart from the opening verse which is essentially a haiku, all of the other verses are generated somewhere in a zone between haiku and fiction! It was fun to imagine a season other than the one I was in, for instance, and to evoke a sense of winter in summer, for instance. I also found it challenging, in a good way, to try to link and shift in an effective manner, and to incorporate elements such as the moon and the blossom. Norman was very helpful in this respect, as in many others.

I also enjoyed the group aspect of the activity. At times it was a little competitive, but that's not always a "bad" thing. However, I think it was more often co-operative, with everyone in the group wanting a positive outcome, i.e. a good renku, or so it seemed to me anyway. I think we did achieve that too."

about - haiku ireland -

- **haiku ireland** - is a group of haiku poets who share the same aims that are primarily to foster the writing of haiku and its related forms to a standard of excellence and in a manner which reflects both its origins and best contemporary practice and to contribute to the development of haiku in Ireland and internationally.

Another objective is to develop and sponsor cooperation between the Irish and the international haiku community and we hope this newsletter will help achieving this goal.

- **haiku ireland** - organises regular haiku events, such as workshops and ginko that are open to all. For further information on our group, to attend our events or to join us, please visit our Official Site at **www.haikuireland.org** that also contains haiku written by members and the previous newsletters and publications that may be downloaded.