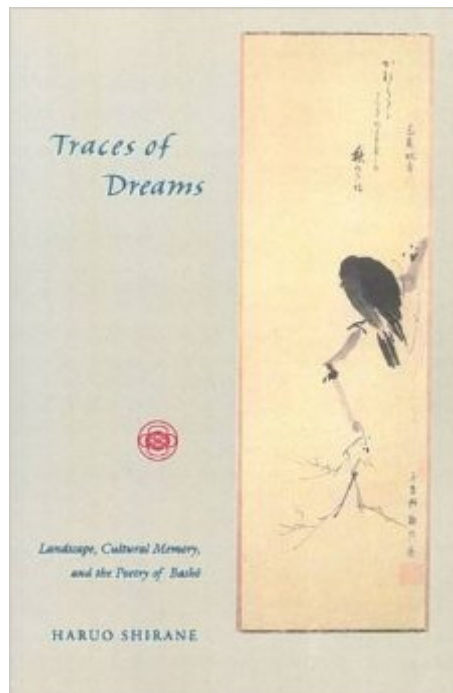


The book was found

Traces Of Dreams: Landscape, Cultural Memory, And The Poetry Of Basho



Synopsis

Basho (1644-94) is perhaps the best known Japanese poet in both Japan and the West, and yet there has been remarkably little serious scholarship in English on his achievement. This book is intended to address that virtual void by establishing the ground for critical discussion and reading of a central figure in Japanese culture, placing the works of Basho and his disciples in the context of broader social change. Intended for both the general reader and the specialist, *Traces of Dreams* examines the issues of language, landscape, cultural memory, and social practice in early modern Japan through a fundamental reassessment of haikai's popular linked verse that eventually gave birth to modern haiku's particularly that of Basho and his disciples. The author analyzes haikai not only as a specific poetic genre but as a mode of discourse that emerged from the profound engagement between the new commoner culture that came to the fore in the seventeenth century cities and the earlier traditions, which haikai parodied, transformed, and translated into the vernacular. *Traces of Dreams* explores the manner in which haikai both appropriated and recast the established cultural and poetic associations embodied in nature, historical objects, and famous places; the landscape that preserved the cultural memory and that became the source of authority as well as the contested ground for haikai re-visioning and re-mapping.

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: Stanford University Press; 1 edition (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0804730997

ISBN-13: 978-0804730990

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,371,727 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #154 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > Asian > Japanese](#) #314 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Literature > World Literature > Asian](#) #388 in [Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Japanese](#)

Customer Reviews

Matsuo Basho (1644-1694) is certainly the best-known haiku poet of all time, even though he never heard the word "haiku". What he did do, in his own time, was (a) write and teach the writing of

"haikai no renga", the popular style of linked, collaborative poetry of his time, (b) collect the largest number of followers (or "disciples") of any poet of his day, (c) write a number of short prose pieces with short verses he called hokku (haibun), (d) write a number of independent hokku (which we now call "haiku"), and (e) write several travel diaries, the last of which, "Narrow Road of the Interior" goes by a number of titles in English and is one of the great masterpieces of world literature. You can find out about all this from other books. However, in Professor Shirane's book, you will find out more: Basho was not the only person doing these things during his lifetime. And although nobody is likely to say that Basho was not the most important poet of his day, he was definitely influenced in all his work by the trends of the time. When funny verses were the vogue, early in his career, he wrote funny verses. When Chinese poetry became a major influence on the poetry scene, his writings reflected his own rich knowledge of that Chinese heritage. When other poets started advocating a "lighter" style, more directly concerned with the things of daily life, Basho took up "lightness" as an important element of his art. Basho's uniqueness does not lie in his unique type of poetry, but in his great ability to ride the wave of fashion in a common type of poetry and make something rich and lasting from it.

William Higginson's review of this important book is spot-on. However, he missed a few features of the book I regard as significant. One rather major omission is Shirane's wonderful, in-depth translation/analysis of a Basho-group *kasen*, "Withering Gusts", which is really the centerpiece of the book since it brings together all the critical themes of the book. In fact, the subtext of the book seems to lionize Basho as a *renku* (linked-verse) master par excellence, emphasizing his catalytic role in the development of *renku* (or *haikai no renga* as Basho would have called it). "Withering Gusts" is an early example of a *kasen* (36-link *renga* or "*renku*") by Basho et al. It is outstanding in that the participants were all young, full of vigor, and overbrimming with newness and skill. Of course, Basho was the "master" of this *renku* session, but his presence seems to have stimulated the other *renkujin* to great poetic heights. One plus is the reproduction of a few of Basho's own *haiga*, *sumi-e* drawings he made with his *hokku* poems and calligraphy included. Haruo Shirane is a thoughtful critic who brings much to bear on his subject. He skillfully shows how Basho brought newness and vitality into *renga* by introducing *haikai* subjects that would have been prohibited in the more formal and sober rule-bound *renga* of earlier masters such as Sogi (d. 1502). Shirane shows how Basho not simply introduced demotic subjects but raised them to the level of great poetry. This book, as the flap claims, is truly for both the general reader and the specialist. As a "general reader" myself, I must confess some of the analysis went over my head, but there is enough that I can

understand that kept my interest throughout.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Traces of Dreams: Landscape, Cultural Memory, and the Poetry of Basho Memory Exercises:
Memory Exercises Unleashed: Top 12 Memory Exercises To Remember Work And Life In 24 Hours
With The Definitive Memory Exercises Guide! (memory exercises, memory, brain training) Dreams:
Lucid Dreaming - Lucid Dreams - New Age Dreams: A Beginner's Guide Book on How to Become
Conscious in Your Dreams: Dream and Sleep, Volume 2 Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the
Dialectics of Memory (Twentieth Century Japan: The Emergence of a World Power) Dreams:
Interpreting Your Dreams and How to Dream Your Desires- Lucid Dreaming, Visions and Dream
Interpretation (Dreams, Lucid dreaming, Visions,) The Essential Haiku: Versions of Basho, Buson, &
Issa (Essential Poets) Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation: Literature and Cultural Politics in
Yugoslavia (Cultural Memory in the Present) BRAIN: 51 Powerful Ways to Improve Brain Power,
Enhance Memory, Intelligence and Concentration NATURALLY! (MEMORY, Memory Improvement,
Learning, Brain Training) Quantum Memory: Learn to Improve Your Memory with The World
Memory Champion! Rumi Poetry: 101 Quotes Of Wisdom On Life, Love And Happiness (Sufi
Poetry, Rumi Poetry, Inspirational Quotes, Sufism) Traces of History: Elementary Structures of
Race Korea: Traces of a Forgotten War Millennial Landscape Change in Jordan: Geoarchaeology
and Cultural Ecology The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography (11th Edition)
Dreams: Interpreting Your Dreams and How To Dream Your Desires- Lucid Dreaming, Visions and
Dream Interpretation Dreams: Discover the Meaning of Your Dreams and How to Dream What You
Want - Dream Interpretation, Lucid Dreaming, and Dream Psychology (+BONUS) (Dream Analysis,
Dream Meanings, Lucid Dream) Dreams of Dreams and the Last Three Days of Fernando Pessoa
Indigo Teen Dreams: 2 CD Set Designed to Decrease Stress, Anger, Anxiety while Increasing
Self-Esteem and Self-Awareness (Indigo Dreams) Gypsy Wedding Dreams: Ten dresses. Ten
Dreams. All the secrets revealed. Who Owns the Past? Cultural Policy, Cultural Property, and the
Law (The Public Life of the Arts)

[Dmca](#)