**Some Tips for the Practice of Renga**

**Terms**

**renga:** linked verse form dating back to the earliest roots of Japanese poetry, with alternating 5-7-5 and 7-7-syllable verses (ku), from 2 to 100 verses in length.

**haikai no renga:** literally comic renga, renga using more colloquial language emerged in Edo period

**renku:** modern renga

**hokku:** first verse of a renga sequence

**haiku:** hokku standing alone as a poem in itself, 5-7-5 syllables, coined by Masaoka Shiki in Meiji period

**kigo:** seasonal word (there are hundreds!)

**kasen:** 36-verse renga sequence

**haibun:** prose accompanied by haiku

**Guiding principles**

**jo-ha-kyu:** structure common to renga, Noh theatre. Prologue, development, (fast) finale. In a kasen: 1-6 jo, 7-30 ha, 31-36 kyu

**impressiveness of verses:** Design/ground (mon/ji)

**relation of verses:** (shin-so) close, close-distant, distant-close, distant

**Impermanence** (mujo) and **interconnection** (kakari)

**sabi** (loneliness), **yugen** (mysterious depth), **karumi** (lightness)

**seasonal** and nature references

**Topics**

love, grievance, travel, evanescence, Buddhism, Shinto

persons, animals, birds, insects

residences, clothes, human products

plants, trees, cultivation

night, daytime, radiance

nobility, warriors, peasants, townspeople

peaks, waters

**Types of linking: “by heart or by word”**

**straight:** birds/trees, bees/honey

**two for two** (paired words): east/west, moon/sun

**landscape:** natural extension of description

**word-linking:** word association or punning

**allusion:** “hidden” or explicit literary reference, reference to famous place

**contrast:** morning/evening, summer/winter

**contrariness:** going against expectation