

Mare Liberum: Haiku & Tanka by Jacob Salzer (2020, LULU.com publisher) 53 pages, 6"x9", perfectbound. ISBN 978-1-67819-836-7. \$15 from amazon.com.

Reviewed by Shelley Baker-Gard

This collection of modern haiku and tanka by Jacob Salzer is another little gem to add to your collection of poetry books. This is especially true if you are planning to take a vacation near water as it will inspire you to write your own responses to the most precious element on earth: water.

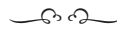
In *Mare Liberum* (translated from Latin as "Freedom of the Seas"), many of the poems relate the ever-changing aspect of water to the ever-changing challenges of life. They do so, with a sensitive understanding which flows throughout the collection. Salzer sees the vastness of a sea and despite its multitude of qualities, it is still one united body of water. By comparing this freely moving element to the multiplicity of human life, he hopes to evoke the thought that the body of humankind is like water and we too should be united in our efforts to promote our common well-being. The following are a couple of exceptional examples:

waves
ceaselessly crash
against the shore
I walk beside you
without a sound

yesterday's tide
the deep cave
echoes

Jacob Salzer is an accomplished modern haiku and tanka poet who has numerous publications of his poems. In addition, he has edited two international poetry anthologies, *Yanty's Butterfly* [published in 2016], and *Half A Rainbow* [published in 2020], and the anthology for the Portland Haiku Group: *New*

Bridges (published in 2018). He has also received many awards and recognition for his haiku, tanka and contributions to the promotion of the art of writing Japanese inspired poetry. For those who are new to Salzer's work and for those who are familiar with it, this book will not disappoint you.



Memories of the Future: Linked & Contrapuntal Poetry by Hansha Teki and Clayton Beach (2020, Heliosparrow Press), 84 pages, 6.6 x 0.2 x 10.2 inches, perfectbound. ISBN: 978-0473513245. \$18 from amazon.com.

Reviewed by Jacob Salzer

Memories of the Future: Linked & Contrapuntal Poetry is a collection of linked-verse and parallel haiku by two established poets living on opposite ends of the globe: Hansha Teki and Clayton Beach. Despite the physical distance between them, this book solidifies their friendship and features their individual and collaborative work in the realm of linked-verse poetry.

The title provides an intriguing theme. It reminds us that everything we have done (and are doing now) will help shape the future and our future generations. It reminds us that the past and future are not separate, but rather constantly flow into each other. In turn, this book asks the reader to contemplate what the future holds, how much of the future will reflect the past, and, perhaps, also offers a word of caution to avoid what the future could be.

These raw, vivid poems utilize all five senses, yet also provide space for the reader's imagination and engagement. The authors blend both dark and light subjects as they dive into significant social, economic, environmental and political challenges we face today. Throughout the collection, the authors also maintain a balance of concrete imagery and abstraction, and have infused their poems with surprising, creative and provocative juxtapositions.