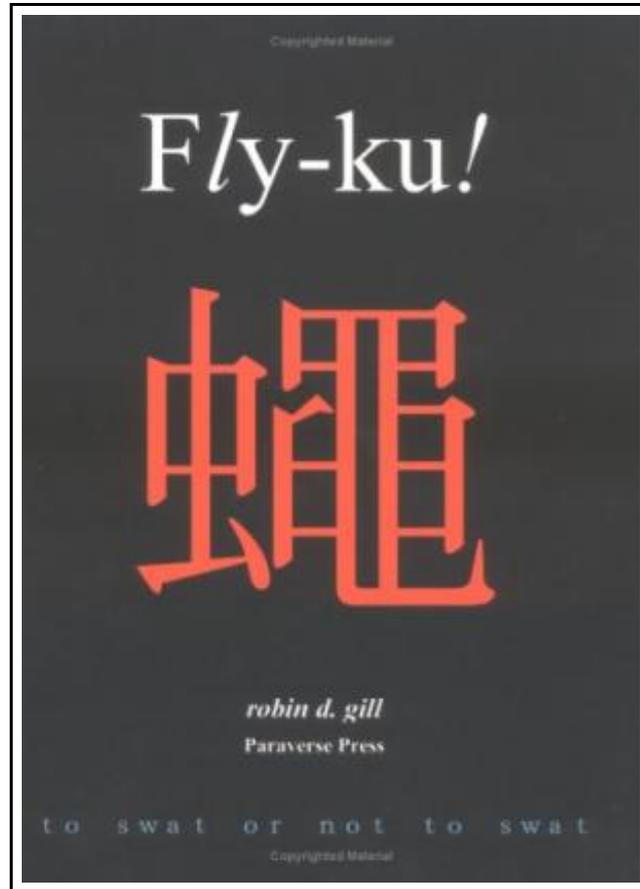


Fly-Ku!



Filesize: 6.91 MB

Reviews

An exceptional publication as well as the font employed was exciting to see. it was actually writtern extremely flawlessly and helpful. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.

(Dominic Collins)

FLY-KU!



Paraverse Press, United States, 2004. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 183 x 135 mm. Language: English Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.One of a line of books of translated haiku (from Japanese) about single themes by Robin D. Gill. Fly-ku! introduces hundreds of haiku about flies, fly-swatters and fly-paper, scores of which are by Issa (1763-1827), whose famous ku about a fly begging not to be swatted has long been controversial because of its alleged maudlinity and anthropomorphism. Gill defends Issa and his famous fly-ku, while showing that Issa-lovers, on their part, are wrong to assume he was the first to notice flies rubbing their limbs together. There already was a century of such flies in haiku and an even older tradition of expressive hands in bracken that is given a whole chapter in this book otherwise dedicated exclusively to musca maledicta (and, occasionally, benedicta). Similarly to Gill's earlier Rise, Ye Sea Slugs! most of the poems included are hundreds of years old and thematically chaptered, but the approach is phenomenological rather than metamorphic: flies that beg, flies that are swatted, flies that escape, flies that stay, etc. To balance the picture, there is a long chapter with 100 modern and contemporary fly-ku, and part of the longest chapter (Sundry Flies) introduces a dozen or two foreign (English language) fly-ku. Gill, himself, professes more interest in the poetry of mosquitoes, fleas, silverfish, cicada and lightning bugs, but making a big (and totally accidental) discovery about Issa's famous fly-ku - it would seem to borrow from an unknown senryu about the warrior Benkei - he decided to do this book first. In addition to the original Japanese to all poems, there is an essay in Japanese about this discovery and its significance appended. It adds a bit to...



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