

724 Fifth Ave., at 57th St., New York, N. Y. 10019 Tel: (212) 826-2000

12/6/75

Ms.Marilyn Wilhelm The Wilhelm School 3611 Cummins Lane Houston Texas 77027

Dear Ms. Wilhelm:

I feel that you, the other teachers, the children and parents, and everyone else connected with the Wilhelm School, will be pleased to know that: HAIKU POETRY is still on the Best-Seller list at Doubleday, 724 5th. Avenue.

It is quite an achievement for a book composed of poetry written and illustrated by children from 4 to 8 years old, to be on a Best-Seller list selected from thousands of titles.

It is refreshing to me personally, to see the spontaneous and beautiful thoughts of children receiving such a warm welcome in a supposedly hard and critically-minded city like New York. I am a little proud of the fact that I was the first to recognise the merit of this book in New York.

People from all over the world come into our store and your book has been taken by foreign visitors to such countries as Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand and Italy. People from Europe have purchased it and also visitors from all over the United States, and Canada.

New York, N.Y. • Manhasset • Garden City • Scarsdale, N.Y. • Paramus, N.J. • West Hartford, Conn. • Bala-Cynwyd Jenkintown, Pa. • Baltimore, Md. • Washington, D.C. • Detroit • Grosse Pointe • Birmingham, Mich. • Toledo, Ohio St. Louis, Ma. • Dallas • Fort Worth, Tex. • Phoenix, Arix. • San Francisco • Northridge, Calif.

Dr. Hashim Amir -Ali of India, came in and purchased the book a few weeks ago. He is the author of a new scholarly book on the Quran and for many years worked in India with the Nobel prize-winning poet, Rabinath Tagore. He said that he wanted to read HAIKU POETRY himself and then give it to a little six-year old boy in Shalimar, who writes poetry.

I often ask myself why your book should be so successful. Perhaps it is because the whole philosophy of your school is so broad and healthy. This philosophy is explained by Irving Stone in his Introduction to Haiku Poetry. When people read that a noted writer Like Irving Stone has been greatly impressed by the manner in which your school is conducted, they too, are impressed. When Irving Stone finds that "Haiku Poetry for Children is delightful, this is the opinion of an established and much admired writer — it is bound to impress readers.

Your own explanation about Haiku Poetry and what it means is written with a style rarely seen in paper-back books to-day - in fact, the whole format of the book is created with style, and what is more, it is a beautiful creation of good taste.

I feel that you are perfectly right in saying that children are the Golden Age. Emerson agrees with your idea when he writes:
"Infancy is the perpetual Messiah pleading with fallen mankind to return to Paradise."

I think your book is so successful because it seems to me the your philosophy says that education is Life, not the preparation for Life.

I have always admired a statement made by Napoleon. He said: "I pity that man who cannot feel the electricity in Nature."

By your enthusiasm for all that is good and beautiful, and by your ability to convey this enthusiasm to the children in your care, you are helping them to feel this electricity in nature. As they grow older, their powers of expression will develop and become stronger , but even now, HAIKU POETRY for CHILDREN shows that , in the minds of your students, this creative electricity is active.

One last thought: It has been said, whether rightly or wrongly I don't know, that : "if you can make it in New York, you can make it anywhere in the world." The children of the Wilhelm School have certainly "made it" in New York with their little book.

For some months now it has been in our window facing directly on to Fifth Avenue, and it still continues to sell well.

I sincerely hope that you, the teachers and children at your school will receive the credit due to you all for producing such a brave and delightful work of art.

Please fill our recent order as quickly as you can. Our stock is running low.

I remain,

Sincerely,

Kenneth de Courcy

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