

Below are the poems we used in brainstorming on August 2, 2013. (Robert Huey)

1.

Ie sakari / Tabi ni shi areba / Akikaze no / Samuki yūbe ni / Kari nakiwataru

As this journey / Has taken me far from home, / On this night / In the cold autumn wind / Calling geese cross the sky (MYS 1165; Anonymous [8th century?])

2.

Yo o samumi / Oku hatsushimo o / Haraitsutsu / Kusa no makura ni / Amata tabinenu

Nights are cold; / Again and again I brush / The early frosts / From my pillow of grass -- / Yet another night of traveler's sleep (KKS 416; Ōshikōchi no Mitsune [fl. 905])

3.

Kusa makura / Kono tabine nizo / Omoishiru / Tsuki yori hoka no / Tomo nakarikeri

On this journey, / Pillowed by grass, / I have come to know / That aside from the moon / I have no other friends (KYS 176; Chūmei [early 12th century?])

4.

Kyō wa mata / Shiranu nohara ni / Yukikurenu / Izure noyama
ka / Tsuki wa izuramu

I have crossed / Unknown fields and plains / Again today -- /
From beyond which mountaintop / Will the moon rise tonight?
(SKKS 956; Minamoto no Ienaga [d. 1234])

5.

Kiri fukaki / Yama no shitamichi / Wakewabite / Kurenu to
tomaru / Aki no tabibito

Fog lies thick / On the road at mountain's base. / I struggle along
/ Till night has fallen and I rest / A traveler in autumn (SGSS
576; Hōin Shuzen [late 13th century?])

6.

Kurezu tote / Sato no tsuzuki wa / Uchisuginu / Kore yori sue ni
/ Yado ya nakaramu

I push onward / Through a succession of villages / Telling
myself it's not yet dark / From here until journey's end / There
won't be any lodgings (ShokuSZS 814; Takatsukasa Mototada
[1247-1313])

7.

Ame no ashi mo / Yokosama ni naru / Yūkaze ni / Mino
fukaseyuku / Nobe no tabibito

In evening wind / That blows aslant / Running legs of rain, / A
traveler crosses the moor, / Straw cape buffeted about. (GYS
1202; Kyōgoku Tameko [1252?-1316?; sister of Tamekane])

8.

Tomarubeki / Yado oba tsuki ni / Akugarete / Asu no michiyuku
/ Yowa no tabibito

Ignoring the inn / Where I had planned to stay, / I'm lured on by
the moon / To journey along tomorrow's road, / Traveler in the
deepening night (GYS 1142; Kyōgoku Tamekane [1254-1332])

9.

Tabi no sora / Ame no furu hi wa / Kurenu ka to / Omoite nochi
mo / Yuku zo hisashiki

This rainy day of travel / The sky so dark I wonder / If already
the sun has set, / But then I continue on, / For I still have far to
go (GYS 1204; Kyōgoku Tamekane)

10.

Honobono to / Akashi no ura no / Asagiri ni / Shimagakureyuku
/ Fune wo shi zo omou

Through morning fog / That dims the shore / Of Akashi Bay /
My longing follows after the boat / That disappears behind an
island (KKS 409; attributed to Hitomaro [fl. 670-700])

11.

Yo no naka o / Nani ni tatoemu / Asaborake / Kogiyuku fune no
/ Ato no shiranami

To what shall we compare / This world of ours? / To white
waves in the wake / Of a boat that rows away / At dawn, to parts
unknown. (SIS 1327; Mansei; fl 704-730))

12.

Kakikumori / Yūdatsu nami no / Arakereba / Ukitaru fune zo /
Shizugokoro naki

Since it grows dark / With evening waves rising / Ever rougher /
Our boat, afloat / Feels restless (SKKS 918; Murasaki Shikibu
[973?-1014?])

13.

Tabine shite / Akatsukigata ni / Shika no ne ni / Inaba oshinami /
Akikaze zo fuku

Asleep on the road / Just before dawn / The cry of a deer / And
the rustling of rice stalks / Blown about by the autumn wind
(SKKS 920; Minamoto Tsunenobu [1016-1097])

14.

Matsu no ke no / Namitaru mireba / Iwabito no / Ware o
miokuru to / Tatarishi mo koro

Those pines standing in rows – / How like to my own people! /
They stood just so / As they came out / To bid me farewell
(MYS 4375; Mononobe Mashima [8th century?])

15.

Ōkimi no / Mikoto kashikomi / Kanashi imo ga / Tamakura
hanare / yodachi kinu kamo

In obedience to the imperial command / I set out as a soldier; /
Away from my dear wife I've come, / And away from her
pillowing arm (MYS 3480: Anonymous Eastland Poem [8th
century?])

In MYS there are many poems ostensibly composed by guardsmen who have been drafted into duty in other parts of Japan. Sometimes well-known poets would put themselves in the position of these soldiers and compose poems from their standpoint. One such reads almost like the back story for our “Dean Man at Samine” poem. (We did not cover this during the lecture, but I mentioned it.)

In obedience to the imperial command,
Though sad is the parting from my wife,
I summon up the courage of a man,
And dressed for journey, take my leave.
My mother strokes me gently;
My young wife clings to me, saying:
‘I will pray to the gods for your safe-keeping.
Go unharmed and come back soon!’
As she speaks, she wipes with her sleeves
The tears that choke her.
Hard as it is, I start on my way,
Pausing and looking back time after time;
Ever farther I travel from my home,
Ever higher the mountains I climb and cross,
Till at last I arrive at Naniwa of wind-blown reeds.
Here I stop and wait for good weather,
To launch the ship upon the evening tide,
To set the prow seawards,
And to row out in the calm of morning.
The spring mists rise round the isles,
And the cranes cry in a plaintive tone,
Then I think of my far-off home –
Sorely do I grieve that with my sobs
I shake the war arrows I carry
Till they rattle in my ears.

(MYS 4398; Ōtomo Yakamochi [718-785])

Key to works: (Note: there is a lot of scholarly debate about many of these dates; I am simply giving the commonly accepted ones.)

GYS= Gyokuyōshū (compiled 1312)

KKS= Kokinshū (compiled 915)

KYS= Kin'yōshū (compiled 1127)

MYS= Man'yōshū (compiled in 759)

SGSS= Shingosenshū (compiled 1303)

ShokuSZS= Sholusenzaishū (compiled 1320)

SIS= Shūishū (compiled 1007)

SKKS= Shinkokinshū (compiled 1205)

Caveat: Please notice there is often a disconnect between the dates of the poet and the date of the collection in which the poem appears.