



100 Poems from the Japanese

From Brand: New Directions



100 Poems from the Japanese From Brand: New Directions

It is remarkable that any Westerner?even so fine a poet as Kenneth Rexroth?could have captured in translation so much of the subtle essence of classic Japanese poetry: the depth of controlled passion, the austere elegance of style, the compressed richness of imagery.

The poems are drawn chiefly from the traditional *Manyoshu*, *Kokinshu* and *Hyakunin Isshu* collections, but there are also examples of haiku and other later forms. The sound of the Japanese texts is reproduced in Romaji script and the names of the poets in the calligraphy of Ukai Uchiyama. The translator's introduction gives us basic background on the history and nature of Japanese poetry, which is supplemented by notes on the individual poets and an extensive bibliography.

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100 Poems from the Japanese From Brand: New Directions Bibliography

- Rank: #176532 in Books
- Brand: Brand: New Directions
- Published on: 1955-06-17
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .50" w x 5.20" l, .34 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 140 pages

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

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About the Author

Poet-essayist Kenneth Rexroth (1905-1982) was a high-school dropout, disillusioned ex-Communist, pacifist, anarchist, rock-climber, critic and translator, mentor, Catholic-Buddhist spiritualist and a prominent figure of San Francisco's Beat scene. He is regarded as a central figure of the San Francisco Renaissance and is among the first American poets to explore traditional Japanese forms such as the haiku.

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