

Landscape Appreciation in Russian Haiku: Plant Names and "Seasonal Words"

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A poetry form called haiku originated in Japan, but gained popularity also in many other countries. Nowadays there are many poets who compose haiku in Russian. It is obvious that Russian haiku differ markedly from the haiku written in Japanese, in particular in terms of the environmental experience they describe. A characteristic feature of Japanese haiku is the usage of kigo, seasonal words, while Russian haiku poets usually don't rely on such words, as Russian tradition hasn't developed set of words which could be compared to kigo. However, Russian haiku, like any other poetry form, often describe the natural environment and can include plant names and words connected to different seasons (such as snow, rain etc.) For this presentation the main Russian haiku journals and collections of haiku (such as 'Haikumena', 'Ulitka' etc.) were examined for such words. Analysis has been provided on what kind of words are used, which of them are more frequent, and what kind of environment they describe.

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