

“The Haiku of Kobayashi Issa” Website

Design Document

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Executive Summary

I will present my translations of the Japanese poet Issa, along with information about Issa's life and haiku — for the benefit of students, the English-speaking public, and the Japanese-speaking public... via a website.

Statement of Purpose

My purpose is threefold, conforming to my three intended audiences.

- For students, I want to provide a hands-on, in-depth discovery experience of a great Japanese poet, including facets of Japanese culture.
- For the general public, I want to provide access to, and annotation of, the vast treasure-trove of Issa's poetry.
- For my Japanese visitors, I want to make Issa's original texts available. I also expect to benefit from the interactivity of this project.

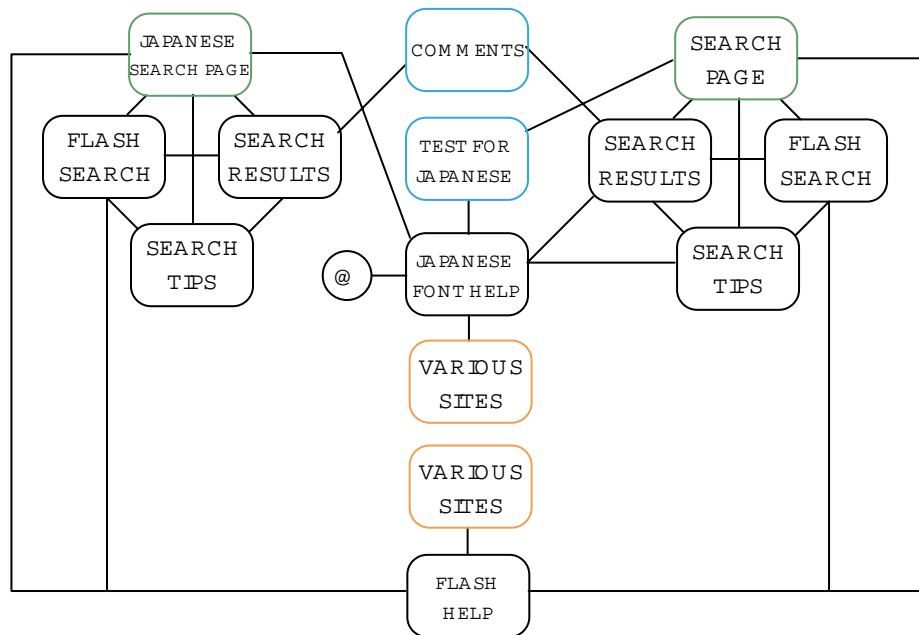
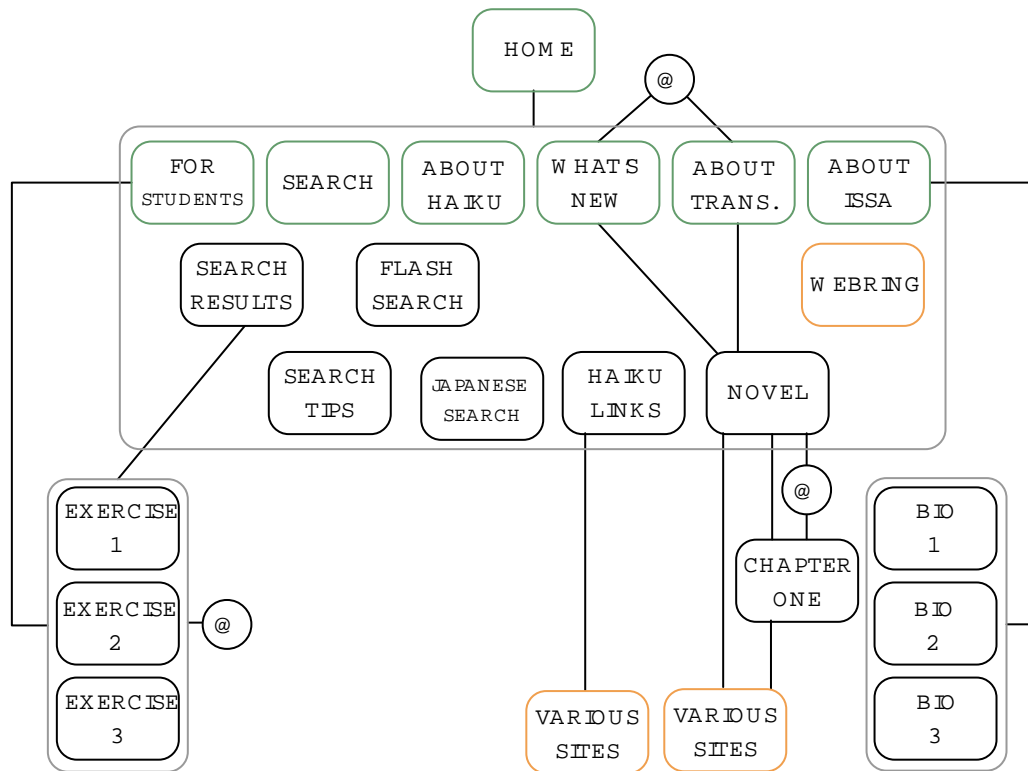
I expect students to provide me with new insights into the subject matter and the form in which it is presented. I expect the general public to give feedback on my translations, helping me to hone them and to correct errors. I hope that bilingual Japanese visitors will particularly help in this regard, making my archive a vibrant, dynamic, growing, world-accessible work-in-progress as opposed to one frozen on finite sheets of dead trees.

Content Outline

- I. *Introduction* (main page).
- II. Searchable Archives
 - A. Main Archive: Issa's haiku with the following information for each haiku: (1) year of composition, (2) season (by number code), (3) romaji text, and (4) English translation.
 - B. Japanese Archive: original versions of the haiku.
 - C. Comments Archive: comments on selected haiku.
- III. Search engines that give access to the archives using English keyword, romaji keyword, Japanese keyword, season, or year of composition.
 - A. Flash Search (using the free Flash 4 player). Results can be viewed one haiku at a time. Japanese text optional.
 - B. Form Search (using HTML). Results can be viewed all on one page. Japanese text optional.
 - C. Japanese Form Search with instructions in Japanese. English text optional.
 - D. For all searches, a plain text download option will be available.
 - E. All searches sort the data chronologically or randomly.
 - F. When presenting the romaji texts, the search engines convert "u^" and "o^" to "ū" and "ō," respectively.
- IV. Search support.
 - A. Information on the search engines and download options.
 - B. Search tips, including a list of common season words used in haiku.
 - C. Help with Japanese fonts.
- V. Background information on Issa.
 - A. The early years.
 - B. The restless years.
 - C. The settled years.
- VI. Background information on haiku.
 - A. A definition of haiku.
 - B. A note on the translation of haiku.
- VII. Access to outside information about haiku and Japanese culture.
 - A. Links to other Issa sites.
 - B. Links to other haiku sites.
 - C. Links to Japanese culture sites.
- VIII. Exercises for students using the form search.
 - A. Haiku, the art of noticing.
 - B. Expanding a haiku to a short story.
 - C. Renga: haiku call-and-response.
- IX. Information about me.
 - A. Bio note.
 - B. Information on my haiku-related novel and how to order it.
 - C. My email address/link.
- X. What's new: updates on new features of the website.
 - A. Description of new features or content.
 - B. Recently added haiku.
 - C. An appeal for feedback with my email address/link.
- XI. Administrative pages for appending and editing the archives.
- XII. Randomizing Issa's image/program.

Experiential Flowchart

Green = ubiquitous; orange = external.



Interface Mockups



Media Inventory

I. Archival data files.

A. Main Archive (archive-main.txt).

1. Format. Each haiku has ten lines:

a) Haiku Code (example = 023.07a)

This is the haiku's page number in the complete works (Issa zenshū) plus the haiku's position on the page. The "-a" indicates an original version, "-b", "-c", etc. are later versions of a haiku.

b) Boolean: T or F

This switch indicates whether a Japanese version of the haiku exists in the Japanese Archive.

c) Boolean: T or F

This switch indicates whether a comment on the haiku exists in the Comments Archive.

d) Year of composition

If unknown = 0.

e) Romaji text

f) A semicolon

g) Line 1 of translation

h) Line 2 of translation

i) Line 3 of translation

j) A slash

2. Season markers, based on the Haiku Code's first three digits:

a) New Year's: 001-054.

b) Spring: 055-243

c) Summer: 244-427.

d) Autumn: 428-602.

e) Winter: 603-740.

f) Haiku without season words: 741-748.

B. Japanese Archive (archive-j.txt), containing:

1. Haiku code.

2. A comma

3. Haiku in Japanese font

C. Comments Archive (archive-notes.txt), containing:

1. Haiku code.

2. Commentary

3. An asterisk

Note: For sample entries for the three above archives, see the Appendix.

II. Search engines.

A. HTML search

1. Basic Search: A Perl script program that:
 - a) Searches the main archive
 - b) Searches for English keyword only
 - c) Gives results as forms (HTML pages).
 - d) Results include:
 - Year
 - Romaji text (“u^” and “o^” converted to “ū” and “ō”)
 - Translation
 - e) Results are sorted chronologically.
2. Advanced Search: A Perl script program that:
 - a) Searches all three archives
 - b) Toggles between “Search/English” and “Search/Japanese” (Form Search and Japanese Form Search)
 - c) Searches by:
 - English keyword
 - Year (with pop-up menu)
 - Season (with pop-up menu)
 - Romaji keyword
 - Japanese keyword (form results only)
 - d) Sorting options:
 - Chronological (default)
 - Random years
 - e) Results appear:
 - All at once as forms (HTML pages)
 - f) Results include:
 - Year
 - Romaji text (“u^” and “o^” converted to “ū” and “ō”)
 - Translation (optional for Japanese Form Search)
 - Japanese text (optional for Form Search)
 - Comments (optional for both searches)

B. Flash Search. A Perl script program that uses the Flash 4 Player

1. Searches Main Archive and Comments Archive.
2. Searches by:
 - a) English keyword
 - b) Year
 - c) Season
 - d) Romaji keyword
3. Sorting options:
 - a) Random years (default)
 - b) Chronologically
4. Results appear:
 - a) One haiku at a time
5. Results include:
 - a) Year
 - b) Romaji text (“u^” and “o^” converted to “ū” and “ō”)
 - c) Translation
 - d) Comments (optional)

III. HTML pages related to searching the archive.

A. "Main Page" that:

1. Provides an introduction to the site
2. Gives access to the Basic Search.
3. Invokes a program to randomize the "Issa" image
4. Has these internal links:
 - a) "Search the Archive" (advanced search).
 - b) "For Students."
 - c) "About Haiku."
 - d) "What's New."
 - e) "About the Translator."
 - f) "About Issa."
 - g) "Search/Japanese"
 - h) "[Haiku Guy](#)."
5. Has these external links:
 - a) "Haiku-related Links."
 - b) "Japanese Literature Webring"

B. "Form results" page

Generated by the basic search engine, this HTML page shows search results and copyright notice.

1. Internal links

Note: This and all of the below pages have the following Standard Set (SS) of links:

- a) "For Students."
- b) "Search the Archive." (advanced search)
- c) "About Haiku."
- d) "What's New."
- e) "About the Translator."
- f) "About Issa."
- g) "Main" (return to index page)

2. Other links

- a) "Search tips."

C. "Search the archive" page for advanced (form) search.

1. Information on searching the archives
2. Gives access to advanced search.
3. Download options.
 - a) HTML.
 - b) Plain text
4. Search tips

Note: This has the same informational content as the "Search Tips" page.

5. Pop-up test for Japanese font
6. Internal links (besides SS)
 - a) "Search/Japanese."
 - b) "Flash Search."
 - c) "Flash Help."

D. "Search/Japanese" page for advanced (form) search Identical to the above, except:

1. All directions written in Japanese
2. Gives access to Search/Japanese (form) search.
3. No pop-up test for Japanese font

E. "Search the Archive/Results" page for advanced Form Search.

1. Generated by the Form Search engine
2. Shows search results all at once with copyright notice.
3. Internal links (besides SS)
 - a) "Search tips."
 - b) "Flash Search."

- F. "Flash Results" page for Flash Search
 - 1. Generated by the Flash 4 player
 - 2. Gives access to Advanced Search.
 - 3. Shows search results one at a time and copyright notice.
 - 4. Internal links (besides **SS**)
 - a) "Search Tips."
- G. "Search Tips" page

Note: This has the same informational content as the "Search Tips" page.

 - 1. Internal links (besides **SS**)
 - a) "Japanese font help."
 - b) "Flash help."
- H. "Japanese Font Help" page Provides information on downloading Japanese fonts.
 - 1. External links
 - a) Microsoft
 - b) Netscape
- I. "Flash Help" page Provides information on the Flash 4 Player and how to download it.
 - 1. External link to download Flash 4 Player

IV. Informational HTML pages

- A. "About Issa" page Information on Issa.
 - 1. Specially highlighted links
 - a) "The Early Years."
 - b) "The Restless Years."
 - c) "The Settled Years."
- B. "The Early Years" page First part of Issa's biography.
 - 1. Specially highlighted links
 - a) "The Restless Years."
 - b) "The Settled Years."
- C. "The Restless Years" page Second part of Issa's biography.
 - 1. Specially highlighted links
 - a) "The Early Years."
 - b) "The Settled Years."
- D. "The Settled Years" page Third part of Issa's biography.
 - 1. Specially highlighted links
 - a) "The Early Years."
 - b) "The Restless Years."
- E. "About Haiku" page Information on haiku.
- F. "Haiku-related Links" page
 - 1. External links to various websites
- G. "About the Translator" page Information on me
 - 1. Internal links (besides **SS**)
 - a) "Haiku Guy" page
- H. "What's New" page Information about new features and translations.
 - 1. Internal links
 - a) "Haiku Guy" page
- I. "Haiku Guy" page Information on the novel.
 - 1. Internal links (besides **SS**)
 - a) "Haiku Guy/chapter 1" page
 - 2. External links
 - a) Red Moon Press website.
 - b) My email
- J. "Haiku Guy/chapter 1" page Sample from the book.
 - 1. External links
 - a) Red Moon Press website.
 - b) My email

V. “For Students” HTML pages

- A. “Exercise 1” page Haiku, the art of noticing.
 - 1. Information
 - 2. Instructions
 - 3. Access to Advanced Search
 - 4. Specially highlighted internal links
 - a) “Exercise 2.”
 - b) “Exercise 3.”
 - 5. External link/ my email
- B. “Exercise 2” page From haiku to story
 - 1. Information
 - 2. Instructions
 - 3. Access to Advanced Search
 - 4. Specially highlighted internal links
 - a) “Exercise 1.”
 - b) “Exercise 3.”
 - 5. External link/ my email
- C. “Exercise 3” page Renga: linked verse.
 - 1. Information
 - 2. Instructions
 - 3. Access to advanced (form) search.
 - 4. Specially highlighted internal links
 - a) “Exercise 1.”
 - b) “Exercise 2.”
 - 5. External link: my email.

VI. Images

- A. “Issa” image 1, 2, 3...7 (Issa in different colored robes for “Main Page”).
 - 1. Randomizing Issa’s image
 - A script that will periodically select one of the “Issa” images for display on the Main page
- B. “Issa button” (used with the “Main Page” link on all pages)
- C. “Me” image (for “About the Translator” page).
- D. Nihongo button
 - A picture of the word “Japanese” (日本語) used as a link from “Search the Archive” to “Search/Japanese” page
- E. “Haiku Guy/cover” (for “Haiku Guy” and “Haiku Guy/chapter 1” pages).
- F. “Japanese Literature Webring” logo (for “Main Page”)

VII. Administrative Pages

These pages will invoke CGI script that will allow me to add to and modify the archives.

- A. Input the Haiku Code to call up all the related documents from:
 - 1. Main Archive
 - 2. Japanese Archive
 - 3. Comments Archive
- B. Delete option.
 - 1. Highlights text for deletion
 - 2. With an “Are You Sure?” feature.
 - 3. Deletes selected text from the appropriate archive.
- C. Append option.
 - 1. Pastes text from my computer’s clipboard to a form
 - 2. Invokes Java script that validates the input (i.e., ensures that it fits the data pattern of the particular archive)
 - 3. Appends selected text into the chosen archive

Implementation Plan

Thanks to Bart Everson of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and my son, Bryan Godfrey-Lanoue, a bare-bones prototype of the website (no Japanese fonts, no comments) is up and running at

<http://www.xula.edu/~dlanoue/issa/>

However, there is much to do if we are to realize the goals described in this design document.

Since the heart of the project is the main archive/search engine(s), improving these is our first priority. Next, we will need to add to the prototype the options of (1) viewing the comments and (2) viewing search results in Japanese. After that, we will create administrative pages to allow for management of the archive files. Then we will reformat the informational pages. At this point, we will put the “Issa/Development” site online (without public notice) and invite some students, haiku aficionados, and scholars to visit and provide input. Meanwhile, I will be working on the student exercises. When I have the first three done, we will add them to the “Issa/Development” site, along with modifications based on feedback. Finally, we will put the improved site online, replacing the prototype. Our goal is to accomplish this by May, 2001.

Since I do not yet have access to CGI, to complete the project I will need to rely on C.A.T. personnel (at present, Bart Everson) to modify my archives. I hope that, at some point in the future, the University allows faculty access to CGI.

Schedule

- I. July/August 2000
 - A. For the Issa Prototype site:
 - Update the Form and Flash search engines to work with the new format
 - B. For the Main Archive (see Media Inventory I.A.1).
 - Bring the newly formatted Main Archive online, replacing the old one.

Note: This will not include new features but will make the reformatted Main Archive available for existing search capabilities.
- II. September
 - A. Modify the Advanced Search engine for Issa Development site so that it:
 - Accepts the new format for the Main Archive (see Media Inventory I.A.1).
 - Includes the new features (see Media Inventory II.A.2).
 - B. Modify the Flash Search engine for Issa Development site so that it:
 - Accepts the new format for the Main Archive (see Media Inventory I.A.1).
 - Includes the new features (see Media Inventory II.B).
- III. October
 - Create HTML template for page design for Issa Development site.
 - Create search-related pages for Development site (See Media Inventory III.A-I).
 - Create all image assets (See Media Inventory VI.A-G and VIII).
- IV. November
 - Add a copy of “Search/Japanese” page to Issa Prototype site.
 - Add “Search/Japanese” option to the Prototype site (See Media Inventory III.D and Content Outline 3C).
 - Invite Japanese scholars to test and comment on this new feature.
- V. December/January 2001
 - Develop the administrative pages (See Media Inventory VII.A-C).
- VI. February
 - Reformat all informational pages (See Media Inventory IV.A-J).
- VII. March
 - Pre-test Issa Development site.
 - Put the new components online.
 - Troubleshoot.
- VIII. April/May
 - Create the student-related pages (See Media Inventory V.A-C).
- IX. May
 - Bring the student pages online.
- X. Fall semester, 2001
 - Begin testing.

Budget

No special funds are needed to complete this project.

Appendix: Sample Entries for the Archives

1. Main Archive:

023.07a
T
T
1809
ganjitsu ya waga no minaranu su nashi tori
;
on New Year's Day
copying me
bird without a nest
/

2. Japanese Archive:

023.07a, 元日や我のみならぬ巢なし鳥

3. Comments Archive:

023.07a
A fire swept through Edo (old Tokyo) that New Year's Day,
destroying Issa's house. When he wrote this haiku he was literally
homeless.
*