

子規の句碑 Shiki Haiku Monument

春や昔 十五万石の 城下哉

近代俳句の創始者、正岡子規の代表句である。

この句は、明治28(1895)年に、子規が日清戦争の従軍記者として戦地に赴く直前の句である。松山を象徴的にあらわす句として、松山の玄関口の一つであるこの地に置かれた。

「春や昔」は司馬遼太郎著『坂の上の雲』(文藝春秋刊)の第一章の章名として用いられている。

Grand castle town of the past - spring

haru ya mukashi jugoman goku no joka kana

This being one of Shiki's most famous haiku and one that we liked, we wanted to include it, but it proved extremely difficult to render into English. The phrase $j\bar{u}$ goman-goku refers to the size of the stipend the shogunate awarded the feudal lord of Matsuyama castle. It wasn't an especially large amount, but we feel Shiki's pride in his hometown.

This is a typical haiku of Shiki Masaoka, the father of modern haiku.

This poem was written in 1895 just before Shiki was sent to cover the Sino-Japanese War as a war reporter. It was placed here at one of the entranceways to Matsuyama as a poem that symbolizes the city.

"the past - spring" is used as the title of the first chapter of Ryotaro Shiba's novel Saka no Ue no Kumo (published by Bungei Shunju).

19番