Basho
The old pond;
a frog jumps in —
water’s sound
Basho sets off

Departing springtime
Birds lament and fishes too
have tears in their eyes

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Urami-no-taki

In brief seclusion
At a waterfall - the start
of a summer retreat

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Woodcut illustration of Urami-no-taki.
Unganji

Even woodpeckers
Seem to spare the hermitage
in the summer grove

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
At Takadachi

A dream of warriors
And after dreaming is done,
the summer grasses

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Hikaridô

Do the Fifth-Month rains stay away when they fall, sparing that Hall of Gold?

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Obanazawa

Come on, show yourself!
Under the silkworm nursery,
the croak of a toad.

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Ryushakuji

Ah, tranquility!
Penetrating the very rock,
a cicada’s voice.

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Sanemori’s helmet

A heartrending sound!
Underneath the helmet,
the cricket.

Translated by Helen Craig McCullough
Last poem

Off to Futami
loath to part as clam from shell
in waning autumn