

Matsuo Basho

Dr. Thompson
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Matsuo Basho

- Matsuo Munefusa (1644-94)
 - Born into a samurai family.
 - abandoned privileged samurai world to become a wanderer;
 - studied Zen, history, and classical Chinese poetry;
 - lived happily in poverty, relying on patronage and donations from his students.
- His attention to the natural world transformed Haiku from a frivolous social past-time into a major genre of Japanese poetry.

Japan & the rest of the world.

- China and Japan
- Japan and Jesuits
- Japan and the Portuguese
- Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868)
 - Longest period of uninterrupted peace that Japan ever enjoyed.

Buddhism

- Radical non-dualism
 - No form / no non-form
 - No mind, no not-mind
- Path of the Enlightened
 - Emphasis on *PATH*.
 - Practice.
- Four Noble Truths
 - Eight-Fold Path
 - Karma
- Zen: focus on concrete specifics, not generalities or ideologies.

