

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele

I have heard the old,
Strict view: “Fingernail polish
Is a sign of sin.”

Their babysitter,
A man, led her into sex.
The kid brother squealed.

Mr. Miller, the
Husband where I roomed, had killed
Someone in the past.

B. O. Plenty and
Gravel Gertie’s daughter was
Named Sparkle Plenty.

*East of the Sun and
West of the Moon:* fairy tales
From the Norwegian.

Thank God for frost-free
Refrigerators! They are
Indeed a blessing.

“Big Joe,” obese, ran
A whorehouse near the noisy
Railroad tracks of town.

I like a certain
Amount of hair on a man,
But much is too much!

Max Steiner composed
Scores for movies, such as those
With Bette Davis.

Most famously, he
Composed “the Tara theme” used
In *Gone With the Wind*.

Some write short stories . . .
Some browse . . . some seek a bedmate . . .
In smart Taylor Books.

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele (page 2)

My mother liked Ritz
Crackers with pimento cheese
Spread. I like that too.

Noah and his ark
Is an intriguing story,
A fictional tale.

I love the way most
Men swing their arms in walking.
I never learned it.

Europeans smile
At the number of churches
In America.

I miss orgasms:
Wonderful spurtings that say
Yes! You are a man!

Lawyers defend their
Chronic lying by saying
It helps their clients.

The fenced-in dog acts
Frenzied when another dog,
In leash, passes by.

Male companionship
Is dear to me, but I have
Known little of it.

A messenger who
Brought bad news was sometimes killed.
Misplaced emotion.

John Payne, Alice Faye,
Don Ameche: a 30's
Musical drama.

"Seedless" grapes have small
Seeds that go unnoticed, that
Make for good texture.

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele (page 3)

They wrapped themselves in
Arrogant self-righteousness.
It was a sin to

Work on Sunday; shop
On Sunday; see a movie
Anytime; gamble

Distressing: to find
Smegma under his foreskin.
He should have been clean.

I wonder just what
Liberace did with his
Young live-in lover.

“It was sad about
Poor Maximilian, shot dead
By a firing squad!”

I have forgone sex
In favor of poetry.
It satisfies me.

Woolworth’s and G. C.
Murphy Five and Ten Cent stores
Are bright memories.

Creative writing—
Specifically poetry—
Makes my life worthwhile.

The political
Cartoonist WRIGHT (*Palm Beach Post*)
Sketches and cuts well.

I no longer shop
For singular art. I do
Not buy plural art.

I have no desire
To eat a chicken wing. I
Doubt that I’ve missed much.

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele (page 4)

Cole Porter picked out
The melodies. Arrangers
Took care of the rest.

I miss my foreskin
And the sexual pleasures
It afforded me.

I neither eat nor
Drink from pewterware, for fear
Of some lead content.

The Good Earth, taken
All in all, is a marvel
Of fiction writing.

To be as sexually
Forward as women, men should
Revive the codpiece.

The stories in *True
Story* are synthetic jobs
By professionals.

When the Church learned that
He was gay, he was pulled from
Groups of young people.

My "Blackberry Wine"
Is about a serial
Killer and his host.

Louella studies
Witchcraft. She has not yet shown
Much talent for it.

I had excellent
Ideas for novels, which
Never got written.

"Lady of Spain" for
Accordion players is
A bravura piece.

Poems in the form of Haiku by Paul Curry Steele (page 5)

Mother first thought that
Bits of vanilla beans in
The ice cream was dirt.

“Smoke Gets in Your Eyes,”
From *Roberta*, is spoofed as
“Soap Gets in Your Eyes.”

Successful, still young
Doctors, tempted, may stray off
The path of virtue.

“Each to his taste,” as
The old woman said when she
Kissed the cow. Right on!

Pyramus, ancient
Greek poet, said this: “Money
Counts like nothing else.”

One genuflects in
Catholic and Episcopal
Churches, a small act.

The twenty-volume
Book of Knowledge for children
Turned me toward letters.

After two shots of
Testosterone my penis
Came alive again,

If not completely
So. I look to the future
For more sexual gains.

The first word I look up
In a dictionary:
Penis. Scrotum next.

“I’ll Be Seeing You”:
A song that Liberace
Played and sang with charm.