

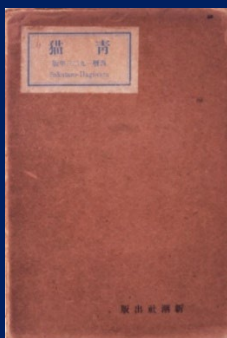
Blue Cat (Aoneko)

Blue Cat (Shinchosha) is Sakutaro's second collection of poems, published in 1923.

Adding to the sense of loneliness it shares with *Howling at the Moon* (*Tsuki ni Hoeru*), an important keyword in this poetry collection is “melancholy”.

Between *Howling at the Moon* and *Blue Cat*, Sakutaro spent time in his hometown of Maebashi. Sakutaro describes this period as a “gloomy rainy season” in which, amidst a life of apathy, he was absorbed in reading philosophical books and pondering the meaning of his life (*When I Wrote Aoneko*). This was especially true from the spring of 1915; he did not publish any poems for a year, and communication with his literary peers was cut off. Sakutaro married in 1919, but even after that, he continued living this way. Sakutaro's “melancholy” is reflected in the scenery written in the poems of *Blue Cat*.

In his poetic expression, onomatopoeias are often used, such as for the sounds of animals, creating a unique sense of language.



Blue Cat (1923 Shinchosha)