



6-15-2003

Ginkgo Tree

Carol Hamilton

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>

Recommended Citation

Hamilton, Carol (2003) "Ginkgo Tree," *Westview*: Vol. 22 : Iss. 2 , Article 12.
Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol22/iss2/12>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.

Ginkgo Tree

by Carol Hamilton

We learned their leaves' simple,
unfretted veins, much unchange
in the sap from pre-historic times.
We took huge mobs of children
each year to the campus, de-bussed
from our clichéd, yellow transport,
mingled, trailed, clumped around that man.
He loved his landscape,
what he created there: the privet hedges,
beds of pansies, fall mums of rust and gold,
the trees, one a descendent from a seed
carried west from Mt. Vernon,
the splash of fountains,
the mist of sprays to keep it all
going in this harsh-weathered place.

We would go back to research
this survivor tree: maidenhair, gin silver,
apricot, fleshy fruit, edible nuts,
fan-shaped leaves. Just words.
From China. To Japan. To here.
Ancient geisha still fluttering fans
in golden lights of evening.

