The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature provides, for the first time, a history of Japanese literature with comprehensive coverage of the premodern and modern eras in a single volume. The book is arranged topically in a series of short, accessible chapters for easy access and reference, giving insight into both canonical texts and many lesser-known, popular genres, from centuries-old folk literature to the detective fiction of modern times. The various period introductions provide an overview of recurrent issues that span many decades, if not centuries. The book also places Japanese literature in a wider East Asian tradition of Sinitic writing and provides comprehensive coverage of women’s literature as well as new popular literary forms, including manga (comic books). An extensive bibliography of works in English enables readers to continue to explore this rich tradition through translations and secondary reading.

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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF JAPANESE LITERATURE

Edited by
HARUO SHIRANE
and
TOMI SUZUKI
with
DAVID LURIE
# Contents

List of illustrations xiii  
List of contributors xiv  
Acknowledgments xvii  
A note on Romanization and conventions xviii  
Chronological table xix  

General introduction 1  

**HARUO SHIRANE**  

**PART I**  
**THE ANCIENT PERIOD (BEGINNINGS TO 794)** 13  

1 Introduction: writing, literacy, and the origins of Japanese literature 15  

**DAVID LURIE**  

2 Myth and history in the *Kojiki*, *Nihon shoki*, and related works 22  

**DAVID LURIE**  

3 Songs of the Records and Chronicles 40  

**TORQUIL DUTHIE**  

4 Fudoki gazetteers 45  

**DAVID LURIE**  

5 *Man'yōshū* 50  

**H. MACK HORTON**  

6 Anthologization and Sino-Japanese literature: *Kaifūsō* and the three imperial anthologies 86  

**WIEBKE DENECKE**
Contents

PART II

THE HEIAN PERIOD (794–1185) 93

7 Introduction: court culture, women, and the rise of vernacular literature 95
HARUO SHIRANE

8 Sugawara no Michizane, a Heian literatus and statesman 102
ROBERT BORGEN

9 Kokinshū and Heian court poetry 110
GUSTAV HELDT

10 Early Heian court tales 121
JOSHUA S. MOSTOW

11 Genji monogatari and its reception 129
SATOKO NAITO

12 Late courtly romance 140
JOSHUA S. MOSTOW

13 Premodern commentary on the classical literary canon 157
LEWIS COOK

14 The Pillow Book of Sei Shōnagon 161
HARUO SHIRANE

15 Heian literary diaries: from Tosa nikki to Sarashina nikki 165
SONJA ARNTZEN

16 The Heian Academy: literati culture from Minamoto no Shitagō to Ōe no Masafusa 176
BRIAN STEININGER

17 Heian canons of Chinese poetry: Wakan rōeishū and Bai Juyi 184
IVO SMITS

18 The Literary Essence of Our Court (Honchō monzui) 188
WIEBKE DENECKE

vi
## Contents

19 Vernacular histories: *Eiga monogatari, Ōkagami, Gukanshō* 193  
Elizabeth Oyler

20 Heian popular songs: *imayō* and *Ryōjin hishō* 206  
Ivo Smits

### PART III

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD (1185–1600) 209

21 Introduction to medieval literature 211  
Haruo Shirane

22 Japanese poetic thought, from earliest times to the thirteenth century 218  
A. E. Commons

Paul S. Atkins

24 Waka in the medieval period: patterns of practice and patronage 238  
Steven D. Carter

25 *Hyakunin isshu* and the popularization of classical poetry 236  
Tomomi Yoshino

26 Medieval recluse literature: Saigyō, Chômei, and Kenkō 239  
Jack Stoneman

27 Medieval women’s diaries: from *Tamakiwaru* to *Takemukigaki* 268  
Christina Laffin

28 Setsuwa (anecdotal) literature: *Nihon ryōiki* to *Kokon chomonjū* 280  
Haruo Shirane

29 The rise of medieval warrior tales: *Hōgen monogatari* and *Heiji monogatari* 287  
Elizabeth Oyler
Contents

30 The Tales of the Heike 295
D A V I D T. B I A L O C K

31 The late medieval warrior tales: from Šoša monogatari to Taiheiki 306
E L I Z A B E T H O Y L E R

32 Literature of medieval Zen temples: Gozan (Five Mountains) and Ikkyū
Sōjun 311
S O N J A A R N T Z E N

33 Renga (linked verse) 317
S T E V E N D. C A R T E R

34 Noh drama 328
N O E L P I N N I N G T O N

35 Noh drama theory from Zeami to Zenchiku 340
A R T H U R H. T H O R N H I L L I I

36 Kyōgen: comic plays that turn medieval society upside down 347
L A U R E N C E K O M I N Z

37 Late medieval popular fiction and narrated genres: otogizōshi,
kōwakamai, sekkyō, and ko-jōruri 355
R. K E L L E R K I M B R O U G H

P A R T IV
THE E D O P E R I O D (1600–1867) 371

38 Introduction to early modern Japanese literature 373
H A R U O S H I R A N E

39 Publishing and the book in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries 382
P. F. K O R N I C K I

40 A forest of books: seventeenth-century Kamigata commercial prose 396
L A U R A M O R E T T I

41 The rise of haikai: Matsuo Bashō, Yosa Buson, and Kobayashi Issa 403
H A R U O S H I R A N E

viii
Contents

42 Ihara Saikaku and Ejima Kiseki: the literature of urban townspeople 415
   PAUL SCHALOW

43 Representing theater: text and performance in kabuki and bunraku 424
   C. ANDREW GERSTLE

44 Puppet theater: from early joruri to the golden age 437
   JANICE KANEMITSU

45 From the beginnings of kabuki to the playwrights Nanboku and Mokuami 447
   SATOKO SHIMAZAKI

46 Early to mid-Edo kanshi 457
   JUDITH N. RABINOVITCH AND TIMOTHY R. BRADSTOCK

47 Kanshibun in the late Edo period 465
   MATTHEW FRALEIGH

48 Waka practice and poetics in the Edo period 471
   ROGER THOMAS

49 Literary thought in Confucian ancient learning and Kokugaku 479
   PETER FLUECKIGER

50 Bunjin (literati) and early yomihon: Nankaku, Nankai, Buson, Gennai, Teishô, Ayatari, and Akinari 488
   LAWRENCE E. MARCEAU

51 Satiric poetry: Kyôshi, Kyôka, and Senryû 503
   HARUO SHIRANE

52 Picture books: from akahon to kibyôshi and gôkan 510
   MICHAEL EMMERICH

53 The birth of kokkeibon (comic novellas) 523
   MASAHIRO TANAHASHI

54 Ninjôbon and romances for women 532
   YASUSHI INOUE
Contents

55 Development of the late yomihon: Santō Kyōden and Kyokutei Bakin Yōji Ōtaka

PART V
THE MODERN PERIOD (1868 TO PRESENT) 551

56 Introduction: nation building, literary culture, and language Tomi Suzuki 553

57 Kanshibun in the Meiji period and beyond Matthew Fraleigh 572

58 Translated fiction, political fiction Dennis Washburn 578

59 Newspaper serials in the late nineteenth century Satoru Saito 583

60 Translation, vernacular style, and the Westernesque femme fatale in modern Japanese literature Indra Levy 588

61 The rise of modern women’s literature Rebecca Copeland 598

62 Melodrama, family romance, and the novel at the turn of the century Ken K. Ito 605

63 Modern Japanese poetry to the 1910s Kōji Kawamoto 613

64 Between the Western and the traditional: Mori Ōgai, Nagai Kafū, and Tanizaki Jun’ichirō Shunji Chiba 623

65 Natsume Sōseki and the theory and practice of literature Michael K. Bourdaghs 634
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>A new era of women writers</td>
<td>Joan E. Ericson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67</td>
<td>Literary marketplace, politics, and history: 1900s–1940s</td>
<td>Hideo Kamei and Kyoko Kurita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68</td>
<td>Canonization and popularization: anthologies and literary prizes</td>
<td>Edward Mack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>Colonialism, translation, literature: Takahama Kyoshi’s passage to Korea</td>
<td>Serk-Bae Suh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70</td>
<td>Primitivism and imperial literature of Taiwan and the South Seas</td>
<td>Robert Tierney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71</td>
<td>From empire to nation: the spatial imaginary of the 1920s to early 1950s</td>
<td>Seiji M. Lippit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>Japanese literature and cinema from the 1910s to the 1950s</td>
<td>Hirokazu Toeda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73</td>
<td>Modern drama</td>
<td>M. Cody Poulton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74</td>
<td>Modern poetry: 1910s to the postwar period</td>
<td>Toshiko Ellis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76</td>
<td>Women’s fiction in the postwar era</td>
<td>Sharalyn Orbaugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77</td>
<td>The emergence of girls’ manga and girls’ culture</td>
<td>Yuika Kitamura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>78</td>
<td>Modern Japanese literature from Okinawa</td>
<td>Davinder L. Bhowmik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Contents

79 Postwar Zainichi writings: politics, language, and identity  736
MELISSA L. WENDER

80 Contemporary Japanese fiction  760
STEPHEN SNYDER

Bibliography of English secondary sources and translations  768
Index  821
Illustrations

1. From *Mazu yonde Mikuni Kojorō* (1811). Readers of illustrated fiction engaged in a discussion of "red books." Waseda University Library Special Collections.

2. A spread from *Fūryū itsutsui otoko* (1758), with pictures in the Torii style. Typical is the abundance of curves, including those that divide the scenes. Tōyō Bunko.

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A note on Romanization and conventions

All Romanization of Japanese names and terms follows the Hepburn system. East Asian names are written in the traditional order (surname followed by given name), except in cases when a person publishes in English using their given name followed by surname. Romanization of Chinese names and terms follows the Pinyin system except in quotations of translations using the older Wade-Giles system, which have been left unchanged. Romanized titles are in lower case after the initial letter, unless they include proper nouns.

In order to reduce the number of references, all cited English-language sources on Japanese literature can be found in the bibliography, which covers major English-language publications and is organized by text, genre, and period in parallel to the chapters of the book. A handful of Japanese language references appear in footnotes, but such citations have been kept to a minimum.

Because the variety of approaches to rendering such Japanese words in English reflects debates within the field, we have avoided imposing an artificial unity on translations of titles and terms. Sometimes a genitive article "no" is added between the surname and given name of premodern individuals, as in Minamoto no Yoshitsune (Yoshitsune of the Minamoto family), but we have allowed authors to follow their own inclinations about whether to include this article.
## Chronological table

### Ancient period (beginnings to 794)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jōmon</td>
<td>14,000–900 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yayoi</td>
<td>900 BCE–250 CE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomb</td>
<td>250–552</td>
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<td>Asuka</td>
<td>552–710</td>
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<td>Jinshin War</td>
<td>672</td>
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<td>Nara</td>
<td>710–94</td>
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### Heian period (794–1185)

### Medieval period (1185–1600)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kamakura</td>
<td>1185–1333</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall of the Heike</td>
<td>1185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jōkyū Rebellion</td>
<td>1221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenmu Restoration</td>
<td>1333–6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern and Southern Courts (Nanboku-chō)</td>
<td>1336–92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muromachi</td>
<td>1392–1573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ōnin War</td>
<td>1467–77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warring States (Sengoku)</td>
<td>1467–1573</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Azuchi-Momoyama</td>
<td>1573–98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Edo (Tokugawa, early modern) period (1600–1867)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Battle of Sekigahara</td>
<td>1600</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Modern period (1868 to present)

Meiji 1868–1912
Taishō 1912–26
Shōwa 1926–89
Heisei 1989–present

Chronological table