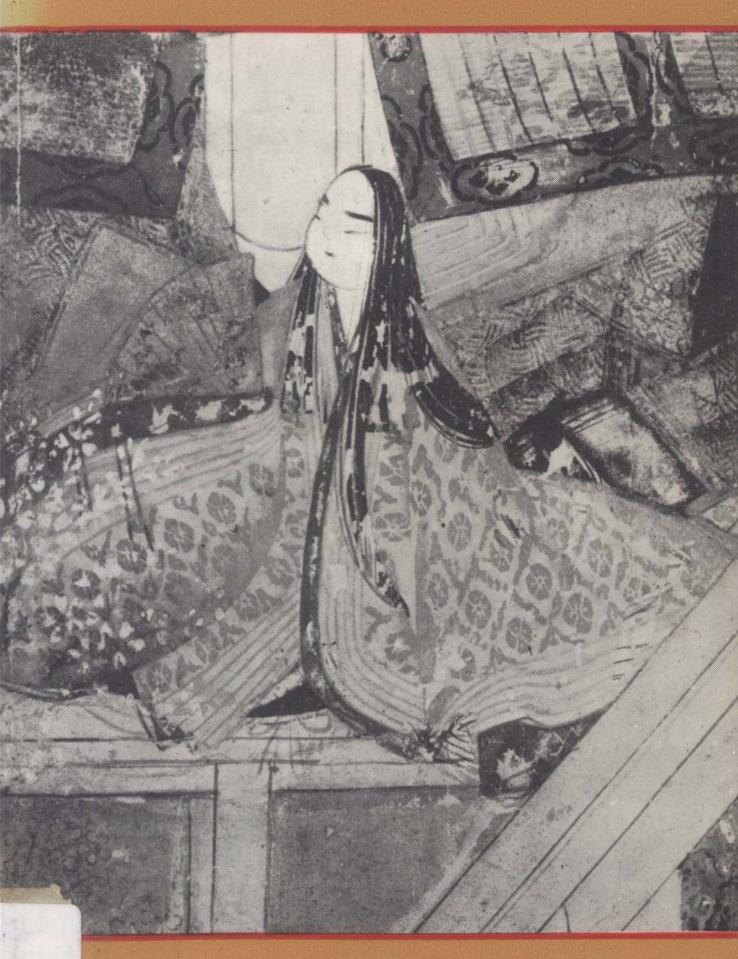
Anthology of Japanese Literature

EARLIEST ERA TO MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY



compiled and edited by 日本文学選集 Donald Keene

helps to make the anthology a book to be enjoyed not only as literature in its own right but also as a guide to the culture of Japan.

Sir George Sansom, noted authority on Japan, says of this book: "I think the idea of an anthology of this kind is timely. It is a new project and Donald Keene is well qualified by knowledge and temperament to carry it out. As to the quality of the work, I think that it is done with excellent judgement and discrimination, and a real feeling for the originals."

THE AUTHOR

Donald Keene is a graduate of Columbia University, where he obtained his Ph.D. In 1948 he went to Cambridge University, where he held the post of Lecturer in Japanese. He spent two years living in Japan doing literary research under a grant of the Ford Foundation. After his two years' stay in Japan he returned to America where he is now Professor of Japanese Literature at Columbia University. He has written extensively on Japan and is currently working on another Anthology of Japanese Literature, to cover the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

CHARLES E. TUTTLE COMPANY

Suido 1-chome, 2-6, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo, Japan

Anthology of

JAPANESE LITERATURE

from the earliest era to the mid-nineteenth century, compiled and edited by Donald Keene

Including poetry from the "Manyoshu"; legends from the "Kojiki"; selections from "The Tale of Genji," "The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon," and "The Tale of Heike"; Noh plays and folk songs; stories by Saikaku and haiku by Basho; Kabuki plays by Chikamatsu; a travelogue by Jkkyu; and many other representation of Japanese literature.

The sweep of Japanese literature in all its great variety and unusual beauty, from earliest times to the mid-nineteenth century, is now for the first time made accessible to Western readers in this anthology. It is a book designed to be read for pleasure, and the translations have been chosen not only for their accuracy but for their readability and immediate impact as English prose and poetry. Every genre and style, from the somber beauty of the celebrated Noh plays to the exquisitely fashioned poetry and the gay eroticism of the novels of the seventeenth century, finds a place in this book. Donald Keene's lengthy introduction, which traces the main developments linking the works presented.

(continued on inside back cover)

The title is presented on the cover in Japanese characters.

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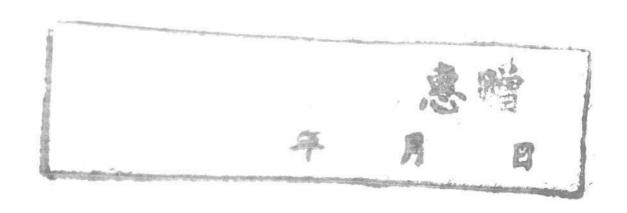


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CHARLES E. TUTTLE COMPANY

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TO ARTHUR WALEY

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NOTE ON JAPANESE NAMES AND PRONUNCIATION

Japanese names are given in this book in the Japanese order: that is, the surname precedes the personal name. Thus, in the name Matsuo Bashō, Matsuo is the family name, Bashō the personal name. However, Japanese usually refer to famous writers by their personal names rather than by their family names and this practice has been observed in the anthology.

The pronunciation of Japanese in transcription is very simple. The consonants are pronounced as in English (with g always hard), the vowels as in Italian. There are no silent letters. Thus, the name Ise is pronounced "ee-say."

The Japanese words used in the text are those which have been taken into English and may be found in such works as the Concise Oxford Dictionary.