

The Tales Of The Heike

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originally written in the mid thirteenth century the tales of the heike chronicles the epic genpei war a civil conflict that marked the end of the power of the heike clan and changed the course of japanese history featuring a vivid cast of characters the book depicts the emerging world of the medieval samurai and recounts in absorbing detail the chaos of the battlefield the intrigue of

the imperial court and the gradual loss of courtly tradition this new abridged translation presents the work's most gripping episodes and includes woodblock illustrations a glossary of characters and an extended bibliography

the tale of the heike is one of the masterworks of japanese literature ranking with the tale of genji in quality and prestige this new translation is not only far more readable than earlier ones it is also much more faithful to the content and style of the original intended for the general audience as well as the specialist this edition is highly annotated

readers of medieval japanese literature have long been captivated by its romance and philosophy in this volume two acclaimed thirteenth century classics the ten foot square hut and tales of the heike are presented in translation the ten foot square hut the hojoki takes its title from a four and half mat sized tearoom the size of the hut in which the hero of the story chomei lives it offers the memorable reflections of this sensitive aristocrat who has retired from a world filled with violent contrasts and cataclysms to find refuge in nature and buddhist philosophy though this narrative was written 700 years ago its message continues to have an astonishing timeliness tales of the heike selections from the heike monogatari deals with the same period but from a different point of view supplying the background of chomei's meditations it is a collection of episodic stories written in poetical prose related to the rise and fall of the taira clan in twelfth century kyoto one of the great turning points in japanese history the translations by the late professor al sandler are complemented by an informed introduction on the background to these masterpieces of japanese literature

lovable losers is the first substantial piece of english language scholarship to examine the actions and the memorization of the heike isse taira a family of aristocratic warriors whose resounding defeat at the hands of the seiwa genji in 1185 resulted in their iconic status as tragic losers the tale of the heike and the many other works derived from it set in place the depiction of the heike as failed upstart aristocrats whose spectacular downfall was due to neglect of their warrior heritage and the villainy of the family head taira no kiyomori lovable losers aims to contextualize and deconstruct representations of the heike not only to show how such representations were created in specific contexts in response to specific needs but also to demonstrate that the representations themselves came to create and sustain a particular kind of culture drawing on the expertise of scholars in a variety of disciplines this volume explores the heike in their own time and their depiction as cultural figures in the centuries that

followed their portrayal in literature and the arts spans more than eight hundred years and a wide range of genres and media including nō plays picture scrolls early modern comic books novels and film in texts from the sixteenth to twentieth centuries the heike serve as catalysts for miracles and vectors for subtle criticisms of the tokugawa government over time kiyomori became an emblem of postwar democracy and economic progress today he is a powerful symbol of modern citizens dissatisfaction with politics the heike's ambiguous moral standing allowed them to be reimagined reconstructed and repurposed by different authors in different contexts as both heroes and villains rather than assuming their failure lovable losers repositions the heike within the larger phenomenon of the genpei war and its aftermath demonstrating how they took advantage of their station as nobles and warriors the new research it presents seeks to transcend categorization and blur the lines between different approaches to the heike to give a well rounded depiction of a family who has played a defining role in japanese culture in action in memory and somewhere in between

traditional japanese literature features a rich array of works dating from the very beginnings of the japanese written language through the evolution of japan's noted aristocratic court and warrior cultures it contains stunning new translations of such canonical texts as the tales of the heike as well as works and genres previously ignored by scholars and unknown to general readers this volume includes generous selections from man'yōshū the tale of genji the pillow book kokinshū and other classics of japanese literature as well as a stunning range of folk literature epic tales of war poetry and no drama the anthology offers an impressive representation of dramatic poetic and fictional works from both high and low culture along with religious and secular anecdotes literary criticism and works written in chinese by japanese writers the wealth of classical poetry linked verse and popular poetry is accompanied by extensive commentary traditional japanese literature is a companion volume to columbia university press's early modern japanese literature an anthology 1600-1900 and part of its four volume history of japanese literature arranged by chronology and genre the readings are insightfully introduced and placed into their political cultural and literary context and the extensive bibliographies offer further study for scholars and readers including a wide range of classic and popular works in poetry prose and drama this anthology presents a definitive overview of traditional japanese literature and deepens our understanding of classical and medieval japanese culture

captures the essence of life in great civilizations of the past each volume in this series examines a single civilization and covers

everything from landmark events and monumental achievements to geography and everyday life

the epic of the rapid rise of the heiki clan and their devastating defeat by the genji clan

how do you reconstruct a tradition of religious art wiped out by another religion naoko gunji takes up this challenging question in amidaji amidaji was a buddhist temple in western japan that from the twelfth century onwards overlooked the strait of dannoura and commemorated the tragic protagonists of the tale of the heike who perished in the strait at the end of the genpei war 1180 1185 the heike or the taira clan and the child emperor antoku 1178 1185 amidaji was destroyed however in 1870 amid a nativist royalist movement of persecuting buddhism and replaced by an imperial shinto shrine its art architecture and rituals were lost and have until now been understood through the lens of the current shrine and a few surviving objects by investigating numerous historical sources and artistic literary religious political and ideological contexts gunji reveals a carefully coordinated program of visual art and rituals for the salvation of antoku and the taira

this book explores the japanese notion of hakanasa the evanescence of all things responses to this idea have been various and even contradictory asceticism fatalism conformism hedonism materialism and careerism this book examines the ties between an epistemology of constant change and japan s formal emphasis on etiquette and visuality

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