



Travelers of a Hundred Ages

By Donald Keene

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Donald Keene, hailed in the *New York Times Book Review* as "the century's leading expert on Japanese literature," presents here a collection of premodern Japanese diaries that is both a literary history of this genre and a source of insight into Japanese life of the last thousand years. Ranging from objective to confessional, selections such as "The Poetic Memoirs of Lady Daibu" and "Diaries of Seventeenth-Century Courtiers" offer unparalleled glimpses into the lives of diverse writers from the Kamakura dynastic period to the Tokugawa period. Illuminating the hidden and largely unknown worlds of imperial courts, Buddhist monasteries, country inns, and merchants' houses, *Travelers of a Hundred Ages* is an intimate account of the diarists' lives and a testimony to the struggles and advances of Japanese culture.

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Travelers of a Hundred Ages By Donald Keene Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

"It brings no comfort, I know, to brood over things, but I have become accustomed on sleepless nights to leave my door ajar and wait for the moon to rise, hoping to make it my companion," wrote a teenaged Japanese nun in her diary in 1240. With conversational erudition, Keene (*Dawn to the West*) surveys a genre of unique importance in Japanese literature. Whether written in a consciously literary vein or mainly to record the facts of daily life, the diary "is often a kind of confession, and no confession can be effective unless another person hears it." In Japan, diaries dating from the ninth century on have served as records of travels, court conduct and misconduct, warfare, nature observed, lust indulged and monastic life; taken form in prose, poetry or both, in Chinese or Japanese; and been kept by men and women, be they lay chroniclers, priests or revered poets (e.g., Basho). Keene, professor of Japanese literature at Columbia University, makes the enormous range of Japanese diaries accessible to the English-speaker, examining 60-odd specimens from among the earliest (circa 847) to the more recent (1854), eager always for "the pleasure of discovering people" who "reach out to us over the centuries."

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From Library Journal

The Japanese have always been such inveterate diarists that the diary has become for them a recognized literary form, although the term needs some redefinition for Western readers. Keene, an authority on Japanese literature, here translates (with some editing) a series of over 60 articles he wrote on this form in Japanese for the Asahi Shimbun newspaper. Given the origin of publication, these articles are short (generally 800 to 1600 words), which restricts them in both content and style. They cover diaries written from 847 to 1854, and reveal much of Japanese literary and social history, as well as the intimate connection among diaries, poetry, and women writers. Because much of the material presumes some acquaintance with Japanese, this book will be most useful to those wishing to broaden their knowledge of a unique part of Japanese literature.

- *Donald J. Pearce, Univ. of Minnesota Lib., Duluth*

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Review

A chief interpreter of Japanese culture to the West... shows his breadth of knowledge and unflagging curiosity.

(LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK REVIEW)

This is a book to keep at one's side and visit from time to time.

(NEW YORKER)

An engaging book.

(Boston Globe)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Seth Sawyer:

Book is definitely written, printed, or outlined for everything. You can learn everything you want by a guide. Book has a different type. We all know that that book is important issue to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A guide Travelers of a Hundred Ages will make you to be smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think which open or reading the book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they might be thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

Pat Swartz:

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Jimmie Houck:

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Jeff Weaver:

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