The Tale of Genji: A Bibliography of Translations and Studies

This is intended to be a comprehensive list and thus contains some items that I would not recommend to my students. I should be glad to remedy any errors or omissions. Except for foreign-language translations, the bibliography is restricted to publications in English and I apologize for this limitation. It is divided into the following sub-sections:

1. Translations
2. On Translators and Translations
3. Secondary Sources
4. *Genji* Art
5. *Genji* Reception (Noh Drama; *Nise Murasaki inaka Genji*; Twentieth-century Responses; Secondary Sources)
6. Film, Musical, and Manga Versions

GGR, November 2013

1. Translations (arranged in chronological order of publication)
      A translation of the first seventeen chapters (“Kiritsubo” through “Eawase”).

2. On Translators and Translations


My thanks to Machiko Midorikawa for directing me to this essay.


3. Secondary Sources


→ Bowring’s useful chart of characters in The Tale of Genji may be viewed/downloaded at: http://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~pmjs/resources/genji/genji-chart.html


→ Part B of volume 2 comprises Cranston’s translations of the 795 poems in *Genji* with a running commentary on the tale itself.


of Asiatic Studies 41.1 (1981): 5-44.


A collection aimed at the Japanese library market: volumes 1-3 reprint more than forty articles and book chapters on Genji originally published in English between 1967 (McCullough’s “Japanese Marriage Institutions in the Heian Period”) and 2008 (several chapters from Shirane’s Envisioning The Tale of Genji collection); the fourth volume
consists of explanatory material in Japanese.


Contains two essays about Genji: “The Tale of Genji; Two Cranes Flying Wing to Wing,” about Genji and Tō no Chūjō; and “The Uji Chapters: Maidens of the Bridge,” about Kaoru and the Eighth Prince.


4. Genji Art


Lippitt, Yukio. “Figure and Facture in the Genji Scrolls: Text, Calligraphy, Paper, and Painting.” In Shirane 2008, pp. 49-80.


5. Genji Reception

Noh Drama


Nise Murasaki inaka Genji (1829-1842)


Twentieth-century responses

Yosano Akiko (1878-1942). “Genji monogatari rai’an,” 1922.


Howard Hibbett, trans. “The Bridge of Dreams.” In Seven Japanese Tales. Tokyo:
Tuttle, 1965.


Genji Reception: Secondary Sources


McMullen, James. Genji gaiden: The Origins of Kumazawa Banzan’s Commentary on The


Introduces writing by Kaoku Gyokuei (1526-after 1602) and Ōgimachi Machiko (1679-1724).


6. Film, Musical, and Manga Versions


Contains a full list of postwar films complete with detailed production notes.

→ See also Tateishi Kazuhiro’s homepage for a complete list of manga versions of Genji: http://homepage3.nifty.com/genji_db/manga.htm

