

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 (Nō Drama; *Nise Murasaki inaka Genji*; Twentieth-century Responses; Secondary Sources)
6. Film, Musical, and Manga Versions

GGR, September 2022

1. Translations (arranged in chronological order of publication)

I am indebted to Dr. H. C. Li for up-to-date information on the Chinese translations of *Genji*.

1. Suematsu Kenchō (1855-1920). *Genji Monogatari: The Most Celebrated of the Classical Japanese Romances*. London: Trübner, 1882.
A translation of the first seventeen chapters (“Kiritsubo” through “Eawase”).
2. Waley, Arthur (1889-1966). *The Tale of Genji*. 6 vols. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1925-1933.
Waley’s English translation is now available in a Japanese back translation. See Samata Hideki 佐復秀樹, trans. 『ウエイリー版 源氏物語』 4 vols. Heibonsha Library, 2009.
3. Yamata Kikou 山田菊 (1897-1975). *Le roman de Genji* (Paris: Plon, 1928).
Yamata’s version covers the same nine chapters as Waley’s first volume: “Kiritsubo” through “Aoi.”
4. Benl, Oscar (1914-1986). *Die Geschichte vom Prinzen Genji*. 2 vols. Zürich: Mannese Verlag, 1966.
5. Yu Jeong 柳呈. *Kenji iyagi*. 2 vols. Seoul: 乙酉文化社, 1973; rpt 2015.
A Korean translation of Yosano Akiko’s *Shin-shin’yaku Genji monogatari* (1938-1939).
6. Seidensticker, Edward G. (1921-2007). *The Tale of Genji*. 2 vols. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976.
7. Feng Zikai [Hō Shigai] 豐子愷 (1898-1975). *Yuanshi wuyu*. 3 vols. Beijing, 1980.
Originally translated 1961-1965; publication was delayed by the Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976, and the translation finally appeared in 1980. For a biography, see Geremie R. Barmé, *An Artistic Exile: A Life of Feng Zikai* (University of California Press, 2002).
8. Lin Wen-yueh [Rin Bungetsu] 林文月. *Yüan-shih wu-yü*. 5 vols. Taipei, 1974-1978.
9. Sieffert, René (1923-2004). *Le Dit du Genji*. 2 vols. Paris: Publications Orientalistes de France, 1988. Originally published 1977-1985.
10. Sokolova-Deliusina, Tatiana. *Povest o Gendzi: Gendzi-monogatari*. 6 vols. Moscow: Nauka, 1991-1993.
11. Yin Zhijun 殷志俊. *Yuanshi wuyu*. Huhehaote, 1996.
12. Tyler, Royall. *The Tale of Genji*. 2 vols. New York: Viking, 2001.
13. Chon Yonsin 田溶新. *Kenji iyagi*. 3 vols. Seoul: Nanam Ch’ulp’an, 1999-2002.
A Korean translation of the modern Japanese translation by Abe Akio, Akiyama Ken, and Imai Gen’e in the *Nihon koten bungaku zenshū* edition of *Genji* (Shōgakukan, 1970-1976).
14. Liang Chun 梁春. *Yuanshi wuyu*. Kunming, 2002.

15. Yao Jizhong 姚继中. *Yuanshi wuyu*. Shenzhen, 2006.
16. Zheng Minqin 郑民钦. *Yuanshi wuyu*. 2 vols. Beijing, 2006.
17. Kim Nanju 金蘭周. *Kenji iyagi*. 10 vols. Seoul, 2006.
A Korean translation of Setouchi Jakuchō's modern Japanese version of *Genji* (Kōdansha, 1996-1998).
18. Fiala, Karel. *Příběh prince Gendžiho*. 4 vols. Praha: Paseka, 2002-2008.
19. Kang Jingcheng 康景成. *Quancai tujie Yuanshi wuyu*. 2 vols. Xi'an, 2008.
20. Orsi, Maria Teresa. *La storia di Genji*. Milan: Einaudi, 2012.
21. Vos, Jos. *Het verhaal van Genji*. Amsterdam: Athenaeum, Polak & van Genneep, 2013.
22. Ye Weiqu and Tang Yuemei 叶谓渠, 唐月梅. *Yuanshi wuyu*. Beijing, 2014.
23. Washburn, Dennis. *The Tale of Genji*. New York: Norton, 2015.
Reprinted with critical essays, indices, etc. in the Norton Critical Editions series, 2021.
24. Lee Misuk 季美淑. *Genji monogatari*. 6 vols. Seoul National University Press, 2014-.
25. Angela Hondru. *Povestea lui Genji*. Iași: Polirom, 2017.
A Romanian translation of Yosano Akiko's *Shin-shin'yaku Genji monogatari* (1938-1939).
26. Yamashita Toshihiro. *Rakontaro de Gengi*. 3 vols. Hioki: Ginga Syoseki, 2020-.
The first volume of this translation into Esperanto contains the 20 chapters "Kiritsubo" through "Asagao." See: <http://esperas.info/>
A Vietnamese translation by Thi Lam Anh Nguyen is currently underway.

2. On Translators and Translations

- Abel, Jonathan E. "Translation as Community: The Opacity of Modernizations of *Genji monogatari*." In *Nation, Language, and the Ethics of Translation*, ed. Sandra Bermann and Michael Wood. Princeton University Press, 2005, pp. 146-158.
- Bayard-Sakai, Anne. "Texte et prétexte: Traduire le *Genji* en langue moderne." *Cipango*, Hors-série (2008): 155-182. URL: <http://cipango.revues.org/600>
- Chozick, Matthew. "Cheating on Murasaki Shikibu: (In)Fidelity, Politics, and the Quest for an Authoritative Post-war *Genji* Translation." In *The Palgrave Handbook of Literary Translation*. Edited by Jean Boase-Beier, Lina Fisher, and Hiroko Furukawa. Palgrave Macmillan, 2018, pp. 443-462.
- Clements, Rebekah. "Suematsu Kenchō and the First English Translation of *Genji monogatari*: Translation, Tactics, and the 'Women's Question'." *Japan Forum* 23.1 (2011): 25-47.
- _____. "Rewriting Murasaki: Vernacular Translation and the Reception of *Genji Monogatari* during the Tokugawa Period." *Monumenta Nipponica* 68.1 (2013): 1-36.
- _____. "Cross-Dressing as Lady Murasaki: Concepts of Vernacular Translation in Early Modern Japan." *Testo a Fronte* 51 (2014): 29-51.
- _____. *A Cultural History of Translation in Early Modern Japan*. Cambridge University Press, 2015.
See especially chapter 2, "Classical Japanese Texts."
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- _____. "On *The Tale of Genji* and the Art of Translation." *The Hiyoshi Review of English Studies* (慶應義塾大学日吉紀要 英語英米文学) 65 (2014): 1-43.
- _____. "Glimpses of *Genji* through the Looking-Glass of Language." *The Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan*, fifth series, vol. 6 (2014): 1-193.
A wide-ranging discussion of "the peculiar problems that confront those who render [*Genji*] into other languages, including Modern Japanese, and the art of literary translation in general" (p. 4).
- _____. "Du Côté de Chez Murasaki: Desultory Ramblings on the Art of Translation." *The Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan*, fifth series, vol. 8 (2016): 75-113.
A review article that assesses Dennis Washburn's 2015 translation of *Genji*.
- _____. "Bellflower: An Excerpt from the *Tale of Genji*: Commentary and Translation." *The Keio University Hiyoshi Review of English Studies* (慶應義塾大学日吉紀要 英語英米文学) 75 (2022): 47-81.
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A transcription of the full texts of fifteen reviews of Suematsu Kenchō's 1882 translation of *Genji*.
- Henitiuk, Valerie. "Going to Bed with Waley: How Murasaki Shikibu Does and Does Not Become World Literature." *Comparative Literature Studies* 45.1 (2008): 40-61.
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McCullough concludes that "the real world of the shining prince is...a considerably more somber place than Waley would have us believe, and the contradictions it embraces lend new poignance to the familiar atmosphere of melancholy beauty. Thanks to Edward Seidensticker, Western readers are now in a position to appreciate the complexity of that world and the full achievement of its great historian." (p. 110)
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A comparison of the Seidensticker translation with the Waley and Benl versions, pointing out Seidensticker’s fondness for irony, briskness, and brightness, “often...because [he] has reproduced the Japanese with almost word-for-word fidelity” (p. 198).
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<http://www.meijigakuin.ac.jp/~pmjs/resources/genji/genji-chart.html>

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- 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.
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4. *Genji* Art

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