

Arts of Asia Lecture Series Spring 2014
The Culture and Arts of Japan
Sponsored by The Society for Asian Art

Haruo Shirane, "JAPAN AND THE CULTURE OF THE FOUR SEASONS:
NATURE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS" talk notes

Major Historical Periods

Ancient	Beginnings to 784
Nara period	710-784 (capital in Nara)
Heian period	794-1185 (capital in Kyoto)

Medieval Period

Kamakura period	1185-1333 (early medieval)
Muromachi period	1392-1573 (late medieval)

Early Modern and Modern Periods

Edo (early modern) period	1600-1867 (capital in Edo, modern-day Tokyo)
Meiji (modern period)	1868-1912

Poetic Genres:

Waka: 31 (5/7/5/7/7)-syllable classical Japanese poem, usually translated in 5 lines.

Renga: linked verse, 17 (5/7/5) syllable verse followed by 14 (7/7) syllable verse, which combine to form one poem, followed by a 17 syllable verse, which combines with the previous 14 syllable to form one poem, followed by 14 syllable verse, and so forth.

Haiku: 17 (5/7/5) syllable verse, requires a kigo (seasonal word) and a cutting word (kireji), which cuts the poem in half to form two resonating halves

Major Poetic Texts

Man'yōshū (Collection of Ten Thousand Leaves, ca. 759)

Kokinshū (Collection of Japanese Poem Old and New, ca.905)

MAJOR PAINTING GENRES

Emaki (scroll painting) e.g. *The Tale of Genji Scrolls* (12th c.)

Byōbu-e (Screen painting) (Heian period onward)

OTHER IMPORTANT MEDIEVAL ART FORMS

Chanoyu (tea ceremony)

Ikebana or Rikka (Flower arrangement)

Major Residential Architectural Styles in Pre-modern Period

Shinden-zukuri (palace-style) architecture (Heian period)

Shoin-zukuri (parlor-style) architecture (medieval period)

SPECIFIC EXAMPLES

Tale of Genji Scrolls (12th. C.)

Suzuki Harunobu (d. 1770), *Eight Parlor Scenes*,
Art Institute of Chicago

Utagawa Hiroshige I (1843–47), *Bush Warbler on Red Plum Blossoms*

Utagawa Hiroshige I (1797-1858), *Yellow Kerria and Frogs*

Ogata Kenzan (d. 1743), *Teika's Poems of Birds and Flowers of the 12 Months*, Metropolitan Museum

18th century Woman's Kimono (*Kosode*)

Suzuki Kiitsu (d. 1858), *Crane and Pine Tree with Rising Sun*, Metropolitan M.

Horai Island (*Penglai*), *Sandy Cove, Pines, and Cranes*, Lacquer incense container, Suntory Museum

KEY SECONDARY READINGS

Haruo Shirane, *Japan And The Culture Of The Four Seasons: Nature, Literature, and The Arts* (available in paperback)