

January 17, 2025

## Announcing the winners of the 9th Japanese Literature Publishing Project (JLPP) International Translation Competition

### Launch of the Classical Literature Category and Announcement of the "BUNGAKU DAYS 2025" Symposium in Kyoto

The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, is pleased to announce the winners of the 9th Japanese Literature Publishing Project (JLPP) International Translation Competition.

In addition to the Contemporary Literature Category, this year marks the debut of the Classical Literature Category. The subject chosen for the Classical Literature Category, Kobayashi Issa's *haibun*, is a form of prose that incorporates *haiku* which has been gaining global attention. Many emerging talents have taken on the challenge of translating these profound classical works, offering new perspectives on their deep charm.

As part of this event, an award ceremony will be held on February 22, 2025, along with a literary symposium titled "BUNGAKU DAYS 2025," which will explore the translation of literary works, the potential of classical literature translation, and the promotion of Japanese literature abroad. The symposium will be held in Kyoto.

#### 1 Number of application submissions

<u>Contemporary Literature Category (English)</u>	132
<u>Contemporary Literature Category (German)</u>	46
<u>Classical Literature Category (English)</u>	43

#### 2 Winners (Parentheses indicate the winner's nationality)

##### Contemporary Literature Category (English)

Grand Prize	Rebecca Graham (Australia)
Second Prizes	Laura Ikeda (USA) Nicolas Keen (UK)

##### Contemporary Literature Category (German)

Grand Prize	Anna Sanner (Germany)
Second Prizes	Not Awarded

##### Classical Literature Category (English)

Grand Prize	Yoko Abe (Japan)
Second Prizes	William Fleming (USA) Sameeha Anwar (Japan)

Visit the JLPP website to access the translations submitted by the winners and comments from the judging committee.

[https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition9/index\\_en.php](https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition9/index_en.php)

[https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition9/index\\_ge.html](https://www.jlpp.go.jp/competition9/index_ge.html)

### **Competition Details**

1 Submission Period:

June 1st – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

2 Eligibility:

There are no nationality or age-related eligibility criteria. However, because the purpose of the competition is to foster emerging translators, those who have had book-length literary translations published are not eligible, although translators who have had translations published in magazines and/or anthologies are permissible.

3 Target Languages, Source Texts:

Contemporary Literature Category (English, German)

[Fiction] “Maihōmu” by Idogawa Iko

[Criticism and Essay] “Kabuki” “Shichigatsu no watashi” “Chichi Serifu sansen” by Kishimoto Sachiko

Classical Literature Category (English)

Haibun by Kobayashi Issa “Kojiki no shussaniwai” “Yasezakura” “Tamori no Okina”

4 Judging Committee:

Contemporary Literature Category (English)

Polly Barton (Translator of Japanese literature)

Michael Emmerich (Translator of Japanese literature, Professor of Japanese Literature, Dept. of Asian Languages & Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles)

Stephen Snyder (Translator of Japanese Literature, Dean of Language Schools and Vice President for Academic Affairs; Professor of Japanese Studies, Middlebury College)

Contemporary Literature Category (German)

Katja Cassing (Translator of Japanese literature)

Eduard Klopfenstein (Translator of Japanese literature, Professor emeritus of Japanese studies at the University of Zurich)

Asa-Bettina Wuthenow (Scholar and translator of Japanese literature, Interpreter, Associate Professor at the Japanese Department of the University of Heidelberg)

Classical Literature Category (English)

Janine Beichman (Scholar and translator of Japanese Literature, Professor Emeritus at Daito Bunka University)

Peter MacMillan (Translator of Japanese literature, poet)

Moriyama Megumi (Poet, translator of Japanese literature)

### **3 The 9th JLPP International Translation Competition Award Ceremony and Commemorative Symposium “BUNGAKU DAYS 2025”**

Date: Saturday, February 22, 2025

13:00~ (JST) (Doors open at noon)

Venue: Kyoto International Conference Center (ICC Kyoto), Room D

422 Iwakura Osagicho, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto

[https://www.icckyoto.or.jp/en/access-2/getting\\_here/](https://www.icckyoto.or.jp/en/access-2/getting_here/)

Capacity : 120 Admission free

Language: Japanese/English (Simultaneous interpretation available)

Registration: Please register from the JLPP website by Friday, February 21,2025.  
[https://www.jlpp.go.jp/bungakudays2025\\_s/index\\_en.html](https://www.jlpp.go.jp/bungakudays2025_s/index_en.html)

#### **4 Contact**

Japanese Literature Publishing Project (JLPP) Office

Mail: [jlpp\\_office@jlpp.go.jp](mailto:jlpp_office@jlpp.go.jp)

Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan  
Cultural Economy and International Affairs Division  
Director TERAMOTO Tsunemasa  
Deputy Director OGIWARA Tomonari  
Tel: 03-6734-2872  
Mail: [bunka-global@mext.go.jp](mailto:bunka-global@mext.go.jp)