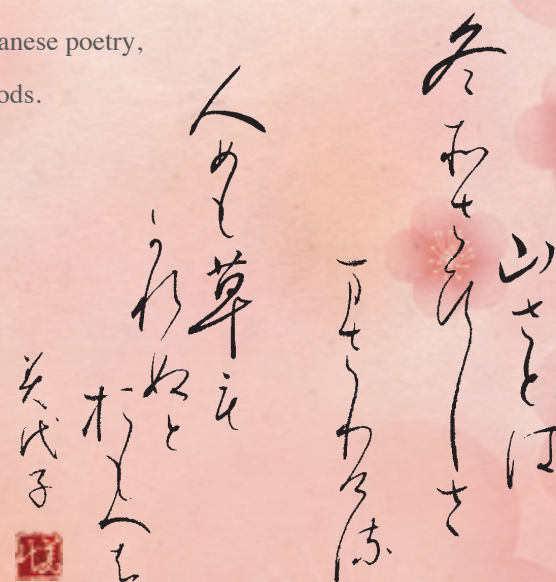
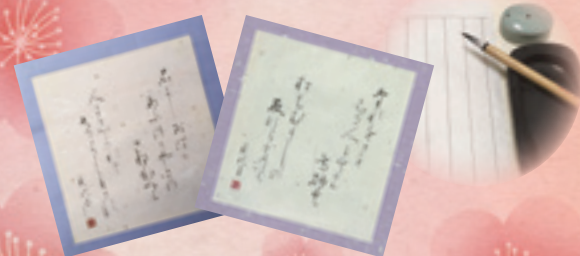




EVOCATIVE OF JAPAN

The Man-Yo-Shu is the oldest existing collection of Japanese poetry, compiled in the late 8th century during Nara-Heian Periods.

This particularly unique Japanese work can introduce you to the essence of beautiful nature in four seasons, inherited traditions and customs in daily life, and more things that are evocative of Japan.



Sanin Kaigan Global Geopark



Mt. Daisen



Lake Shinji



Iwami Kagura

The clear blue sea, the sunset above the horizon, mountain landscapes that change color along with the seasons, and the sight of fishermen's boats gathering clams with a rake in a lake are some of the scenes that moved 'waka' poets such as Hitomaro, Kadobe-no Okimi, Okura, and Yakamochi to create poems. People appreciate their old traditions like Iwami Kagura, a sacred dance and music dedicated to deities, and regional myths. They often visit shrines and temples when they reach milestones in their lives. There are many time-honored Japanese-style inns, homestays, and hotels available with heartfelt hospitality. You are very welcome to visit our Sanin Provinces and experience a distinct culture and atmosphere.

SANIN MAN-YO SOCIETY

山陰万葉を歩く会

OFFICE : The Tourism Promotion Section, the Department of Commerce-Industry & Tourism, Gotsu City Hall
E-mail: shokokanko@city.gotsu.lg.jp

Special thanks to Christopher Powers, College of Europe

2016.3.20

万葉集

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PLACES AND POETS OF A JAPANESE CLASSIC, "MAN-YO-SHU"

石見国
The Province of Iwami



Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro

出雲国
The Province of Izumo



Kadobe-no Okimi

伯耆国
The Province of Houki



Yamanoue-no Okura

因幡国
The Province of Inaba



Ōtomo-no Yakamochi



SANIN MAN-YO SOCIETY

山陰万葉を歩く会



AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PLACES AND POETS OF A JAPANESE CLASSIC, “MAN-YO-SHU”

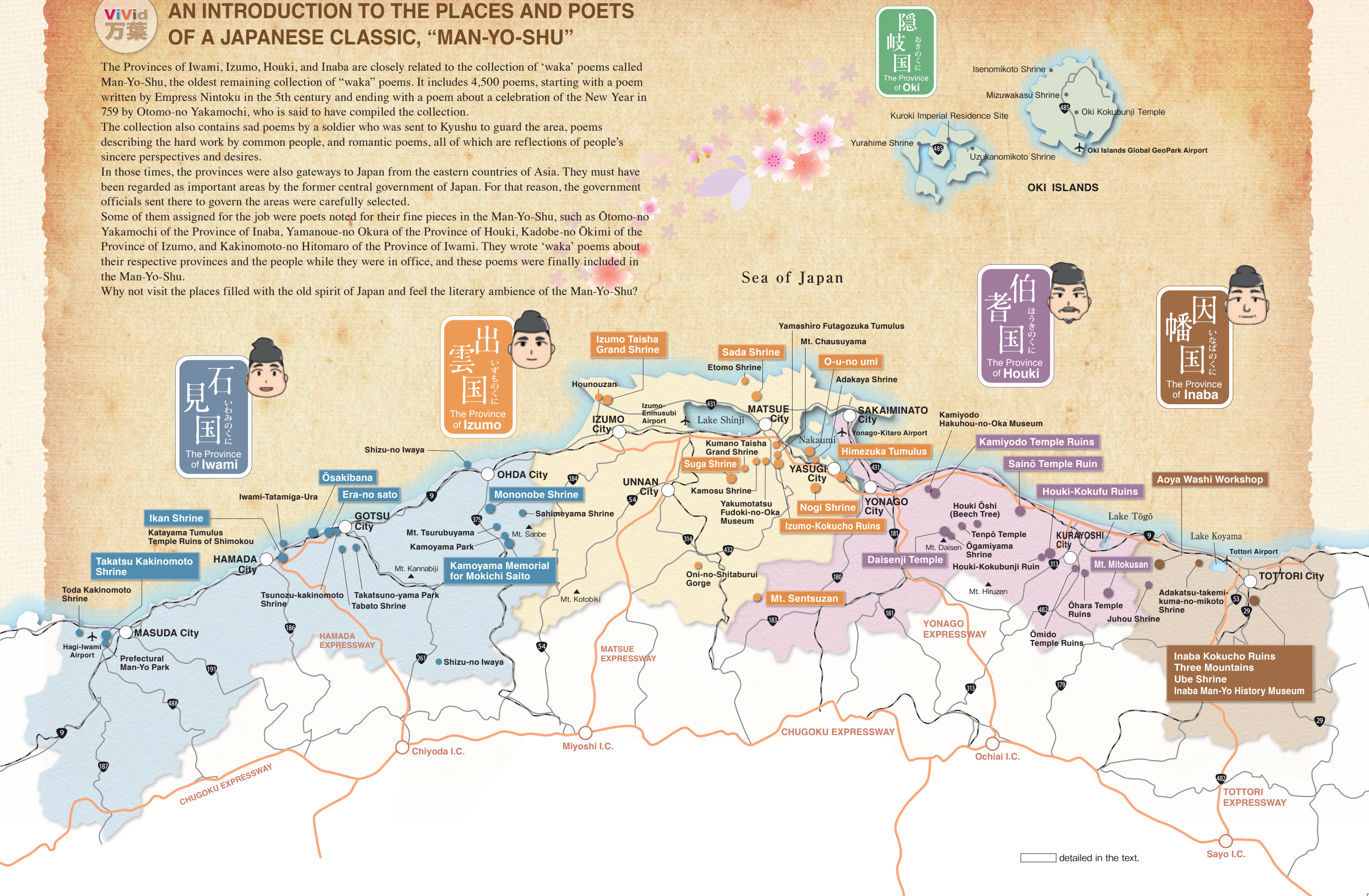
The Provinces of Iwami, Izumo, Houki, and Inaba are closely related to the collection of ‘waka’ poems called Man-Yo-Shu, the oldest remaining collection of “waka” poems. It includes 4,500 poems, starting with a poem written by Empress Nintoku in the 5th century and ending with a poem about a celebration of the New Year in 759 by Otomo-no Yakamochi, who is said to have compiled the collection.

The collection also contains sad poems by a soldier who was sent to Kyushu to guard the area, poems describing the hard work by common people, and romantic poems, all of which are reflections of people’s sincere perspectives and desires.

In those times, the provinces were also gateways to Japan from the eastern countries of Asia. They must have been regarded as important areas by the former central government of Japan. For that reason, the government officials sent there to govern the areas were carefully selected.

Some of them assigned for the job were poets noted for their fine pieces in the Man-Yo-Shu, such as Ōtomo-no Yakamochi of the Province of Inaba, Yamanoue-no Okura of the Province of Houki, Kadobe-no Ōkimi of the Province of Izumo, and Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro of the Province of Iwami. They wrote ‘waka’ poems about their respective provinces and the people while they were in office, and these poems were finally included in the Man-Yo-Shu.

Why not visit the places filled with the old spirit of Japan and feel the literary ambience of the Man-Yo-Shu?



石見国

The Province of Iwami

石見のや
高角山の
木の間より
我が振る袖を
妹見つらむか
柿本人麻呂
(巻二・一三二)

Iwaminoya Takatsunoyamano Konomayori
Wagafurusodewo Imomitsuramuka — Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro

The Province of Iwami and Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro



Takatsu Kakinomoto Shrine

The original Kakinomoto Shrine used to be on an island called Kamoshima, but it was sunk under the sea by a strong earthquake in 1026. The present shrine was rebuilt in a different place instead.

Ōsakibana

A beautiful stretch of beach that reminds us of Hitomaro's romantic poems.



Ikan Shrine

The shrine is said to have been built at the site of the ancient provincial government office where Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro was sent to take office. An atmosphere reminiscent of the time he spent still remains.



Mononobe Shrine

This shrine was the most important shrine in the Province of Iwami. The shrine, which was built in Kasuga style, is said to be the largest in Japan.



Era-no Sato

It is said that this was the birthplace of a young girl, called Yosami-no-Otome, whom Hitomaro fell in love with and with whom he would live.



Kamoyama Memorial for Mokich Saito

Saito argued that Hitomaro spent his last days at Kamoyama. There, his enthusiastic writings are displayed.

Kakinomoto-no Hitomaro (approx.700~ Governor of the Province of Iwami)

Though he was respected as a genius of poetry, his whole life is wrapped in mystery. Many of his poems were made while he was accompanying the Emperor on trips. From this fact, he is thought to have worked as an official in the Imperial Court. He was nicknamed Hitomaro-san and lived in the Iwami Area.

The Province of Iwami



出雲国

The Province of Izumo

飢宇の海の
潮干の潟の
片思に
思ひや行かむ
道の長手を
門部王
(巻四・五三六)

Ounoumino Shiohinokatano Katamoini
Omoiyayukamu Michinonagatemo — Kadobe-no Ōkimi

The Province of Izumo and Kadobe-no Ōkimi



Ruins of the Izumo Provincial Government Office

The area was the central part of the Province. There have been many historic artifacts excavated from here and displayed at the nearby Prefectural Museum called "Yakumo-tatsu Fudokino-oka Museum".



Izumo Grand Shrine

This shrine is one of the most important Shinto shrines in Japan. The ancient main shrine building is said to have been 48m high about 1100 years ago. Some parts of the huge wooden pillars that had supported the high-rise shrine building were discovered under the shrine grounds in 2000, making sensational news all over Japan.



Holding Izumo Grand Shrine
Photo Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo



O-u-no Umi

It is an inlet located near the Izumo Provincial Government Office where Kadobe-no Ōkimi worked. The balmy scenery there may have been soothing to him. He wrote a poem beginning with 'O-u-no Umi', longing for his home back in Nara.



Sada Shrine

A description of the shrine appears in the Izumo-no-kuni Fudoki, published in 733. A world heritage site.



Nogi Shrine

The description of the shrine appears in the Izumo-no-kuni Fudoki. It houses the Deity of the Nogi Plains.



Suga Shrine

It is said that this place was where the God Susanō and his wife Kushinada started their life as newlyweds. He composed 'waka' poems here, which is said to have marked the origin of waka poetry.



Mt. Sentsuzan

The River Hiikawa rises in this mountain. On top of the mountain is a tiny shrine dedicated to the God Susanō who is said to have descended from the heavens. The mountain is closely related to Izumo Mythology.

Kadobe-no Ōkimi (720~ Governor of the Province of Izumo)

Great-grandson of the Emperor Tenmu. He was one of the high-ranking officials in the central government. At the time of compiling the Izumo Fudoki, he is said to have been sent to Izumo to govern the area.

The Province of Izumo



伯耆国

The Province of Houki

銀も 金も玉も
何せむに 勝れる宝
子にしかめやも
山上憶良
(巻五・八〇三)

Shirokanemo Kuganemotamamo Nanisenni
Masarerutakara Konishikameyamo — Yamanoue-no Okura

Houki-no Kuni and Yamanoue-no Okura



Houki-kokufu Ruins (Ruins of the Houki Provincial Government Office)

Located on the hills in the west of Kurayoshi City, there is still some ambience of the days of 'Man-Yo' in the scenery.



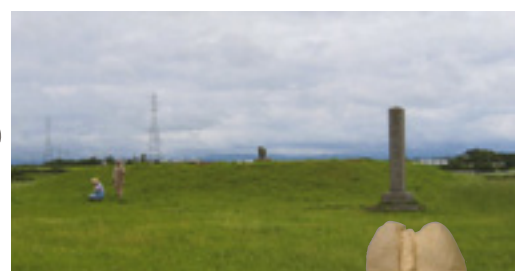
Daisenji Temple

The temple is located half-way up Mt. Daisen. It originated as a sacred place for mountain worship in the Nara Era.



Kamiyodo Temple Ruin

The ruins are supposed to have been a temple erected in the late period of the Asuka Era. The biggest finding there was the temple mural in the remains of the Golden Hall, which is said to be as old as that of Horyuji Temple.



Sainō Temple Ruin

Ruins from between the late Asuka period and the Nara Era.

Holding
Kyoto National Museum

Mt. Mitokusan

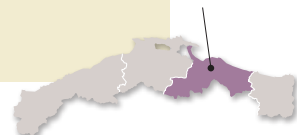
Regarded as a sacred mountain opened in the Nara Era. The entire mountain is the precinct of three temples.



Yamanoue-no Okura (716~721 Governor of the Province of Houki)

Waka poet in the middle period of Nara.
He was a Japanese envoy to China.
He was well versed in Buddhism,
and chosen as instructor for the Crown Prince Shomu.

The Province of Houki



因幡国

The Province of Inaba

◆万葉の最後を飾る歌
新しき
年の始の
初春の
今日降る雪の
いや重け吉事
大伴家持
(巻二十・四五二六)

Aratashiki Toshinohajimeno Hatsuharuno
kyōfuruyukino Iyashikeyogoto — Otomo-no Yakamochi

Inaba-no kuni and Otomo-no Yakamochi



Inaba Kokucho Ruins (Ruins of the Inaba Provincial Government Office)

The site of the office that governed the Province during the Nara, Heian, and Kamakura periods.



Ube Shrine

The most important Shrine in the Province of Inaba.



Three Mountains of Inaba

Mountains referred to in waka poems.



Inaba Man-Yo History Museum

A museum full of the atmosphere of the Man-Yo world. There are seasonal Man-Yo plants growing in the special garden.



Aoya Washi Workshop (Handmade paper)

Washi making has a very long history. The oldest Aoya Washi has been kept in Shosoin, Nara, with a record of year 721.



Otomo-no Yakamochi (758~ Governor of the Province of Inaba)

Son of a 'waka' poet, Otomo-no Tabito.
He was from a family of a powerful clan.
He compiled the Man-Yo-Shu. As a provincial government official,
he stayed in Inaba for three and a half years.

The Province of Inaba

