

## PREFACE

This collection of essays is the outcome of an international symposium, jointly organised by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyoto, and the Section of Japanese Studies of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in October 1998. It was the second in a series of three international symposia that the International Research Center for Japanese Studies organised in Europe in conjunction with a European partner. The first one was held in Sheffield (1997), the second in Leuven (1998) and the third in Leiden (1999).

The Leuven symposium, which went under the general title of *Translation of Culture, Culture of Translation*, actually consisted of two parallel sessions. The first one was a workshop on Gender and Modernity in Japan: *Japanese Women's Magazines*, the second one was a symposium devoted to a reflection on *Translation and Adaptation in the Formulation of Modern Episteme: A Reappraisal of Dodoens*. The essays in the present volume are the reworked and elaborated versions of the presentations made at the latter symposium.

It was clear that many of the issues we had to tackle had to do with translation, and that translation was not a phenomenon limited to Japan, but equally prominent in European cultural history, nor limited to texts as such, but involving broader cultural contexts as well. As a result we undertook an investigation of Dodoens's (Dodonæus) importance in Europe as well as in Japan through the prism of translation, transposition, adaptation etc., defined as a moving force in cultural and social development and an indispensable lubricant in the process of functional differentiation. As Japanologists, our main concern was evidently Japan, yet we have deliberately opted for a perspective that kept a certain distance from boundaries. Therefore we have endeavoured to confront experts in the field of Western herbals and botany with historians of early modern Japan.

Hayao Kawai, director-general of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, delivered the keynote address. In the margin of the symposium a little exhibition including old editions of Dodoens's *Herbarius*, also known as *Cruyjdeboek* or *Cruydt-Boeck*, as well as a few books on anatomy by Flemish authors, which found their way to Japan through the agency of the Dutch East India Company, was held at the Central Library of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. It was conceived and executed by Dr. Chris Coppens, archivist at the said library.

THE PARTICIPANTS TO THE SYMPOSIUM WERE (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

H.E. Mr. Nagao Hyôdô, ambassador of Japan in Belgium  
Prof. Dr. Herman De Dijn, Vice-rector, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

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Coppens, Hans, researcher / Joos, Joël, researcher / Lambert, José, professor / Matsue, Mariko, lecturer / Sakurai, Naoko, lecturer / Schiltz, Michael, researcher / Takeyama, Ena, lecturer / Van Ourti, Gretl, lecturer / Vanoverbeke, Dimitri, associate professor / Vanpaemel, Geert, professor / Van Put, Ineke, researcher / Vande Walle, Willy, professor / Verplancke, Ingeborg, lecturer / Wostyn, Paul, lecturer

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We thank the following individuals for their logistic assistance: Hans Coppens, Mariko Matsue, and the other staff members of the section of Japanese Studies, Véronique Preuveneers of the department of Oriental Studies, Dr. Chris Coppens and Guido Cloet of the *tabularium* of the Central Library, all of the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, as well as Claude Detienne, librarian of the *Institut Orientaliste* of the Université catholique de Louvain.

To no one do the editors owe a greater debt than to David de Cooman, Japanologist, who devoted countless hours to checking dates and names, titles, spelling and grammar, and to bringing uniformity in the references and style.