



# **A Waka Anthology - Volume One: The Gem-Glistening Cup**

*Edwin A. Cranston*

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*The Gem-Glistening Cup* is the second volume of Edwin Cranston's monumental *Waka Anthology* which carries the story of *waka*, the classical tradition of Japanese poetry, from its beginnings in ancient song to the sixteenth century. The present volume, which contains almost 1,600 songs and poems, covers the period from the earliest times to 784, and includes many of the finest works in the literatures as well as providing evocative glimpses of the spirit and folkways of early Japanese civilization.

The texts drawn upon for the poems are the ancient chronicles *Kojiki*, *Nihonshoki*, and *Shoku Nihongi*; the *fudoki*, a set of eighth-century local gazetteers; *Man'yoshu*, the massive eighth-century compendium of early poetry (about one fourth of that work is included); and the *Bussokuseki* poems carved on a stone tablet at a temple in Nara. All poems are presented in facing romanization and translation.

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