

D. Additional Readings for Instructors and/or Students

Additional readings are marked according to the star* system:

*** Most important

** Recommended

*** Bai Juyi's "Song of the Lute," Burton Watson, trans and ed. *Columbia Book of Chinese Poetry: From Early Times to the Thirteenth Century*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1984.

This poem, written in 815, gives readers a fuller sense of women's status, with a lower-class character making marital and economic decisions that belie the dominant stereotype. It is a moving poem in a beautiful translation that also provides an insight into Bai Juyi's sympathetic attitudes toward women.

***Murasaki's "Akashi" chapter from *The Tale of Genji*. Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Trans. Royall Tyler. New York: Viking, 2001.

Alternate translation: Murasaki Shikibu. *The Tale of Genji*. Trans. Edward Seidensticker. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.

The "Akashi" chapter can be assigned along with the first chapter of *The Tale of Genji*, or it can stand by itself as an independent narrative. The "Akashi" chapter presents Genji as an ambiguous figure who is motivated by political and economic considerations as well as desire in his pursuit of women. Bai Juyi's "Song of the Lute" is referred to in this chapter by characters who use the poem to justify their actions. In an essay assignment or an open-book exam, ask students to compare uses of music in "Song of the Lute" and the "Akashi" chapter, or to compare Yang Guifei and Genji.

*** Mack, Maynard, ed. *The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1995.

The Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces, Expanded Edition includes excellent introductions and selections of Tang dynasty poetry including short poems by Bai Juyi, Du Fu and Li Bai. It includes the "Akashi" chapter from *The Tale of Genji* and others but not the first chapter. It also includes Zeami's Noh play *Haku Rakuten* about Bai Juyi's influence on Japanese poetry.

** Ebrey, Patricia Buckley. *Cambridge Illustrated History of China*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1999.

This is a good introductory secondary source on China by a respected contemporary historian. For an interdisciplinary course, the book's color art reproductions and maps are very useful and Ebrey provides an excellent overview.

** Varley, Paul. *Japanese Culture*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2000.

This is a good secondary text on Japan for students, by another respected contemporary historian. The book has the virtue of a good interdisciplinary approach that includes photographs of the Horyuji temple, for example. The text offers good background for students interested in Murasaki.