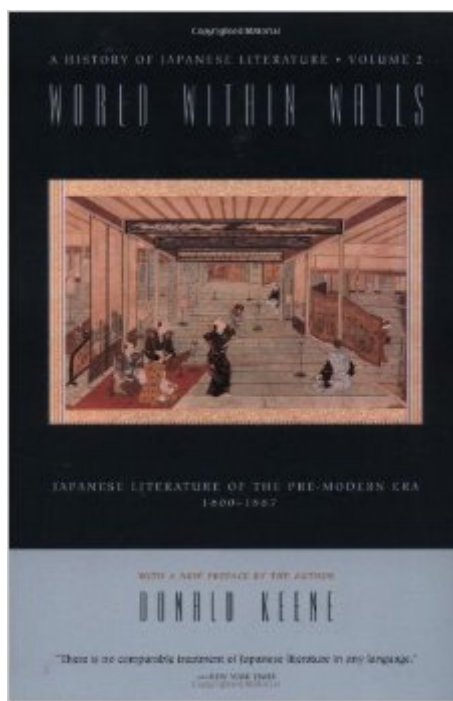


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# World Within Walls



## Synopsis

The Tokugawa family held the shogunate from 1603 to 1867, ruling Japan and keeping the island nation isolated from the rest of the world for more than 250 years. Donald Keene looks within the "walls" of isolation and meticulously chronicles the period's vast literary output, providing both lay readers and scholars with the definitive history of premodern Japanese literature. *World Within Walls* spans the age in which Japanese literature began to reach a popular audience—as opposed to the elite aristocratic readers to whom it had previously been confined. Keene comprehensively treats each of the new, popular genres that arose, including haiku, Kabuki, and the witty, urbane prose of the newly ascendant merchant class.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

At first, I didn't expect finish reading this book, because it seemed like a hard academic one for me. But actually I could. Since this book is basically consisted of compact biographies of Japanese poets and writers, it's not difficult to follow the story and easy to understand. Through English translation like the filter of a camera, Japanese poetry, Haiku and Waka, looked different to me. They're fresh and interesting. By the comparison of Romanized Japanese poems and their English translations, I enjoyed the new aspects of Haiku and Waka and could find some true meanings of them as well. Teitoku Matunaga (poet), Ryoji Asai (writer), Nanboku Turuya (dramatist), and Kageki Kagawa (poet) are particularly interesting to me. I'd like to continue my reading to understand them

more.

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