

## CONVENTIONS

### 1 *Dates*

Time in years is divided in Japan into eras of unpredictable length which begin and end suddenly in the middle of the calendar year. The Genroku era, for example, began on the 30th day of the ninth month of the year in Japan that corresponds to A.D.1688 and ended on the 13th day of the third month of the year that corresponds to 1704. Until 1872 various lunar calendrical systems were in use successively in Japan and in consequence dates do not correspond with those in use in the West at the time. Accordingly, the tenth year of the Genroku era corresponds roughly to the year 1697 in the West, but the first day of the first month of that year corresponds to 23 January 1697 in Europe, and the last day of the year corresponds to 10 February 1698. Nevertheless, I shall use 1697 to refer to that year in Japan, even though, for example, somebody born at the end of that year would, strictly speaking, have been born in 1698. When it has been necessary to refer to days and months as well, I have done so in the form 1697.5.17, meaning the 17th day of the fifth month of the tenth year of Genroku. The same is true of pre-modern dates applying to China and Korea.

Late in 1872 Japan adopted the Gregorian calendar and 1872.12.3 became 1 January 1873. Thereafter dates in Japan correspond exactly with those elsewhere and so they will be given here in the form '1 Jan. 1873'.

### 2 *Names*

As discussed in §6.1.1, many Japanese in the past have enjoyed a plethora of names and there is a sore need for an agreed standard. In this book I have consistently used the names in the form in which they appear in Nagasawa Kōzō 長沢孝三, *Kanbun gakusha sōran* 漢文学者総覧 (Kyūko Shoin, 1979), for sinologists, and in Kokugakuin

Daigaku Nihon bunka kenkyūsho 国学院大学日本文化研究所, ed., *Wagakusha sōran* 和学者総覧 (Kyūko Shoin, 1990), for scholars of Japanese studies. These two invaluable works, however, cover only the Tokugawa period and there are many individuals who do not fall under either of these rubrics. In the case of others I have turned to *Kotenseki sōgō mokuroku* or the new *Kokusho jinmei jiten* 国書人名辞典 (Iwanami Shoten, 1993–), or, in the case of the names of publishers, to the glossed list of publishers in *Genshoku ukiyoe daihyakka jiten* 原色浮世絵大百科事典, 11 vols (Taishūkan Shoten, 1980–82), 3: 135–44.

*Kanji* (Chinese characters) have been given on their first appearance for technical terms, and for personal names not easily accessible in standard works of reference, and for the titles of some books. The birth and death dates of people mentioned in the text have been given where I have thought it useful, but again only on the first appearance of a name in the text.

In the text, following the standard convention, persons with pennames are subsequently referred to by the penname, but those without pennames are referred to by their family name. Thus Kyokutei Bakin becomes Bakin, while Yashiro Hirokata becomes Yashiro.

### 3 Titles and terms

So as not to burden the text with more italics than there already are, I have where possible used English equivalents for titles. The English versions of Japanese officials and offices in the Tokugawa period are taken from Conrad Totman, *Politics in the Tokugawa Bakufu, 1600–1843* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1967). A few, notably shōgun and daimyō, have been left in Japanese, for they are now included in English dictionaries. I have not followed Totman in his translation of *machi-bugyō* as ‘city magistrate’ and have used instead ‘city commissioner’: *bugyō* was the title of many senior officers in the Bakufu’s administrative apparatus and in many of these no judicial functions were involved, so it is misleading to use the word ‘magistrate’.

The use of certain Japanese terms and suffixes is unavoidable. The names of temples, which almost always end with the suffix *-ji*, are

left as they are, so Kan'eiji means the 'Kan'ei temple'. The names of literary genres, printing terminology and so on are explained on their first occurrence and in the glossary. A table of the historical periods in Chinese, Japanese and Korean history follows these remarks.

#### 4 *Footnotes and cross references*

The footnotes take the form of bare references. Items referred to in more than one section are given in abbreviated form (eg, Mori 1933) with the relevant page numbers, and full details are contained in the main bibliography at the end of the book. Items referred to once are not contained in the main bibliography. At the end of each section is a short bibliography of the most important relevant work: items also referred to elsewhere appear in the usual abbreviated form, while other items appear with full details; in the case of Japanese authors, characters are only given for those whose names do not appear in the main bibliography. The abbreviations used in the notes are listed at the end of the book before the bibliography, with details of the books, journals or series to which they refer. Cross references in the text to other parts of the book are given in the form '§9.1.2', which means 'see chapter 9, section 1, subsection 2'.