

FIRST PUBLICATION OF WORLD-CLASS WORKS IN FULL-SCALE AND FULL COLOR

# THE TOYO BUNKO FINE BOOKS SERIES

## 東洋文庫善本叢書

Supervision

THE TOYO BUNKO  
THE ORIENTAL LIBRARY

Bibliography

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BENSEI PUBLISHING COMPANY



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## Preface

Shiba Yoshinobu  
Director, The Toyo Bunko

東洋文庫長 斯波義信

It has been 90 years since The Toyo Bunko was established by Mr. Hisaya Iwasaki as a library with foundational literature and resources and a research institute dedicated to the study of Asian history and culture.

As a research library, we strive to disseminate our collection widely to the public, and, in 2011, we opened a museum in a new building as part of this effort.

It is our great pleasure to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Toyo Bunko with the publication of the *The Toyo Bunko Fine Books Series* in collaboration with Bensei Publishing Company Ltd., fulfilling the wishes of Mr. George Ernest Morrison and Mr. Hisaya Iwasaki.

## Commendations

### A WORLD-CLASS COLLECTION OF THE TOYO BUNKO

Ikeda On  
Tokyo University Professor Emeritus

東京大学名誉教授 池田温

I am happy to know that outstanding works from The Toyo Bunko are to be reproduced as a series. Upon seeing sample copies in full scale and full color, I can appreciate the remarkable details that are so faithful to the originals.

The works of classical Chinese writing and Buddhist literature include important classical books that have been given Japanese guiding marks from 8<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century in Japan and would be invaluable for research. The Western works include rare books published and used by Christian missionaries who came to Japan during the end of 16<sup>th</sup> century, and are published here in their entirety for the first time. The valuable comments of the three experts in the field are well worth reading. I am confident that the publication of this series will contribute to the recognition of the cultural significance of The Toyo Bunko.

### THE SERIES ENABLES US TO PERUSE NATIONAL TREASURES

Kida Akiyoshi  
Kyoto University Professor

京都大学教授 木田章義

Japan has many of the existing manuscripts written during the Tang period, and this series not only shows them in their original text, but also the paper quality and brush strokes. With its detailed full color reproduction, this series allows us to study the paper quality and ink colors as well as brush strokes. One of the key features of this series is its unique value as rich research material as well as a work of art, as the closest to the originals which are impossible to study firsthand.



## CLASSICAL BOOKS WITH HISTORICAL VALUE KEPT IN JAPAN

**Yuyama Kenichi**

Nara National Museum Director General

奈良国立博物館館長 湯山賢一

Chinese classics have been the academic foundation of Japan, and therefore classical Chinese books have been treated with great care.

Many old books were lost in revolutions and wars in China, and classical Chinese manuscripts from the Tang period lost their value due to improvements in printing techniques after the Song period.

On the other hand, old manuscripts and books from China have been well preserved in Japan, including those lost in China.

This series will give us an opportunity to recognize once again the value of classical Chinese writings.

## A SERIES COMPARABLE TO THE DUNHUANG MANUSCRIPTS

**Kamitaka Tokuharu**

Meiji University Professor

明治大学教授 神鷹徳治

Most of the books of classical Chinese writings in The Toyo Bunko Fine Books Series are manuscripts historically handed down in Japan.

The original text of these manuscripts comes from texts used in Chang'an during the Tang period.

These are either texts written during the Tang period or manuscripts obtained from the Tang Dynasty by Japanese envoys and priests to the Tang Dynasty.

Many of the manuscripts from the Tang period were lost when publishing techniques developed during the Song period.

This series is a valuable resource that allows us to examine books from the Tang period, which may correct errors in texts published during the Song period.

## Features

Full-scale, full color reproduction of the 16 most valuable classical works (including 5 National Treasures and 6 Important Cultural Assets) from The Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library), an internationally renowned institute for Asian studies.

The very first reproduction of the entire series in full-scale and full color, including a number of previously unrevealed works. Expected to serve as a valuable research resource.

High-quality photograph and printing allowed reproduction of fine details of the original pieces, including brush strokes, marking, guiding marks and article on the back of paper.

Includes bibliography by experts in Japanese classical manuscripts : Harumichi Ishizuka (Hokkaido University professor emeritus), Sadatsugu Kosukegawa (Toyama University professor), Masayuki Toyoshima (Sophia University professor), and Yoshimitsu Aitani (Manager, The Toyo Bunko Library Unit). Their comments provide new insights and define the historical and cultural value of the works.