

The Purpose of the NARA MAN'YO Prize

The *Man'yo-shu* is an anthology of poetry which originated in present-day Nara Prefecture in the 8th century. The poems comprising the anthology are deeply rooted in the local and historical background of ancient Japan. However, they convey the international mindset of the ancient people of that area, who accepted the latest cultures from China and other parts of the world. Though more than 1,300 years have passed since its compilation, the poems of the *Man'yo-shu* continue to touch peoples' hearts, regardless of their nationality. The anthology is thus rightly considered one of the world's great cultural assets, and the Japanese people take great pride in it.

In 2001, the Nara prefectural government founded the Nara Prefecture Complex of Man'yo Culture, with the goal of creating a comprehensive center for ancient culture centered on the *Man'yo-shu*. As Nara is said to be the home of the *Man'yo-shu*, it is a suitable place for the Complex. The Nara prefecture Complex of Man'yo Culture has begun a series of "Man'yo and Ancient Studies," which are comprehensive historical studies centering on the

Man'yo-shu. These studies have been carried out both in interdisciplinary terms and in international ways.

In recognition of the Complex as an international center for research and the promotion of the *Man'yo-shu*, the "NARA MAN'YO Prize" has been created. In awarding it, we will honor a person who has made outstanding achievements in contributing to the study of the *Man'yo-shu* or cultural or historical aspects of the period of the anthology, or has promoted international understanding and recognition of the anthology.

It is our hope that the establishment of the prize will awaken enthusiasm in studies of the *Man'yo-shu* and themes related to it. This will cast a spotlight on a hitherto unknown aspect of Japanese culture, and may pave the way for the development of a new culture. Also, it is our desire that the exchange between different cultures brought about by the study of the *Man'yo-shu* will in some way be related to the realization of world peace in the 21st century.

(Aug.2006)

創設趣旨

『万葉集』は8世紀に奈良の地で生まれ、日本人の心の源流といわれています。その歌々は日本の古代性、地域性に根ざしながらも、当時の中国をはじめとする最先端の外来文化を受容した国際性豊かな心を今に伝えてきました。そして、1300年以上の時を越え、私たち日本人のみならず、世界の人々の心にも訴えるものをもつ世界に誇り得る文化遺産といえましょう。

奈良県では、2001年、「万葉のふるさと・奈良」にふさわしい文化施設として、万葉集を中心とした古代文化に関する総合文化拠点「奈良県立万葉文化館」を開設いたしました。万葉文化館では、万葉集を中心に据えた総合的古代学である「万葉古代学」を提唱し、学際的・国際的な研究を推進して参りました。

このたび、さらに世界的な研究・発信の拠点となることを目指して、「NARA万葉世界賞」を新たに創設し、万葉集及び万葉集に関する古代文化研究や万葉文化の国際的な展開・普及に、顕著な業績・功績をあげられた方を広く世界から求め、顕彰することといたしました。

本賞の創設が万葉古代学研究等の熱意を呼び起こし、日本文化の再発見と新たな文化創造に少なからず貢献できるとともに、21世紀の新たな文化交流によって、世界平和への実現にもつながることを期待してやみません。

(2006年8月)



奈良県立万葉文化館

Nara Prefecture Complex of Man'yo Culture

A New Type of Museum Dedicated to the *Man'yo-shu*

On display are 154 Nihonga (Japanese-style Paintings) related to *Man'yo* poetry, produced by leading artists of today to present a visual expression of *Man'yo*. In order to give people a better understanding about the daily lives of people who lived around the time the *Man'yo-shu* was edited, the museum also includes figures, images, music and georama depicting the 8th Century. From the moment you step inside you will be enveloped by the world of *Man'yo*. This is a new type of cultural facility combines that an art gallery with a museum.



『万葉集』をテーマにした新しいタイプのミュージアム

現代日本画壇を代表する画家が万葉歌をモチーフに描いた、創作日本画154点が万葉の息吹を伝えます。また、万葉の時代の生活や暮らしぶりを、人形や映像、ジオラマ、音楽などさまざまな手法を用いてわかりやすく展示。館内に入った瞬間から、万葉の世界が体感できます。美術館、博物館の両機能を兼ね備えた、新しいタイプの複合文化施設です。