

与謝野晶子 (1878 – 1942)



明治 11 (1878) 年、堺の甲斐町に、和菓子で有名な駿河屋の三女として誕生し、明治・大正・昭和を短歌とともに生きた与謝野晶子。

「情熱の歌人」と呼ばれた晶子は、近代文学史上屈指の女性であるとともに、与謝野鉄幹（寛）の妻であり、11 人の子どもたちの母でもあった。

明治 34 (1901) 年に出版された『みだれ髪』は、鉄幹へのあふれる愛と青春のみずみずしさを歌いあげ、若い世代の圧倒的な支持を得て浪漫主義の代表作となった。

また、生涯を通して『源氏物語』をはじめとする古典文学に傾倒し、その現代語訳に情熱を注ぐ一方、女性の権利に焦点をあてた評論も多く著し、女性教育の向上をめざし積極的な役割を果たした。

幅広い分野に次々と挑戦し女性の自由と自立を求めて力強く生涯を送った晶子の魅力は尽きることがない。

YOSANO AKIKO (1878 – 1942)

Born into the famous Surugaya Confectionery family in Kaino-cho, Sakai, in 1878, she was a composer of tanka (thirty-one-syllable verse) through the three eras of Meiji, Taisho and Showa.

Dubbed the “Poetess of Passion”, she was one of the leading figures in the history of modern literature, the wife of Yosano Tekkan, who was also a writer, and the mother of 11 children.

Her “Midare-gami”, published in 1901, which sang the praises of her boundless love for her husband and the fresh feelings of youth, was highly popular among the younger generation and is considered a masterpiece of Romanticism.

A devoted student of ancient literature, she dedicated herself throughout her life to translating such classics as the Genji Monogatari (Tale of Genji) into modern Japanese.

She also wrote countless essays on the rights of women and played an active role in advancing women's education.

The accomplishments of Yosano Akiko, a pioneer in the struggle for the liberation of women and a fearless activist in a wide variety of fields, seem endless.