Introduction of “Hakubo-shu” Copied by Fujiwara Teika,
Kept in the National Museum of Japanese History

TANAKA MINORU  FURUSE NATSUKO

This book in question is an old copy of a private collection of waka-poems composed by the poetess mother of the prince Yasusuke in the Heian period around the eleventh century. Her son, the prince Yasusuke who died in Kanji 4 in 1090, served as Jingi-haku and her mother was accordingly referred to as Hakubo or the mother of haku. Hakubo was a daughter between Takashina Narinobu, the Lord of Chikuzen, and Ise-no-tayu, a famous poetess. Hakubo served for Fujiwara Hiroko, who was a daughter of Fujiwara Yorimichi as well as the empress of the emperor Go-reizei, later married the prince Nagano, Jingihaku, and gave birth to the prince Yasusuke. Thirty-nine waka-poems of hers were adopted for inclusion in the official collection of selected waka-poems. Nine of them were included in the “Go-shui-wakashu.”

This book is in a near-square form measuring 16.9 cm in length and 15.3 cm in width, consisting of 36 pages, some of them marbleized, bound in a Teccho style. In the center of the front cover are “Haku-bo-shu” written in dark calligraphy and in a subsequent position “Yasu-suke-o” in lighter calligraphy, both of which are in the same handwriting identified as Fujiwara Teika’s. Most of the handwriting in the other pages also clearly shows the characteristics of Fujiwara Teika’s.

There are two groups of copies of Hakubo-shu handed down to this day: one is a group of popular editions such as one kept in the Ryukoku university or one contained in the Gunsho-ruiju, and the other is a group of copies missing the last six poems such as one made by Keichu and kept in Dai-tokyu Memorial Library or one kept in the library of the Imperial Household Agency. This book misses the last six poems and belongs to the latter group. The postscript to the copy made by Keichu says that it was copied from a copy made by Mototoki who had copied from a copy made by Teika. This book is the very copy of Teika’s.

No other copies of Hakubo-shu are known to date back before the Edo period. This copy, which is in a good state of preservation, made by Fujiwara Teika who represented one of the most important waka-poets in the middle ages, dates back to the early years of the Kamakura period, and is not only a historical asset but also a
literary asset that may be useful for Japanese literary studies.

The entire book will be introduced here in pictures as well as in a rewritten version with footnotes of necessary corrections by reference to the Kokka Taikan.