

# Conventions

JAPANESE IS TRANSCRIBED using a modified Hepburn system. Chinese names, terms, and titles are given in pinyin. Japanese and Chinese terms are generally written in lowercase letters. Only names and titles, including the titles of *shōmyō* pieces, are capitalized. Terms indicating a genre of liturgical texts, such as *hōon kōshiki* or *shikimon*, are not capitalized.

The romanization of premodern Japanese remains a question of critical debate. This is especially so in a work on *kōshiki*, because “traditional” readings, on the one hand, are preserved in liturgical texts and, on the other, the pronunciation of certain words differs according to the school or lineage. In my translations, I follow the reading indicated in the ritual handbooks, or, if no pronunciation is given, I provide the contemporary reading.

I observe the Japanese custom of giving surnames first, followed by given names.

For dates until Meiji 5 (1872), I provide the reign name and year followed by the corresponding year in the Gregorian calendar in parentheses. If applicable, it is followed by the month and day in the lunar calendar. On January 1, 1873, the Japanese government switched to using the Gregorian calendar. Therefore, for dates from 1873 onward, I only indicate the Gregorian calendar year.

