Rebecca Copeland, professor of Japanese literature at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, received her Ph.D. in Japanese Literature from Columbia University in 1986. Her published works include The Modern Murasaki: Writing by Women of Meiji Japan (2006), co-edited with Dr. Melek Ortabasi; Woman Critiqued: Translated Essays on Japanese Women’s Writing (2006); The Father-Daughter Plot: Japanese Literary Women and the Law of the Father (2001), co-edited with Dr. Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen; Lost Leaves: Women Writers of Meiji Japan (2000); and The Sound of the Wind: The Life and Works of Uno Chiyo (1992). A fan of Natsuo Kirino, she translated her 2003 novel Grotesque in 2007 (Knopf), and was delighted to have the opportunity to translate The Goddess Chronicle. She has also translated the works of Uno Chiyo, Hirabayashi Taiko, and others.

JULIET WINTERS CARPENTER, a long-time resident of Japan, is the award-winning translator of more than fifty Japanese works of fiction and poetry by authors such as Kobo Abe, Fumiko Enchi, Machi Tawara, and Ryotaro Shiba. Her translation of Abe Kobo’s novel Mikkai, “Secret Rendezvous,” is the recipient of the 1980 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and a professor at Doshisha Women’s College of Liberal Arts in Kyoto. She is also a member of the Kyoto City Philharmonic Chorus, which will perform Verdi’s Requiem this June to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.