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Brief History of *Setsuwa* Translations and Research in Russia

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The aim of this article is to outline the history of translations and study of Japanese literary literature in Russia. The first timid steps in this genre were made in Soviet Japanology only by 1970s, whereas in European Japanology full or partial translations of *Setsuwa* story-books has already been existed. The article in chronological order highlights the main stages of the study, translations and popularization of Japanese literature by Russian Japanologists in Soviet period and nowadays.

The *Setsuwa* literature started to pave its way in the Soviet and Russian Japanese studies quite late – by 1970s only; earlier, the largest works of the genre were mentioned in research works by literary critics only fragmentarily. Through all that time, attention of Soviet Japanese studies was centered on translations of classical Japanese literature. Active work in the field of translations of the Japanese classics began in the 1960s, when it was considered necessary to fill the gaps in Soviet Japanese and general studies, in general. Japan was known to Russian readers through travel diaries, collections of fairy tales, essays on the history and culture of Japan. Now, in the context of fascination with Japanese culture in the West – Japonism – Russian reader has become actively acquainted with Japanese literature. During that period, fragmentary translations of written sources of antiquity were carried out, which were in demand for general survey of the literary heritage of Japan. At first, the attention of translators was drawn by right to *Kojiki*, *Ise Monogatari*, *Taketori Monogatari*, and *Tosa Nikki*. They took a special place in those translations and publications: one after another collections of poems and essays were issued.

In the mid-1930s, more clearly outlined specialization was manifested in the Soviet Japanese studies. Economic geography (in the works by K. M. Popov and others) and history were distinguished from geography. A book on the history of Japan from the 19th century to the recent times by Eugeniy Zhukov became a milestone in the Marxist study of the history of Japan. Philology was divided into independent disciplines: language and literary studies. Theoretical grammar works were written (Nikolai Konrad, Eugeny Kolpakchi, Eugeniy Polivanov, Aleksander Kholodovich). Japanese scholars began to study the history of Japanese literature, to translate classical works, as well as