

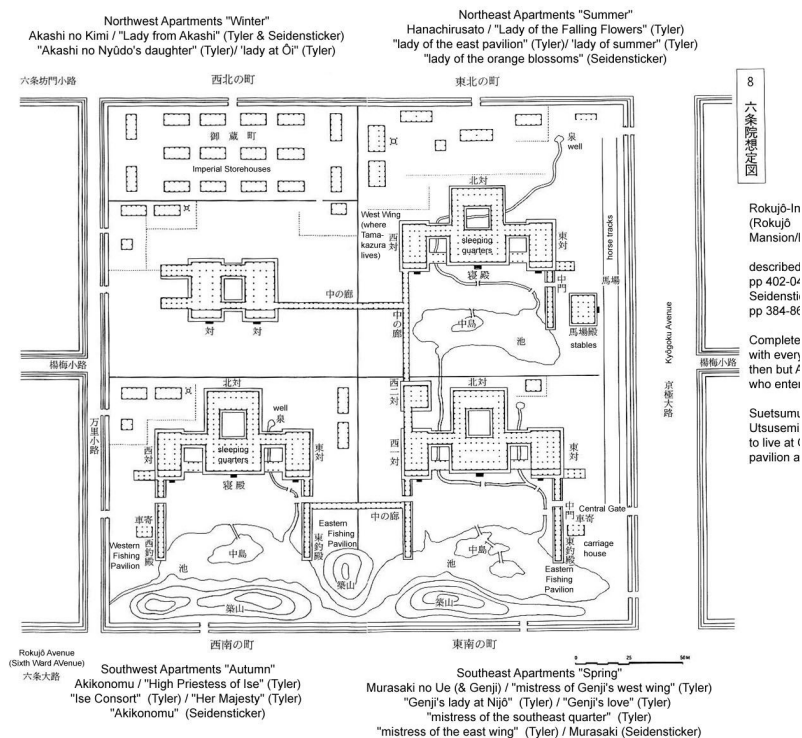
AKIKONOMU

Akikonomu chūgū (秋好中宮) "Autumn-Loving First Consort"

This name is given to her late in the work. I think it is better to think of it less as a metaphor for a sad personality as it is an indication of her discerning excellent aesthetic sensibilities. ... Maybe.

Brief description:

She is the daughter of Rokujō whom Genji cares for once Rokujō dies (and towards which he also has romantic interests). She was the priestess of the Ise Shrine while her mother lived, is later installed in Genji's grand Rokujō Estate and eventually becomes an imperial consort to (Retired) Emperor Reizei (Genji's secret son).



Names used in translations

- Seidensticker uses "Akikonomu" Washburn uses "Umetsubo Consort"
- In Chapters 9, 10, 14, Tyler uses: High Priestess of Ise
- In Chapter 16, Tyler uses: Her Highness, the former Ise Priestess, the Ise Consort
- In Chapter 19, Tyler uses: the Ise Consort
- In Chapter 21, Tyler uses: the Ise Consort, Her Majesty
- In Chapters 24, 28, 32, 34, 35, 36, 38, 40, 42, Tyler uses: Her Majesty

Mentions in the work ...

Mentioned in about 46 sections across 19 chapters beginning with Chapter 9. She is most frequently mentioned in chapters 9, 14 and 17 but sporadically elsewhere. She appears a few chapters into the "Uji chapters" (final third of the work), but disappears early in that section, unlike some other women.

ASAGAO

Asagao no himegimi (朝顔の姫君) "Mistress Asagao" or "The Asagao Princess"

Her name comes from a poem exchange with Genji. However, most of the time she is treated as someone of high status and royalty. Only the highest ranked women could be considered for either priestess positions of Ise and Kamo, for example.

Brief description:

A very high-ranking woman, daughter of a prince (one of Emperor Kiritsubo's brothers). One of the few women to reject Genji (regardless of how she might privately feel about him).

Names used in the translations:

- Seidensticker uses "Asagao" "Princess Asagao" "High Priestess of Kamo", Washburn uses "Asagao" and "Princess Asagao" "Kamo Princess" "Former Kamo Princess"
- In Chapter 2, Tyler uses: Daughter of His Highness of Ceremonial
- In Chapter 9, Tyler uses: the lady of the bluebells, Her Highness
- In Chapter 10, Tyler uses: the lady of the bluebells, the High Priestess of the Kamo Shrine
- In Chapters 20, 21, 32, Tyler uses: Her Highness, the Former Kamo Priestess

Mentions in the work ...

Mentioned in about 20 sections, which is very few, actually, across 7 chapters. She should be considered a secondary character in the story.

TAMAKAZURA

Tamakazura (玉鬘) "Bejeweled Headdress"

It is not wise to imagine any specific headdress for which this woman is named. The illustration is a recreation of a headdress found in the Fujinoki Tomb which dates from the sixth or seventh century. "Tama" means "jewels" and "kazura" means headdress but Tyler's "wreath" and Washburn's "garland" are reasonable and "hair ornament" is also possible. Regardless of the specific object, this is an unusual name.

Brief description

Tamakazura is the daughter of Tō no Chūjō and Yūgao. Especially beautiful and chased by many (including Genji himself) she will eventually marry the uninspiring, even if high-ranking "Blackbeard" (Higekuro 鬚黒), who already has a primary wife. They will beget, I believe, three sons and two daughters. Both daughters will become consorts to emperors. (It is a remarkable trajectory: Yūgao to Tamakazura to daughters who are imperial concubines.) She is first mentioned in the "rainy night" discussion as disappearing together with her mother. Raised by her nurse in the western part of the city; left for Kyūshū with the nurse's husband, at age 4. Before he dies he asks that his sons take her back to the Capital. Genji discovers her, adopts her, and keeps this a secret from her real father Tō no Chūjō.



奈良・藤ノ木古墳出土の復元

Names used in the translations:

- Seidensticker and Washburn use "Tamakazura"
- In Chapter 4, Tyler uses: the pink (because she is called "Nadeshiko" in the original, the name of a flower that we call, in English, "pink")
- In Chapter 22, Tyler uses: the young lady
- In Chapters 23–29, Tyler uses: the (young) lady in the west wing
- In Chapter 30, Tyler uses: the lady
- In Chapters 31, 34, 35, 44, Tyler uses: the Mistress of Staff

Mentions in the work ...

Mentioned in about 88 sections (an enormous number) across 17 chapters beginning with Chapter 2 and ending nearly at the end of the narrative in Chapter 52. She has a string of ten chapters devoted particularly to her that are now seen as a subset in the larger *Tale of Genji* and are called "the Tamakazura chapters". These are chapters 22-31.