# Four Translations from the Japanese

By Graeme Wilson

## Woman

That girl I took into an empty house And loved a fortnight there Is now grown up. Like other women, Demure and debonair, She glories in the glossiness Of once dishevelled hair.

Anonymous (6th century) Manyoshu No. 3822

## Wife

Though all night long you sat and span Whole bucketfuls of thread, You'd still not have, so help me God, Before this night has fled Sufficient cloth to clothe a cat. So why not come to bed?

Anonymous (6th century) Manyoshu No. 3484

### Pillow Talk

O yes, she says, we're married: Very much so, says she Wedging the bedclothes under her hip, Turning her back on me.

> Anonymous (6th century) Manyoshu No. 3543

### Remembrance

On winter evenings when the mist hangs low Over the reed-beds and the reeds look blue And chill, chill, chill

the wild ducks call each other, I shall remember you.

Anonymous (6th century) Manyoshu No. 3570