

Shimane Prefecture is located to the west of Tottori Prefecture. Manyo poets Kakinomoto no Hitomaro and Kadobe no Ōkimi were respectively assigned to Iwami Province (presently the western part of Shimane Prefecture) and Izumo Country (currently the eastern part of Shimane Prefecture) as local government officials. Both of them left many poems.



柿本人麿
Kakinomoto no Hitomaro

It is said that Kakinomoto no Hitomaro was assigned as a local government official of Iwami Province early in the 700s. However, there are not many records about him, and specific details about his life are unknown.

He was a poet during the Asuka period (538 - 710), and he opened a new world of poetry in all aspects. It is said that he is one of the poets who stood at the pinnacle of Manyo poetry from the viewpoint of the number and quality of his poems. The contents of his poems are diverse, and the Manyoshu includes poems of his that mourn the devastated capital city, those related to the princes and princesses, as well as poems about his wife.

Of the many poems he left, one representative work is entitled *Iwami Somonka*, in which some the names of locations around Gotsu area appear.



門部王
Kadobe no Ōkimi

Kadobe no Ōkimi was a member of the royal family in the Nara period (the 8th century) and is said to have been Emperor Tenmu's great-grandson. It is believed that he was Governor of Izumo Province from 720 through 733.

He was a poet attuned to the human condition, and his poem entitled "A Poem of the Lord of Izumo Thinking of the Capital City" appears in the Manyoshu. The poem reads *Ounoumino kawaranochildori naganakeba wagasahogawano omohoyurakuni (Hearing a plover's song on the beach of the Sea of Ou, I cannot help but remember the Saho River in my hometown)*. The Sea of Ou refers to Nakaumi, a brackish lake located between Tottori and Shimane Prefectures. The Saho River flows through the capital of Nara. It is a poem that describes nostalgia and longing he felt for the distant capital city when he heard a plover sing by the Iu River, which flowed to Nakaumi. The Saho River is well known for the residence of Ōtomo no Yakamochi's grandfather Ōtomo no Yasumaro. Yakamochi once lived in this house as well. The area from the right bank of the Saho River to Mt. Saho to the north of the Saho River was called Sahonouchi, and it was a residential area for noble people. It is said that Kadobe no Ōkimi's residence was located nearby.

◆Manyo Poet Chronology

	AD	Era	Related event
Asuka period	660	Empress Saimei 6th year	Birth of Yamanoue no Okura (estimated).
	684	Emperor Tenmu 13th year	Kakinomoto no Hitomaro changes his family name to Asomi.
	Around 700		(Circa) Assignment of Kakinomoto no Hitomaro to Iwami Province as local government official.
	701	Taiho 1st year	Enactment of the Taiho Code
	702	2nd year	Yamanoue no Okura (43) joins a Japanese mission and visits Tang China
Nara period	704	Keiun 1st year	Yamanoue no Okura (45) returns to Japan
	708	Wado 1st year	Kakinomoto no Hitomaro dies in Iwami (estimated).
	710	Wado 3rd year	Relocation of Imperial Capital to Heijokyo (Nara)
	716	Reiki 2nd year	Yamanoue no Okura (57) becomes Governor of Houki Province
	718	Yoro 2nd year	Birth of Ōtomo no Yakamochi.
	719	3rd year	Kadobe no Ōkimi serves as Governor of Ise Province as well as traveling inspector of the provincial governments. Kadobe no Ōkimi serves as Governor of Izumo Province.
	720 - 733 (Undetermined)	Yoro 4th year - Tenpyo 5th year	
	724	Jinki 1st year	Enthronement of Emperor Shomu
	726	3rd year	Yamanoue no Okura (67) becomes Governor of Chikuzen Province.
	728	5th year	Ōtomo no Tabito (Ōtomo no Yakamochi's father) is transferred to Dazaifu as a director (Yakamochi is 11 years old)
Heian period	730	Tenpyo 2nd year	Yamanoue no Okura (71) attends the poetic garden gathering. Reiwa, the current era of Japan, is devised from a headnote in several poems written at the event.
	731	3rd year	Death of Ōtomo no Tabito (Ōtomo no Yakamochi's father) (Yakamochi is 14 years old).
	733	5th year	Death of Yamanoue no Okura (74).
	745	17th year	Death of Kadobe no Ōkimi.
	746	18th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi is appointed Governor of Echū Province. Death of Fumimochi (Yakamochi is 29 years old), Yakamochi's younger brother.
	751	Tenpyo-shoho 3rd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (34) becomes Shonagon (lesser counselor of state).
	758	Tenpyo-hoji 2nd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (41) becomes Governor of Inaba Province.
	759	3rd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (42) authors a poem for the New Year's greetings at the Inaba Kokucho.
	764	8th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (47) becomes Governor of Satsuma Province.
	767	Jingo-keiun 1st year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (50) becomes Dazai no Shoni (undersecretary).
	774	Houki 5th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (57) becomes Governor of Sagami Province.
	776	7th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (59) becomes Governor of Ise Province.
	780	11th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (63) becomes a council member and serves as Udaiben (Major Controller of the Right).
	783	Enryaku 2nd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (66) becomes a medium-ranked councilor in the Department of State.
	784	3rd year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi (67) becomes Commander in Chief of the Army.
785	4th year	Death of Ōtomo no Yakamochi (68).	
Heian period	794	13th year	Relocation of Imperial Capital to Heiankyo (Kyoto)
	806	25th year	Ōtomo no Yakamochi is posthumously restored to his last position.

The Manyoshu mainly contains poems written during the Manyo period (130 years) between the Asuka period (530 - 710) and the Nara period (710 - 794). The poems are categorized into four periods: early Manyo, Hakuho Manyo, Heijo Manyo, and Tenpyo Manyo. Poems dating to the early Manyo period are easygoing and straightforward. Those from the Hakuho Manyo period are powerful, while the works of the Heijo Manyo period are characterized by individuality. The poems of the Tenpyo Manyo period are delicate and ideological. Kakinomoto no Hitomaro, Ōtomo no Tabito, Yamanoue no Okura, and Ōtomo no Yakamochi are typical Hakuho Manyo, Heijo Manyo, and Tenpyo Manyo poets, respectively.