TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION XI

PART I
FREDERICK II, SAGA AND UDA 1
   Law reforms with Frederick II and Saga 6
   The state academy 9
   The private relationship between ruler and officials, and the shōden system in Japan 15
   The monjō hakase and the poetic banquets 17
   Frederick II’s individualistic administration 20
   Conclusions 22

PART II
COURT AND CULTURE 23
   Emperors as centers of the court, courts as centers of culture 23
   Latin and Chinese as languages of culture and bureaucracy 27
   The prestige of high language 30
   Imperial power and Literature: the theory 33
   Some preliminary conclusions 41
   Imperial power and Literature: the texts 44
   The role of literature in pre-modern courts 54
   Utility of poetry: the problem 57
   Utility of poetry: a possible solution 60
   Conclusions 63

PART III
COURT AND VERNACULAR 67
   The Kokinwakashū and the Sicilian School of poetry: similarities and differences 67
   The path to the Kokinshū 69
   The shaping of the Sicilian School 72
   The composition of the poetic community 75
   The birth of the vernacular canon 88

PART IV
FORMALIZATION, TRANSLATION, EXCLUSION 133
   Formalization in the Sicilian School 136
Formalization in the Kokinshū 146
Rhetoric as self-determination of the poetic community 159
Conclusions 164
Appendix - The exclusion of politics 166

PART V
A NEW CONCEPT OF LOVE 179
The love poetry of the troubadours 185
Love and marriage at the Heian court 189
Attempting a comparison from the social point of view 191
Love in the Kokinshū and in the Sicilian School of poetry 196
From the troubadours to the Sicilians 197
From the Man’yōshū to the Kokinshū 206
The Kokinshū and the Sicilians, a direct comparison 216

CONCLUSIONS 241

REFERENCES 247

INDEX 257