

About the Authors

Author and editor of numerous publications on Japanese folklore, *Hiroyuki Araki*, now retired and living in Hiroshima, has most recently presided over the edition of *A Series of Folk Narratives of the World* (16 vols, Miyai-shoten, 1975-89) and *Märchen of the World* (28 vols., Komine-shoten, 1982-90).

Alla Astakhova, a specialist in Russian folklore, is a member of the Philological Faculty at Moscow State University.

Mary Putney Coote, who teaches at San Francisco Theological Seminary, works in South Slavic and has a particular interest in women's songs. Her publications include articles in *California Slavic Studies*, the *Journal of American Folklore*, and the Oinas collection on *Heroic Epic and Saga*.

Sioned Davies is a medievalist at the University of Wales in Cardiff. She has written extensively on physical appearance, the formula, and orality-literacy issues in the *Mabinogi* and other works, and recently published *Pedeir Keinc y Mabinogi—The Four Branches of the Mabinogi* (Gomer, 1992).

Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the State University of New York at Binghamton, *Marilynn Desmond* specializes in medieval studies. Her *Reading Dido: Gender, Textuality, and the Aeneid in the Middle Ages* (Pennsylvania) will be published in 1993.

Mark W. Edwards, Professor Emeritus of Classics at Stanford University, has authored a multitude of fundamental studies of the Homeric poems. In addition to articles on traditional structures in *Harvard Studies in Classical Philology* and *Transactions of the American Philological Association*, he has recently published *Homer: Poet of the Iliad* (Hopkins, 1987) and the fifth volume of the Cambridge *Iliad* commentary.

Equally conversant with modern British and his native South Slavic literature, *Svetozar Koljević* is Professor at the University of Sarajevo. His study *The Epic in the Making* (Oxford, 1980) provides the best English-language guide to the literary history of the South Slavic epic.

Emmanuel Obiechina teaches African literature at the University of Pittsburgh-Bradford. Among his numerous publications are *Culture, Tradition, and Society in the West African Novel* (Cambridge, 1978) and *Language and Theme: Essays on African Literature* (Howard, 1990).