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Cover: A scene from *Tamamo-no-Mae* a story from *Otogi Zoshi* (folk tale books), which is held in the Kyoto University Library.

From the 14th to the 17th century, illustrated short story collections called *Otogi Zoshi* were popular among the general populace in Japan. Some of the stories remain well-known to this day.

Set some 850 years ago, it is the story of a court lady at the palace of the ex-emperor Toba named Tamamo-no-Mae, who was both incomparably beautiful and extremely learned. In reality, however, she was a several hundred-year-old fox spirit who had assumed human form.

She caused the ex-emperor to fall ill, and was eventually exposed as a fox spirit by an *onmyoji* (a master of astrology and divination), and subsequently killed. This well-loved story in Japan has been depicted in noh and kabuki theatre, traditional woodblock prints, and, more recently, in video games.

This book is among the many rare books and other materials that can be accessed via Kyoto University rare Materials Digital Archive.