

## **Eras Journal - Sara Sumpter**

### **Abstract of "The Shōkyū version of the *Kitano Tenjin engi emaki*: A brief introduction to its content and function"**

This article examines the political and social atmosphere surrounding the production of the thirteenth-century hand scroll *Kitano Tenjin engi emaki* (Illustrated Legends of the Kitano Shrine), which depicts the life, death, and posthumous revenge of the ninth-century courtier Sugawara no Michizane.

The article combines an analysis of the content and religious iconography of the scroll, a study of early Japanese beliefs in angry spirits of the dead, and a narration of the actual life of Michizane in an attempt to produce a sketch of the rituals and superstitions of Heian and early Kamakura period Japanese society, and to suggest possible functions of the handscroll that complement them.