Note on Japanese Names

Japanese names throughout the book, except those of Japanese-Americans, are written in Japanese order—surname first—the style Japanologists have adopted in their studies in English. In Karatani Kōjin, for example, Karatani is his family name, and Kōjin his given (or “first”) name. Even when the writer adopts a sobriquet, this order is followed. To complicate things, however, writers are known in Japan sometimes by their surname and sometimes by their “given” name. Natsume Sōseki (Natsume Kinnosuke), for instance, is usually known as Sōseki, not as Natsume, whereas a more recent writer like Mishima Yukio (Hiraoka Kimitake or Kōi) is known as Mishima. It seems that as a writer comes to be accepted into the “great tradition” (usually a while after his death), he comes to be known more by his given name than his surname. This book follows the current usage in this regard.