South Australian Henry James Black (1858-1923), also known as Kairakutei Black, was the son of John Reddie Black (1826-1880), a Scottish publisher and singer. In 1854 John Reddie moved to Adelaide, where Henry was born. When the elder Black’s business ventures failed he embarked on a singing career, touring Australia, India, China, and finally Japan, where he decided to live for a few more years. Henry lived in Japan from the age of three, later working as an English teacher. He picked up Japanese quickly and began appearing on stage telling entertaining stories. His audience was astounded to see a foreigner fluent enough in Japanese to make them laugh. He published some of his stories (known as ‘sokkibon’ - stenographic records) in book form. In the early 1890s Black took up rakugo in defiance of his family, who felt it was not only undignified but also unstable work. In 1889, Black adopted the stage name Kairakutei (Pleasure) Black and was an instant hit in female roles on the Kabuki stage. The following year, Black took Japanese nationality. He married a Japanese woman at age 33 but lived in a homosexual relationship with Takamatsu Motokiichi, a 23 year old Japanese man. In 1903, Black made possibly the first gramophone recording in Japan, one of his stories, for the British Gramophone Company. Black gradually became depressed about his declining popularity and earnings and he attempted suicide in 1908 by drinking arsenic, but survived. He died of a stroke on 19 September 1923 at the age of 64.

Black’s Murder Mystery: ‘The Poisoned Pin in the Stagecoach’

01. ‘Shachu no Dokubari’ [車中の毒髪: 探偵小説]
Original board binding, lightly shaken and edgeworn, stain to lower board. Binding string a little loose, first few pages thus slightly shaken. Printed by moveable type. 1 v., complete. 18x11.8cm. 189 p. Text in Japanese.
AU$2,750 US$2,050

A Large Format Edition of Black’s ‘The Poisoned Pin in the Stagecoach’

02. ‘Shachu no Dokubari’ [車中の毒髪: 探偵小説]
The large format edition of this stenographic book, or ‘sokkibon’, ‘The Poisoned Pin in the Stagecoach’ - a rakugo narration by South Australian Henry James Black. A Victorian style detective mystery with Japanese characters, about the mysterious death of a woman on a stagecoach, in 14 parts. Adapted from the 1881 tale ‘Le Crime de l’Omnibus’ by French mystery writer Fortuné du Boisgobey. The story itself is an adaptation of the Mary Braddon novelette ‘Flower and Weed’ (McArthur, 2002). The names have not been ‘Japanised’ for the audience in Black’s rendition, probably because this is a particularly early record of one of Black’s performances and he had not yet thought of adapting texts for his Japanese audience. Includes 7 black and white woodblock-printed illustrations by Yoshitoshi, widely considered the last great master of the ukiyo-e genre of woodblock printing and painting. A scarce record of one of Black’s Japanese performances, and illustrated by one of the most prominent artists of the Meiji period. No copies in Trove.
Original boards, title to spine gilt, very minor wear to extremities. Endpapers lightly browned, ex-ownership inscription to lower free endpaper. Occasional small marks to text/illustrations. Numerous ex-ownership stamps to title page and one light stamp to last page of text. Overall near fine. Two parts in 1 v., complete. 18.3x11.9cm. [6 leaves], 234 p. Text in Japanese. AU$6,380 US$4,725

Story from a London Stage - an Adaptation of a Mary Braddon Novel by Black

04. ‘Eikoku Rondon Gekijo Miyage’ [英囲路登場劇場写真]
A ‘sokkibon’ (transcribed oral tale) of a performance made in Japan by South Australian rakugo-ka (comic storyteller) Henry James Black. The story itself is an adaptation of the Mary Braddon novelette ‘Flower and Weed’ (McArthur, 2002). The story is itself an adaptation of Mary Braddon’s ‘1877 short story ‘Her Last Appearance’, but is interspersed with explanations of Western customs for Black’s Japanese audience (McArthur, 2002). Some of the characters are also given Japanese names, and other aspects in the story are ‘Japanised’ to a certain extent for the audience. Black often used famous English novels for the basis of his performances, and particularly favored works by Braddon, a popular English novelist of the Victorian era. Includes 13 (including 8 double-page) black and white woodblock-printed illustrations of scenes from the story and a portrait of Black. A scarce record of one of Black’s Japanese performances. No copies in Trove.
Original fuikuron (envelope) binding and boards, somewhat soiled and chipped, small stain and ex-ownership stamp to lower board, upper board lithographically printed. Spine repaired. Creasing, small tears, ex-ownership marks to end- and fly- papers. Repair to endpapers by an ex-owner. A few marks and some browning to text. 1 v., complete. 18.2x12cm. 218 p. Text in Japanese.
AU$2,950 US$2,185
Black’s Japanese Adaptation of ‘Oliver Twist’

05. ‘Kodan Jitsuuwa: Takahashi Seikichi’ [講談実話 高橋清吉]
Burakku, Kairakutei [Black, Henry James] [performance by]; Shukan, Kinra [preface by].
A ‘sokkibon’ (transcribed oral tale) of a performance made in Japan by South Australian rakugo-ka (comedic storyteller) Henry James Black. The story itself is an adaptation of Charles Dickens’ novel ‘Oliver Twist’ (McArthur, 2002). The first edition (1896) of Black’s rendition was titled ‘Minashigo’, and the second (1900) was published under the same title as this copy, which is presumed to be a third edition. Black’s adaptation of the tale seems to be an early (if not the first) introduction of Dickens’s story to Japan, as the first Japanese translation of ‘Oliver Twist’ is believed to have been published in Meiji 45 (1911), the same year as the publication of this third edition of Black’s adaptation. Includes 2 double-page black and white woodblock-printed illustrations. A scarce record of one of Black’s Japanese performances, adapted from ‘Oliver Twist’. No copies in Trove, part 3 only on the NLA.

Original wrappers, soiled and with a few light stains, chipping and minor losses to extremities. Parts of spine chipped off. Small ex-ownership stamp to first page and text-block foot, small brush and ink note also to first page. Stain to verso of upper and recto of lower wrappers. Light occasional discolouration and foxing to text, but for the most part in very good condition. 1 v., complete. 21.6x14cm.

06. ‘Setsunaru Tsumi’ [切なる楯]
‘Eikokujin Burakku’ [Black, Henry James] [performance by]; Inamura, Jiro [transcribed by]; Mizuno, Toshikata [illustrated by].
A ‘sokkibon’ (transcribed oral tale) of a performance made in Japan by South Australian rakugo-ka (comedic storyteller) Henry James Black. Black scholar Ian McArthur describes the plot thus: ‘Setsunaru Tsumi is a murder mystery involving a double love triangle and the use of powdered glass as a murder weapon. Morioka and Sasaki note that in the introduction, Black himself notes that the story is enlightening as well as entertaining, for it helps readers to acquire a better understanding of the customs and manners of a distant country.’ (McArthur, 2002). He also states that Black’s adaptations of Oliver Twist and Mary Braddon’s ‘Flower and Weed’ were ‘early warnings about the evils of child labour and the exploitation of women in unregulated textile factories’ (ibid.). Includes 18 black and white woodblock-printed illustrations (one featuring a portrait of Black) by acclaimed Japanese artist Mizuno Toshikata (1866-1908). A scarce record of one of Black’s Japanese performances. No copies in Trove.

Original boards, lightly soiled, extremities chipped. Upper board lithographically printed. Lacks title page, loose facsimile copy laid-in. A little abrasion to text-block edge. A few marks to text/illustrations, but for the most part near fine. 1 v., complete. 18.2x11.5cm. 86 p. Text in English.

A Scarce Book of Poetry by James Murdoch, Founder of Japanese Studies at the University of Sydney

07. ‘Don Juan’s Grandson in Japan: with Notes for the Globe-Trotter’s Benefit’
Murdoch, James [written by]; Miall, A. [edited by].
Ginza, Tokyo: Hakubunsha, Meiiji 23 [1890]. First and only edition.
A long piece of satirical verse about life in Japan by Scottish journalist and long-time Australia resident James Murdoch (1856-1921). In the text, Murdoch occasionally refers to Australia, Scotland, and, of course, his new home - Japan: ‘Fair are the dames by Yoko’s strand an’ eke in far Cathay; An’ sweet the girls o’ Austral land an’ the belles o’ Moreton Bay; The obied maids o’ Dai Nippon are sight rich fair tar see, But I nek not o’ their winsome miles. A Scottish lass for me!’ Includes an 11-page poem titled ‘Lord Tenny--n in Japan’, which Murdoch declares to be the ‘original and authentic M.S.’ of the conclusion of Tennyson’s poem ‘Locksley Hall’. Murdoch was the founder of the Japanese Studies program at the University of Sydney, and this scarce work was the first book by him to be published in Japan. No original copies in Trove (1 microform and 1 xerographic copy recorded). Only three other copies located worldwide in OCLC (in Tokyo’s National Diet Library, the British Library, and Columbia University).

Original binding, general wear and soiling, small piece of washi paper pasted to opening edge. Text itself near fine to fine. Errata inserted between title page and first page of text. Japanese fukuro-toji binding. 1 v., complete. 18.2x11.5cm. 86 p. Text in English.

An Interview with Henry James Black

08. ‘Iosei Meika Chikuonki’ [初世美家 輔愛記]
Seki, Nyorai [edited by].
Tokyo: Bunrokudo, Meiiji 33 [1900].
First edition.
A collection of interviews carried out in 1900 by Seki Nyorai, a reporter from the Yomiuri Newspaper, of 28 famous people at the top of their different trades. The interviewees include politicians like Konoe Atsumaro and Katsu Kaishu, artists like Hashimoto Gaho, Kume Keichiro, Takeuchi Kyuchii, Miyagawa Kozan, Shorin Hakuen, entertainers, and so on. Of particular interest is the record of an interview with Henry James Black (Kairakutei Black) in which he talks (in a heavy Edo accent) about why he started performing rakugo, the difficulties he faced starting out in the profession, why he decided to translate famous foreign literature to use in his performances, and so on. Includes numerous black and white illustrations. An invaluable resource on the life, motives, and thoughts of Adelaide-born rakugo-ka Henry Black. No copies in Trove, only one copy in OCLC (in Tokyo’s National Diet Library).

Original wrappers, lightly marked, corners slightly creased, title to upper wrapper gilt. Occasional marks and discolouration to text, small tear to margin of table of contents. Otherwise in nice condition. 1 v., complete. 14.8x10.8cm. [2]. 4, 376, 27 p. Text in Japanese.

 AU$2,380     US$1,750
 AU$2,200     US$1,625
 AU$3,250     US$2,400
 AU$2,000     US$1,525
 AU$1,750     US$1,300
 AU$1,550     US$1,150
 AU$1,475     US$1,000
 AU$1,375     US$975
Emily Sophia Patton, born in London in 1831, emigrated with her parents to New Zealand in 1841, then to New South Wales in 1845. Her father was there admitted to the Bar and also entered Parliament in 1851, later serving as a Government Minister, then an Acting Supreme Court Judge. In 1859, Patton became an actress with G.V. Brooke’s Theatre Company after her husband’s death. In 1860, she remarried and left the stage. From the mid-1870s, Patton established herself as a music teacher, and taught at Vieuxseux’s Ladies College in East Melbourne and, later, at the newly-founded Presbyterian Ladies College. Her pupils included the young Ellen Mitchell (later to become famous as Nellie Melba). After the deaths of her father, husband, she decided to emigrate to Japan with her daughter, where, in 1891, her daughter died and the collapse of the Oriental Bank Corporation in the 1890s resulted in the loss of all of her financial reserves. She set herself up as a private teacher of Tonic Sol-fa, singing, piano, dancing and deportment. She taught both European and Japanese students, held classes, formed a choral society, and taught at a high school. By 1895 she had established the ‘Yokohama School of Music and Academy of Dancing’. She died at age 80. Patton’s work in propagating the Tonic Sol-fa method in Yokohama was pioneering work and had a degree of influence on music education in Japan during the last two decades of the Meiji period [Emily Patton: An Australian Pioneer of Tonic Sol-fa in Japan, Robin S. Stevens, 2000].


Douglas Sladen (1856-1947), born in London, was a prolific author who migrated to Victoria in 1879, where his uncle, Sir Charles Sladen, had been Premier. Sladen was quickly accepted into upper-class Melbourne society and attended the University of Melbourne with a view to going to the Bar and eventually politics, but his uncle’s influence was waning and he had no enthusiasm for the law. In 1883 Sladen moved to New South Wales and was appointed first lecturer in modern history at the University of Sydney. He never revisited Australia after he left in 1884, confessing that he ‘owed everything to Australia but Australia was exile to [him]’. Sladen seems to have stayed in the foreign quarters in Yokohama for a year from 1889-90 with the exception of six weeks in China. He wrote many books on Japan, including ‘The Japs at Home’, ‘A Japanese Marriage’, ‘Queer Things About Japan’, ‘More Queer Things About Japan’, ‘Japan in Pictures’, and so on. (‘Australian Dictionary of Biography’, K.J. Cable, 1976)
Wilton Hack (1843-1923), utopist, was born in Echunga, South Australia. After an education overseas he joined his father at Long Desert Station east of the River Murray bend. He soon took up Pinnaroo station but had to abandon it in the 1865-67 drought. He became a drawing master in Adelaide schools, then in 1873 went to Japan as a missionary. Language problems and military unrest cramped his activities so he hired a translator, bought a printing press and distributed thousands of religious tracts even to priests and officials. In 1876 he visited Adelaide where he negotiated with the government for the admission of a few hundred Japanese families in the Northern Territory. Back in Japan he told the government that South Australia would provide free passages for the migrants but this was promptly denied in Adelaide and the whole project was rejected by the Japanese authorities. Hack returned to Australia in 1878 and floated several gold mines in New South Wales with some success. At Mount Remarkable he attempted a socialistic village settlement for the unemployed. Attracted to theosophy, he visited India and Ceylon several times studying eastern religions, on which he wrote and lectured. He eventually settled at Glenelg, and died at Beverley, Western Australia, on 27 February 1923. (‘Australian Dictionary of Biography’, 1972)

A few decades after Hack left Japan, where he tried to negotiate the bringing of Japanese settlers to the Northern Territory by the South Australian Government (the original documents relating to this correspondence can be seen in the South Australian Department of Archives, and copies exist at Macquarie University). A surprisingly scarce little volume, with only 2 copies in Trove and 2 others in OCLC.

Mimeograph-printed pamphlet in a staple binding. Pages lightly browned and marked due to age, extremities slightly chipped. Faint crease to first leaf. First page stamped ‘Classified’ [in red]. Otherwise in nice condition for age. 27.5x20cm. 7 leaves. Text in Japanese.

An Early History of Australia Published in Japanese: ‘The Invasion of Australia’


A first edition of this scarce Japanese book on the history, economics, and politics of Australia, titled ‘The Invasion of Australia’, illustrated with black and white images of Melbourne and Sydney, important historical figures, and with maps of the evolution of the states and territories. The text also touches on Australia’s relationship with Asia, lists the number of votes for and against Federation, includes a commentary on the expulsion of Chinese people from the country, the White Australia Policy, and so on. This book also includes a history of Japanese and Australian relations, starting with the visit of themutinous Tasmanian brig the ‘Cyprus’ to Japan in 1829. This account is particularly interesting as until as late as the 17 event in question was dismissed as fantasy by scholars. Wilton Hack is also mentioned in the book as having tried to negotiate an immigration treaty between Australia and Japan, acting as an envoy of the South Australian Government.

An early history of Australia published in Japanese, written with a very critical stance towards the English ‘invaders’. One copy in Trove.

Original pictorial wrappers, lightly soiled and foxed, spine a little chipped. Occasional marks and foxing to text, small cut to 1 leaf, corner of 1 leaf torn. Ex-ownership stamp to title. Very good to near fine. One of a limited edition of 3000 copies. Includes 1 folding map. 1 v., complete. 18.3x12.8cm. Preface 5 leaves, text 297 p. Text in English.

AU$460 US$340

An Antarctic Proposal by the Founder of Australia’s First University

Department of Meterology

15. ‘Scientific Plan of an Expedition to the Australian Sector of the Antarctic’
Loewe, F. [Fritz].
Circa 1938.

A type-written proposal by German-born meteorologist and polar explorer Fritz Loewe (1895–1974). Loewe arrived in Australia in 1937 and established Australia’s first university Department of Meteorology (University of Melbourne), where he was the first Reader-in-Charge. Under Loewe, the Meteorology Department played a leading role in the development of Australian Antarctic meteorology and glaciology (ABS, John Zillman, 2008). Loewe was also aboard ‘Yard Earp’ on the failed first ANARE (Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions) voyage in 1947. This particular document seems to have been written around 1938 or a little later judging from works and articles cited in the text. The article seems not to have been published, but it probably provided Mawson with useful ammunition to persuade the Australian Government for the need for research. A unique type-written document on a proposed expedition to the Antarctic. No copies in OCLC or Trove.

21 pages typed to rectos only, light stain to margin of last leaf, staple rusted, first page loose. Very light occasional marks to text.

A Classified 1930s Japanese Document on Australian Military Bases

Circa 1930s.

The notes of a lecture on Australian military bases, including an outline of Australian armaments, a list of major Australian ships, the number of troops at different bases, information on the organisation and placement of marine army units, and so on, each subject accompanied by a short commentary. The document was probably made in the late 1930s. It seems likely that the author, Major Arita, was Arita Yuzo, an instructor at the Kaigun Kogai Gakko [海军教育学校] at that time. As the words ‘Kowa Shiryo’ appear in the title, it can be assumed that these were the notes for a lecture to be presented at a navy school in Japan. The document includes an explanation that after the Russo-Japanese War Australia saw Japan as a potential threat and that therefore Japan became, in Australian eyes, a hypothetical enemy. The text mentions many places (in English and Japanese) relevant to military activity like Fort Denison, Bradleys Head, Geelong, Port Macquarie, Jervis Bay, Port Phillip, Kirribilli, and so on. A classified document on Australian military bases and units by the Japanese naval force. No copies in OCLC or Trove.

Mimeograph-printed pamphlet in a staple binding. Pages lightly browned and marked due to age, extremities slightly chipped. Faint crease to first leaf. First page stamped ‘Classified’ [in red]. Otherwise in nice condition for age. 27.5x20cm. 7 leaves. Text in Japanese.

AU$745 US$545

A Japanese Document On Pearlimg Laws in Australia

17. ‘Goshu Kuir出租事务所 Shinjigai Oyobii Kaisan Kyogyo Kankei Hoki’
[澳州ウニズワームシンドウ州真珠業及海産業関係法令] Takumusho Takumukyoku Nan'yoka [edited by].

A legal document describing the pearlimg and fishery laws of Australia in Japanese, with numerous examples of various applications and relevant legislation from the period 1881-1931. An interesting record of early Japanese labour in Australia, showing that the pearlimg and fishing industries supported by the Japanese immigrants at that time were thriving. One copy in Trove.

Original wrappers, extremities browned and lightly chipped, small loss to lower corner of upper wrapper and first leaf, ex-library sticker to spine. Occasional ex-library stamps. Light crease to opening edge throughout. Otherwise near fine. 1 v., complete. 22.2x15.2cm. 2. 60 p. Text in Japanese.

AU$280 US$205
The First History of Australia in Japanese, by an Early Japanese Resident of Sydney

Believed to be the first history of Australia published in Japanese (excluding Japanese translations of foreign works). The text covers the discovery of Australia to Federation in 1901, as well as Australian politics, culture, and economics. Also included are a folding map of Australia, two leaves of illustrations (featuring four photographic images), and a copy of a letter from Inglott to Matsuzaki. A record from `Changing Histories: Australia And Japan’ (2001) states that Fusajirō Kanematsu of F. Kanematsu, the first Japanese-based trading company to open in Australia, established in Sydney in 1890, sent Mannojo Matsuzaki to Melbourne for work. Another record in `Bridging Australia and Japan’ (Sissons, 2016) mentions an unknown man called Matsuzaki living in Jackton St., Sydney. Other articles in the `Northern Star’ , `The Tasmanian’, etc., also refer to auctions of Japanese goods held under the instruction of a `Mr. M. Matsuzaki’ . A scarce record by an early Japanese resident of Australia. Original copy in Trove.
Original boards, lightly scratched and marked. Head and foot of spine chipped. Title and image of Australia blind-stamped to upper board. Light discoloration and foxing to text, mainly to title page. Stain to lower margin of last few pages. Ex-ownership stamps to upper fly, title, verso of last page, and verso of advertisements. In very good to near fine condition. 1 v., complete. 22.3x14.7cm. **AU$915** **US$675**

A Japanese Translation of Jose’s `History of Australasia’

A first edition Japanese translation of the fourth edition of Arthur Jose’s `History of Australasia: From the Earliest Times to the Present Day with a Chapter on Australian Literature’ (Sydney: Angus & Robertson, 1911). According to the preface, the Japanese publisher contacted Jose directly about translating the book, and Jose gave them permission soon after double-checking with his Sydney publisher. Jose suggested that they translate from his fourth edition, which he had just enlarged and published, hence the use of the later edition. With 9 illustrations including one of Maori tattoos, the frontispiece (with portraits of Sir Joseph Banks, Captain Cook, Sir Robert Torrens, Lachlan Macquarie, and Arthur Phillip), maps of New Zealand and Tasmania, etc. Also includes a large section on New Zealand and Maori culture. One of the few books on Australia and New Zealand published in Japanese before the start of the Showa period. One copy in Trove.
Original boards, gilt decoration to upper board. Offsetting to endpapers, ex-ownership stamp to verso of frontispiece. Some marks and light foxing to text. 1 v., complete. 21x14.8cm. Preface 10 pp., text 524 p. **AU$365** **US$270**

A Pictorial Record of Australia & New Zealand

A volume on India, the South Sea Islands, and Egypt, from the 12-volume Japanese series `The World Through a Camera’. This particular volume includes descriptions in Japanese and English as well as full-page monochrome collotype photographic illustrations of Australia, New Zealand, and the countries mentioned above. The illustrations in the book show Sydney, and the Jenolan Caves in the Blue Mountains, thermal springs in New Zealand, Milford Sound, Mangamahoe River, and Maori children pulling faces. An interesting pictorial record in Japanese and English of Australia, New Zealand, Calcutta, Bombay, the Himalayas, Ceylon, Rangoon, Sydney, Adelaide, New Zealand, Java, Singapore, the Nile, and so on. No copies in Trove.
Original boards, slightly warped, with a few white spots, starting to crack. Endpapers waved. Occasional marks and offsetting to text, but for the most part contents in very good to near fine condition. Comes with original card box, lightly stained. Volume 11 only. 18.7x25.7cm. 24 p. of description, 55 monochrome collotype photographic illustrations. Text in Japanese and English. 1st edition. **AU$220** **US$160**

An Early Japanese Record of Captain Cook’s First Voyage to Australia and New Zealand

Presumed to be the first text published in Japan about Captain Cook’s first voyage (1768–71). Sūkōsha, the publisher, was a company organised by the Ministry of the Navy, and also organised bars and clubs for the use of officers. Books such as this would have only been distributed, along with a bulletin, to members of Sūkōsha’s club, and are therefore scarce. Cook’s second and third voyages were published a year later together with this text in one complete volume. The full text was therefore sent out twice to club members on the editor’s insistence that it was a text all club members should read. New Zealand is treated in volume 2 and Australia in volumes 2-3. Volume 2 also includes an illustration of Maori warriors and others of Botany Bay and Port Jackson. Illustrations in volumes 1 and 3 feature Saint Helena, a portrait of Captain Cook, and Batavia Port. A scarce record of Cook’s voyage to Australia and New Zealand in Japanese, with no sets in Trove and only one set in OCLC (in Tokyo’s National Diet Library).
Original wrappers, extremities slightly chipped and browned. Light brown, marks, and one or two small wormholes. Text in Japanese and English. **AU$915** **US$675**
A Written Report on the Japanese Delegation to Australia in 1893

23. Goshu Tenkan Hokusyo-sho [澳洲探検報告書] (The Japanese Expedition to Australia in 1893)

Watanabe, Kanjuro.

A record of the Japanese delegation to Australia in 1893, by Watanabe Kanjuro. Watanabe (1864-1926), a member of the Japanese House of Representatives, had been commissioned by the Japanese government to undertake an exhaustive study of Australia that would prove useful in future bilateral talks regarding emigration to Australia (‘Imperial Japan at Its Zenith: The Warthime Celebration of the Empire’s 2,600th Anniversary’, James Kemeth, 2010). Landing on July 16th, 1893, and departing on December 16th the same year, he visited Darwin, the Northern Territory, Thursday Island, the Torres Strait Islands, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and so on. In this text Watanabe records data on various townships’ populations (split into ‘white’, Japanese, Chinese, and so on), local jobs (especially pearl diving), the types and costs of local produce, and data on the Japanese local population, like the number and ages of local Japanese prostitutes. The 15 illustrations depict the Hambledon Sugar Mill, Japanese pearl divers, Thursday Island, Indigenous Australians, and so on. Includes three folding maps, of Australia (32.4x37.8cm), Queensland (24.7x31.5cm), and the Northern Territory (22.8x31.5cm). This particular copy belonged to the publisher, the Gaimusho Tushokuyo [Ministry of Foreign Affairs]. An important record of an early Japanese delegation to Australia, not originally for public sale. Two copies in Trove, and only two other copies in foreign libraries according to OCLC.

Non-original but contemporary black library boards, title to spine gilt, a little abrasion to edges, original title slip tipped-in. Minor occasional foxing and marks to contents, faint stains to extremities, two-ex library stamps from the Library of the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to lower fly and colophon verso. Slight slipping and creases to edges of pages, and some tears to pages and map edges. Overall very good. 1 v., complete. 24.7x18cm. [1], 3, 5, 289 p., [8 illustrative pl., 3 folding maps]. Text in Japanese. AU$3,315 US$2,450

A First-Hand Record of a Japanese Trip Around Australia

24. Renshu Kokaiki [練習航海記]

Hoshino, Kameo [edited by].
Gunma-ken: Seiritsusha, Meiji 27 [1894]. First and only edition.

A first edition of this scarce record of the practice voyage to Australia in 1903 of the ship the Matsushima, a protected cruiser of the Imperial Japanese Navy, by the cadets of the Imperial Japanese Naval Academy. In 1903, Matsushima made the first of its long distance navigational training voyages, visiting Southeast Asia and Australia with the ships the Hashidate and the Itsukushima. The author, Hoshino, is presumed to be one of the cadets on the ship, and describes the cadets’ first-hand experiences in Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Hobart, Sydney, Townsville, Thursday Island, and many other cities and towns. After visiting Perth and Golden Horse Shoe Gold Mine in Kalgoorlie, they sailed to Adelaide and Melbourne (where they saw a rendition of ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’ at the Princess Theatre (the author admitted he couldn’t understand a thing but conceded that ‘it was nevertheless all very impressive’)). The ship then sailed to Hobart, Sydney, and Townsville, Thursday Island, from there making its way back to Japan. This book includes 8 photographic illustrations, of the main streets of Adelaide and Melbourne, a beach in Sydney, Hobart, Manila, Hong Kong, and the Japanese cadets marching in Sydney. A scarce record of a cadet’s impressions of Australia, with only one copy found in OCLC and none in Trove, and a fascinating work which would benefit from further research.

Original wrappers, lightly chipped and foxed. Chipping and loss to spine. Some discoloration and foxing to text. Includes a 75 p. appendix. 1 v., complete. 21.2x14.9cm. 2, 2, [4 pages of illustrations], 215, 75 p. Text in Japanese. AU$2,200 US$1,625

A Textbook on world Geography, with Illustrations of Australia and New Zealand by Kanawabe Kyosai


Watanabe, Kanjuro.

A textbook on the history, customs, geography, and natural environments of Asia, Eastern Europe, Western Europe, North Africa, South Africa, and Australia, delicately illustrated in woodcuts by acclaimed Japanese artist Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889). As the description of the volume on Australia (v.7) held at the State Library of N.S.W. states, The depiction of the Aboriginal Australian characters appears as a generic depiction of dark skinned people; for example, the figures are depicted as being pyramidal (African continent), and one of the figures is shown holding what appears to be a human foot ... The figures are negatively referred to in a caption as ‘drunk’. Includes 6 colour woodblock-printed maps as well as many more black and white woodblock-printed vignettes. A very interesting if tenuous link between Kyosai and Australia. New Zealand. Volume 7 only is held by the State Library of New South Wales. No complete set located in Trove.

Original wrappers, somewhat stained, with evidence of sticker removals. Large ink stains to upper wrapper of v.3, v.1, v.3, 6, and 7 lack title slips. v.1, v.2, v.3, and 6 have ex-ownership stamps and ex-ownership stamp removals to endpapers. Light staining to margins of 3 and 7 from persimmon juice, a typical insect repellent used on many books in Japan. Volumes 3 and 7 are from a different printing and have been matched with the set. Very good. 7 v., complete. 22.8x15.4cm. 52, 45, 46, 40, 36, 28, 17 (+ 10 of advertisements) leaves. Text in Japanese. AU$1,835 US$1,350

On World Customs and Geography

26. Tosho Taizen: Sekai Kuniuzukushi [On World Customs and Geography]

Kyosai, Kawanabe [illustrated by].

A textbook on world geography by the founder of Keio University, Fukuzawa Yukichi, with an outline of each country’s climate, customs, history, politics, and so on. The text is interspersed with numerous black and white woodblock-printed vignettes, and the section on Australia and New Zealand includes illustrations of Sydney, a building in Melbourne (probably the Royal Exhibition Building), a Maori warrior, and a beach view in New Zealand. In the map of Australasia, Tasmania is printed in a different colour to Australia, perhaps suggesting it was considered a different country. Includes 6 folding colour woodblock-printed maps. Two facsimile sets only in Trove.

Original Japanese wrappers, a little mildew-stained, title slips worn. A little wormholing to the last few pages of v.1 and 2. Wormholing to the last few pages of v.4 also. Occasional ex-ownership stamps and sticker removals to endpapers. A few small marks to text, otherwise near fine. 6 v., complete. 22.4x15.4cm. 27, 15, 33, 24, 19, 22 leaves. Text in Japanese. AU$550 US$405

On the Japanese Readings of Country Names

27. ‘Ansha Chikyu Zenzuki: Tuketari Yakuzu’ [On the World Territories: Indicating the Countries with Their Names]

Kanagaki, Robun [written by]; Inoue, Ide [translated by].

A Meiji period textbook used to teach both students and teachers the readings of the country, state, mountain, and river names that appeared on the world maps distributed to schools by the Japanese Government. The readings of the place names in this book (written in katakana) were mainly decided by Japanese government advisor Marion Scott (1843-1922), however there are also many place names recorded in Dutch which, due to existing popularly in Japan, remain unchanged into their English equivalents. Includes a folding colour woodblock-printed world map as well as a section on Australia, with the readings of Adelaide, Sydney, the Gulf of Carpentaria, the River Torrens, Lake Gregory, Tasmania, and so on, recorded in katakana. No copies in Trove.

Original Japanese wrappers, lightly stained. Occasional small marks to text, light crease to page corners. Small ex-ownership stamp to last page of text. Includes a folding colour woodblock-printed world map with a few small wormholes to margins. Otherwise near fine. 1 v., complete. 18.3x11.7cm. 2, [1 folding map (12x28.8cm)], 58 leaves. Text in Japanese. AU$550 US$405
28. `Chikyu Bankoku Sankai Yochi Zenzusetsu` [地球万国山海奥地全図] Nagakubo, Sekisui; Taken [proofread by]. Toto [Edo]: Sakuma, Tenpo 15 [1844]. Re-carved and corrected edition. A re-carved and corrected edition of one the earliest Japanese-made world maps, by famous Edo period geographer and Confucian scholar Nagakubo Sekisui (1717-1801). The map was based on that of Italian Jesuit priest and one of the founding figures of the Jesuit China missions, Matteo Ricci (1552-1610). Ricci`s original world map in Chinese characters (`Kunyu Wanguo Quantu`) was published in 1602 and introduced the findings of European exploration to East Asia. Nagakubo, considered by many scholars to be the founder of Japanese geography, first published his Japanese edition of Ricci`s map (one of the first in Japan to use longitude lines) around 1785. The title on the title slip of this copy reads `Kosei Bankoku Sankai Yochi Zusetsu` [国政万国山海奥地圖]. There is no record of this particular edition published by Sakuma in OCLC or Japanese library databases. This is thus a rare unknown corrected edition of one of the earliest Japanese world maps. No copies of any editions of Sekisui`s world map appear in Trove.

Original folding `orihon` binding, extremities of wrappers with some wormholing, original title slip intact. Small ex-ownership stamp of famous Japanese mathematician Chiba Tanefusa to margin of map. Stain to lower pastedown, not affecting text. Otherwise in nice condition, and a clear printing. Wrappers blind-stamped with a fish or dolphin motif. 26.5x17.8cm when binding closed, 26.5x96cm when fully opened. Text in Japanese.

AU$2,695     US$2,000


A small format map of the world by famous Edo period geographer and Confucian scholar Nagakubo Sekisui (1717-1801), based on a world map by Italian Jesuit priest and one of the founding figures of the Jesuit China missions, Matteo Ricci (1552-1610). Ricci`s original map of the world in Chinese characters (`Kunyu Wanguo Quantu`) was published in 1602 and introduced the findings of European exploration to East Asia. Woodblock-printed in black and white and hand-coloured. Japanese editions of the map are rarely printed in such a small format. No copies of any editions of Sekisui`s world map appear in Trove.

One leaf, a little worn, creased, and lightly stained. A few small wormholes to map, margins trimmed resulting in loss to one or two lines of text. Some faint characters towards the end of the description have been gone over with a pen. 28.8x39cm. Text in Japanese.

AU$550     US$405

30. `Chikyugi Benran` [地図儀便覧]

Matsui, Masafusa. Tokyo: Kansendo: Yamanaka Ichibe, Meiji 7 [1874]. First edition. An informative textbook with an explanation of the world as a globe and descriptions of the geography, climates, products, capital cities, people, and so on, of each major world country. Includes one double-page map, outlines copperplate-engraved, colours wood-block-printed, as well as many other black and white woodblock-printed illustrations. No copies in Trove.

Original Japanese binding, slightly worn and stained, with a few nics, some chipping to extremities, title slip lacking. Very occasional minor foxing, including to margin of map. Otherwise very good. 22.4x15cm. 38 leaves. Text in Japanese.

AU$550     US$405
33. 'Kenkado Zatsuuroku' [兼好堂雑録]
Kimura, Kenkado [text by]; Akatsuki, Kanenari [edited by]; Matsukawa, Hanzan [illustrated by].
Edo, Osaka, Kyoto: Okada Yashichi et al., preface from Ansei 3 [1856], colophon from Ansei 6 [1859].
Nevertheless a first edition.

A complete first edition set of this illustrated miscellany of notes on history, Chinese medicine, and art/artifacts, by Kimura Kenkado (1736–1802), a prominent natural sciences scholar, collector of antiques and scientific oddities, and bibliophile. The text is highly pictorial, with illustrations of animals, plants, vegetables, rocks, tools, landscapes, furniture, strange and rare Western and Chinese objects, and so on. The illustration of the cassowary in the text is captioned 'the fire-eating bird', but the bird pictured is clearly a cassowary. The description states that 'in July of the first year of Kansei (1789) a bird called the 'kazuwaru' [cassowary] ('dacho' or 'hikui-dori' [fire-eating bird] in our own Japanese language), came on a Dutch ship to Nagasaki. Its habitat is south-west Asia to Persia, and it normally eats rice and barley but also eats iron, stone, tiles, fire, charcoal, and so on.' In Kimura Kenkado’s ‘Kenkado Zatsuuroku’ (see catalogue item no. 33), Kenkado refers to the bird and suggests that it may actually be an emu. An interesting record of an Australasian bird in Japan. No copies in Trove.

34. 'Bairei Hyakuncho Gafu' [百禽図版]
Kono, Bairei [edited and illustrated by]; Kurokawa, Mayori [preface by].

A complete first edition set of this masterpiece of ‘kacho-e’ [bird-and-flower] painting by famous artist Kono Bairei (1844–1895). The six books include illustrations of 201 species of bird and ‘bird-like’ creatures (including a Chinese phoenix, a bat, and so on), delicately woodblock-printed in subdued pink and orange tones next to seasonal plants and flowers. Due to the popularity of the first three books when published, the three later books ('zokuhen') were released. The first three books of this particular set seem to be from a later printing of the first edition. A clean and bright printing of this famous work in a modern ‘nihon-ga’ style by master of bird-and-flower painting, Kono Bairei. One complete set in Trove, other incomplete sets also recorded.

Keika’s Masterpiece: ‘One Hundred Chrysanthemums’

36. 'Keika Hyakugiku' [菊百十四]
Hasegawa, Keika [illustrated by].

A complete set of this masterpiece of Japanese floral art by famous artist Hasegawa Keika, in a clean printing. Each volume is comprised of 25 stunning colour woodblock-printed illustrations of chrysanthemums (the final, fourth volume, was never made), making a total of 75 plates (9 of which are double-page spreads). Keika’s set of books was published during the ‘chrysanthemum boom’ of the Meiji period, and to this day the chrysanthemum is considered the most important flower in Japan and can be seen in the imperial crest. A near fine set of this rare and beautiful work. One set in Trove.

The First Japanese Edition of ‘Practice of Surgery in the West’

37. 'Seii Ryakuron' [攘夷論]
Hobson, Benjamin [text by]; Guan, Mao-tsai [selections by].
Edo: Rokyukan: Yorozuya Hyoshirō, Anei 5 [1858].

The first Japanese edition (i.e. the first edition published in Japan with reading marks) of ‘Practice of Surgery in the West’, written by English Protestant medical missionary Benjamin Hobson with the aid of Guan Maocai. Hobson wrote this set, along with other medical texts, in order to introduce Western medicinal and anatomical theories into China. The original set of books in Chinese titled ‘Xi Yi Lue Lun’ was published in Shanghai in 1857 by Jinsai Ikan. This set, based on the 1858 edition, has been re-carved for Japanese publication. One of the most influential sets of books on Western surgery practices in Japan in the Bakumatsu-Meiji period, highly illustrated with 28 leaves of black and white woodblock-printed illustrations and with a four-leaf table of contents in English and Chinese at the end of v.4. A well-preserved set in near fine to fine condition. One set in Trove.
The First Japanese Translation of 'The Origin of Species' by a Professional Biologist

38. 'Shu no Kigen: Seizō Kyōso Tekkisha Seizō no Genri'
   (種之起源：生存競争者生存之原理)
   Darwin, Charles [original text by]; Oka, Asaikō [translated and revised by];
   Tokyo: Tokyo Kaiseikan, Meiji 38 [1895].
   First edition.
   The third recorded Japanese translation of Darwin’s ‘On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural
   Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life’ (1859), and the first by a professional biologist.
   While Kozu Semaburo’s ‘Jinron’ (1881) and Tachibana Senzaburo’s ‘Shibutsu Shigen Ichimeshi Shugenron’ (1903)
   featured the first and second Japanese translations of Darwin’s text, ‘Jinron’ was an incomplete translation by a scholar
   of education and ‘Shibutsu Shigen’ was translated by a law student with no notable background in science. ‘Shu no Kigen’
   is therefore considered to be the first translation of ‘The Origin of Species’ by a professional biologist. Rare in such nice
   condition, and an important text which introduced Darwin’s theory to Japanese scientific circles. No copies in Trove.
   Original hardcover binding. Light foxing and one stain to text block edges and text itself. Small ink stain to margin of the folding chart.
   A scarce first edition of this banned Japanese translation of W.P. Lyon’s anti-evolutionary text
   ‘Homoe versus Darwin’, and the first book published in Japanese to reject Darwin’s theory. The author is recorded in the text
   as ‘Issa Gurei’ [Aisa Gray], but in a 1986 study Zenji Suzuki and Naohide Isono confirmed the text to be a translation of
   Lyon’s ‘Homoe versus Darwin’ (1872). A year after publication the book was called into question for ‘corrupting public morals’
   and was soon banned. Includes three leaves of woodblock-printed illustrations similar to those in Lyon’s text. An
   original example of the reception of Darwin’s theory in Japan. No copies in Trove.

   Original boards, worn with some loss, small stain to lower board. Upper board slightly cracked. Tear to upper margin of p. 139-144,
   not affecting text. Light stain to upper margin of first few pages, also not affecting text. Otherwise in nice condition. 1 v., complete.
   AU$3,650     US$2,700

   'Judgement of a Monkey': The First Repudiation of Darwin’s Theory of Evolution in Japan

39. 'Saru no Saibin: Yusho Reppai'
   (猿勝劣等 猿乃栄裁)
   [Lyon, W.P. [William Pennan] (original text by)]; Gray, Aisa [erroneously attributed to]; Inoue,
   Tuotomo [translated by]; Tokyo: Nishimura Tomijiro; Fukuda Eizo, Meiji 21 [1881].
   First edition.
   A scarce first edition of this banned Japanese translation of W.P. Lyon’s anti-evolutionary text
   ‘Homoe versus Darwin’, and the first book published in Japanese to reject Darwin’s theory. The author is recorded in the text
   as ‘Issa Gurei’ [Aisa Gray], but in a 1986 study Zenji Suzuki and Naohide Isono confirmed the text to be a translation of
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   and was soon banned. Includes three leaves of woodblock-printed illustrations similar to those in Lyon’s text. An
   original example of the reception of Darwin’s theory in Japan. No copies in Trove.

   Original boards, worn with some loss, small stain to lower board. Upper board slightly cracked. Tear to upper margin of p. 139-144,
   not affecting text. Light stain to upper margin of first few pages, also not affecting text. Otherwise in nice condition. 1 v., complete.
   18.6x12.2cm. 2 p. + 3 leaves of illustrations + 285 p. Text in Japanese.
   AU$3,650     US$2,700

On Court Uniforms

40. `Fukoku Zensho: Meiji 5, 11-Satsu`
   (勧国会要: 明治五年第一十冊)
   Gasihikoku [edited by]; Tokyo: Yamakana Ichibei, Murakami Kanbei, Kitabatake Mohei, Meiji 5 [1872].
   First edition.
   A complete set of the Japanese legal bulletin ‘Fukoku Zensho’ for Meiji 5 (1872), bound in
   three volumes. The publisher, the ‘Gasihikoku’, was the law regulatory agency of the first Japanese Cabinet. The first
   volume introduces decidedly western-style imperial court dress of the time in beautiful woodblock-prints using metallic
   paints. The second volume focusses on banking law, and the third volume records prison law and is highly illustrated with
   woodblock-printed illustrations. The volumes also include a declaration that laws will be altered to
   rectify the excessive hotel and horse charges levied on foreigners traveling around Japan. A beautiful set. No copies in Trove.

   Original wrappers, a little worn and soiled, v.1-2 lacking title slips, v.3 title slip with losses. Chip to opening edge of v.1, small wormhole
   to last few pages. A few occasional marks to contents, otherwise near fine. 3 v. (numbers 329 to 379), a complete set for Meiji 5 (1872).
   18x11cm. 46, 83, 81 leaves. Text in Japanese.
   AU$550     US$405

The First Japanese Translation of 'Romeo and Juliet' to Japan

42. `Romyo Juri Gikyoku, Shunjo Ukiyo no Yume`
   (羅密歐與茱麗葉浮世繪夢)
   Shakespeare, William [original text by]; Kawashima, Keizo [translated by]; Takimoto, Seiichi [corrected by];
   Wakayama: Akagi Tomojiro: Kobunsha, Meiji 19 [1886].
   First edition.
   The first complete translation of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ in Japanese. It is possible that prior to the publication of this book, the plot
   outline or a few lines from the play were translated into Japanese (i.e. for newspaper articles and English language
   textbooks), but no translation over a few lines was published. This volume is thus the book which introduced the full
   original text of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ to Japan. The translator, Kawashima Keizo, was an English teacher also responsible for
   producing the first translation of Shakespeare’s ‘Julius Caesar’ (which was also the first complete Japanese translation of a
   Shakespeare play in Japan). While Kawashima’s translation of ‘Caesar’ was written in a literal style faithful to the
   original, his ‘Romeo and Juliet’ was written in traditional Joruri style Japanese, a highly developed form of narrative music
   or chanted recitative. Includes 8 double-page illustrations, including the famous balcony scene, the scene of Tybalt’s death,
   and Romeo’s discovery of the sleeping Juliet. A rare first edition of the first full Japanese translation of perhaps the most
   famous of Shakespeare’s plays. No copies in Trove.

   Original boards, extremities lightly stained and worn, small cut to spine, gilt to spine faded. Light continuous smudge to upper margin of text.
   Small ex-owner stamp to lower free endpaper. Otherwise near fine. 1 v., complete. 18x12.5cm. 8 leaves, 277 p. Text in Japanese.
   AU$9,150     US$6,750
A Book of Japanese Magic Tricks

43. 'Shuketsu Ikkyo Tezuma Hayadenju' ([酒席一に手を早延ばす])
Jipposhia, Ichimaru.
A delightful book of Japanese magic tricks, highly illustrated with black and white woodblock-printed vignettes. The illustrations feature tricks on how to make it rain inside a umbrella, summon yokai [ghosts and spirits], pass a paper string through one’s tongue, make a candle float in the air, swallow a sword, and so on. A charming book of 39 party magic tricks in total, humorously illustrated from cover to cover. One copy in OCLC, none in Trove.

Original wrappers, worn and creased, a few faint ink stains, ex-ownership inscription to lower wrapper. Losses to original title slip. Light soiling and marks to wrappers, illustrations themselves otherwise fine. 1 v., complete. 17.4x11.6cm. 33 leaves. Text in Japanese.

12 Prints by Ogata Gekko

44. 'Taikoki' ([太開記])
Ogata, Gekko [illustrated by].
A folding album of 12 lavishly-coloured woodblock-printed scenes of the life of Toyotomi Hideyoshi, from his childhood to the Battle of Shizugatake, by acclaimed artist Ogata Gekko (1859-1920). Gekko studied art under Kikuchi Yosai, won numerous national and international prizes, and was one of the earliest Japanese artists to win an international audience. At the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 he won a prize for “Edo Samo Matsuri”, and in 1904 he won the Gold Prize for the series ‘Fujyakake’ at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. His work was exhibited at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1900 and at the Japan-British Exhibition in London in 1910. This rare album is a collage of some of Gekko’s early works (originally published as 1-leaf prints) in book form. No copies in Trove or OCLC.

Re-bound in an accordion folding album style, with non-original title slip. Light soiling and marks to wrappers, illustrations themselves nearly fine. Illustrations have been mounted on an old Japanese kabuki drama poster, which has been cut into shape for use in the folding album. 16.8x11.8cm. 12 double-page illustrations. Text in Japanese.

An Early Work on Japanese Women’s Rights and Education

46. 'Kinsei Onna Daigaku' ([近世女大学])
The author, Doi Koka, was a journalist, author, translator, and, in his later years, a member of the Japanese House of Representatives. He explains in 22 short chapters that it is a bad habit of Asia’s to look down on women, that female independence and gender equality are necessities, that loving feelings are important in marriage, that the education of women is important, and so on. The text includes some old teachings but is nevertheless a surprisingly advanced women’s self-education textbook for the time of publication, and is considered to be one of the earliest examples of the promotion of modern women’s liberation in Japan. Doi seems to have been particularly affected by John Stuart Mill, whose ideas in ‘The Subjection of Women’ Doi introduced to Japan in many of his works. Includes one stunningly coloured double-page frontispiece and another in black and white. A very early feminist work by a male Japanese author, illustrated by acclaimed artist Kawanabe Kyosai (1831-1889). No copies in Trove, one book copy in OCLC.

Original Japanese wrappers, worn and a little soiled, a few stains, ex-ownership inscription to lower wrapper. Sticker removals to title. Small ex-ownership stamp to first and last pages. Lightly thumbed. A few small stains and ink marks to text, small scribble to margin of first text page. Light gutter stain to last few pages. Overall very good to near fine. 1 v., complete. 22.8x15.6cm. 8, 46, [1] leaves. Text in Japanese.

A Manuscript Account of a Visit from a 'U.F.O.'

45. 'Ogasawara Eneku no Kami Chiyogose e Rurair no Utsuwarune no Zu' ([小笠原越中之行行江波來空船之圖])
A manuscript illustration in black ink of the ‘atsuwarune’ [hollow ship], a strange ship which is recorded to have drifted ashore on a beach owned by the Lord Ogasawara Eneku no Kami in Japan in 1803. As the record reads, a woman in foreign clothes with pale blue skin and long red hair emerged from the boat clutching a rectangular box. She spoke a foreign language, looked to be around 20 years of age, and would not let anyone touch the box. Some locals thought she might be a princess from a foreign country, but, eventually, unable to understand her, they placed her back in the ship and set her off to sea. Due to the strange shape of the boat, the unknown characters painted on it, and the odd appearance of the woman in manuscript records such as this, present-day ufologists have claimed the visit as a ‘close encounter of the third kind’. Another theory is that, as the characters written on the boat resemble the logo of the Dutch East India Company, the woman may have been a foreigner. There are several types of the illustration recorded, and this particular illustration is similar but not identical to the image in the May 12th 1855 diary of an member of the Imoue Clan, currently held in the Saitama Prefectural Archives. No copies in Trove.

Tastefully mounted in a black passepartout and easily removable. A few creases, one or two small wormholes, repaired. One leaf in black ink, 26x36cm. Text in Japanese.

Famous Chinese Warrior Tales, Illustrated by Eisen

47. 'Ehon Saitoku' ([絵本水浒伝])
Keisai, Eisen [illustrated by].

Original Japanese fukuro-toji bindings. Minor wormhole repairs to first leaf of v.1 and title slip of v.2, otherwise fine. 2 v., complete. 22.4x16.7cm. 45 leaves. Text in Japanese.
49. ‘Kami-Shibai: Burinki to Kaeru’ [‘Blinky and the Frog’]

A ‘Kamishibai’ [‘paper play’] featuring Dorothy Wall’s famous character ‘Blinky Bill’. ‘Kamishibai’ was a form of Japanese street theatre and storytelling that was popular during the Depression of the 1930s and the post-war period in Japan until the advent of television during the twentieth century. This particular ‘kamishibai’ of Blinky is in 12 leaves and comes in its original card envelope. An illustration appears on one side of the leaf, and the text to be read out by the storyteller is printed on the other. The depiction of Blinky Bill by artist Mizuno Jiro is particularly interesting and startlingly different from Wall’s original illustrations. A Japanese ‘kamishibai’ featuring a children’s character from an Australian classic. No copies in Trove. Original card envelope, light chipping to extremities, a few creases, ex-ownership (kindergarten) inscription in texta to upper wrapper.

AU$180   US$135

50. ‘Pikkanikku attou Hangingu Rokku’ [‘Picnic at Hanging Rock’]


AU$270   US$200

51. ‘Sekai Fujin Fuzoku Sugoroku’ [World Women’s Lifestyle Sugoroku]

A Japanese board game featuring illustrations of women from 27 countries around the world in their traditional dress, from Korea to Japan, Europe, Africa, America, and so on. From volume 12 number 1 of the Japanese magazine ‘Fujin Sekai’, published to celebrate the new year. No copies in Trove or OCLC.

AU$460   US$340

52. ‘Kodakara Sugoroku’ [‘Today’s Lifestyle’]

A Japanese board game featuring illustrations of women from 27 countries around the world in their traditional dress, from Korea to Japan, Europe, Africa, America, and so on. From volume 14 number 1 of the Japanese magazine ‘Fujin Sekai’, published to celebrate the new year. No copies in Trove or OCLC.

AU$180   US$135

53. Collection of Nihon Yusen and Passenger Boat Menus

A set of 18 menus for the Fushimi Maru and Katori Maru lines of the Nippon Yusen Kabushiki Kaisha (NYK), with 8 postcards. The NYK linked Kobe and Yokohama with South America, Batavia, Melbourne, Cape Town, and so on. Thursday Island to the north of Australia, known for its long history of Japanese pearling under Australian supervision, makes an interesting additional stop to a few of the route maps printed on the menus. The menus themselves display an array of Japanese and European meals, some including entries for Australian meat. Fourteen of the menus have colour woodblock-printed upper wrappers. The contents of the menu would have been printed on board the ships, only the wrappers being woodblock-printed on land before setting sail.

Eighteen original menus and 8 postcards, with occasional notes and underlinings in a contemporary hand. Each menu measures 19x14cm. Text in English.

AU$2,200   US$1,625

54. ‘Hamonika Gakufu’ [‘Harmonica Course’]

A Set of Early Showa-Period Music Scores, Beautifully Designed

A collection of 12 Japanese music scores for the harmonica, offset-printed covers stunningly designed in an early Showa style by notable illustrators such as Imai Hisamaro, Saito Kazo, and so on. A nice set with covers representative of popular design styles prevalent in 20s-30s Japan. No copies in Trove.

A little soiling, chipping and discoloration, occasional marks and annotations, but overall very good. 10 pamphlets measuring 26.3x19cm, 4 p. (including wrappers). One pamphlet measuring 26.3x19cm, 24 p. One pamphlet measuring 30.2x22.6cm, 4 p. (including wrappers). 12 scores in total, including duplicates of ‘That’s O.K.’ and ‘Samurai Nippon’. Text in Japanese.

AU$550   US$405

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