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Stone Bridge Press 2022–2023

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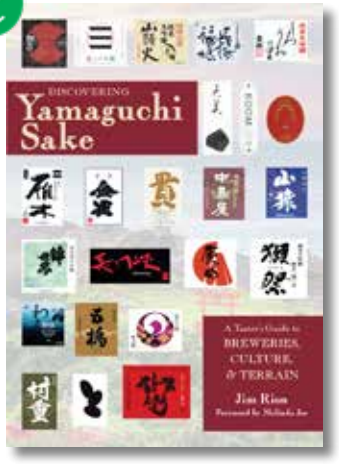
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Available February 2023
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COOKING / JAPAN

A new and remarkable look at the sake produced in Japan's Yamaguchi Prefecture.

Discovering Yamaguchi Sake

A Taster's Guide to Breweries, Culture, and Terrain

JIM RION; FOREWORD BY MELINDA JOE

This book is the first of its kind, a deep-dive into a single sake-producing region to highlight its delicious brews as well as the people, land, and culture behind them. Brewing in Yamaguchi—in southern Honshu, Japan—reflects the whole history of sake in Japan, from boom to bust to resurgence, and many of its brands are now at fine restaurants around the world. Expert Jim Rion takes us on a tour of all 23 Yamaguchi breweries to introduce the character of each and its brewmasters' best picks. Along the way he provides background on such topics as rice farmers, drinkware, brewing methods, and the controversy over sake "terroir" (does it exist?). An added bonus for travelers is a mini sightseeing guide to the region and its many delights. Illustrated with photographs and quick-reference sake labels.

Jim Rion is a licensed international *kikizakeshi* (sake sommelier), certified sake professional, and freelance translator and writer working in the sake industry since 2018. He has lived in Yamaguchi Prefecture since 2004. He took his first sake brewery tour in 2008, and with it discovered a whole new world to explore.

Melinda Joe is an American journalist based in Tokyo, Japan. Her food writing has appeared in publications such as *Newsweek*, *The Wall Street Journal,* CNN, and *Departures Magazine,* and has been translated into four languages. She writes about Japanese drinks in her column for *The Japan Times*, "Kanpai Culture." A certified sake and wine specialist, she is a panel chair for the sake division at London's International Wine Challenge.

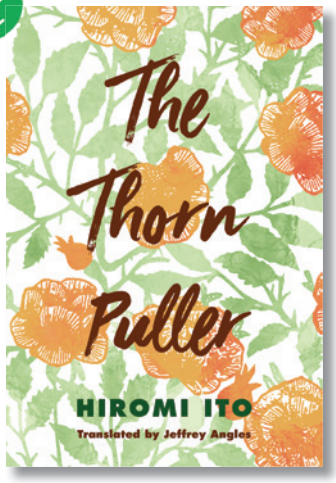
POINTS OF INTEREST

- This is the first book to deal in depth with a single sake-producing region.
- Goes into detail on brewing methods and tasting nuances not found in other basic guides.
- The perfect companion for travelers, includes places to sightsee along with brewery visiting information.

PRAISE FOR *DISCOVERING YAMAGUCHI SAKE*

"Every prefecture in Japan has a story to its sake. History, climate, culture, and cuisine all play into these stories and inevitably lead us to a fuller appreciation of all things sake. While most books in English focus on grades and famous brands (of which Yamaguchi has its share), Jim's is among the first to dive into the important concept of regionality. And it's about time!"—John Gaunter, author of *Sake Confidential* and world-renowned sake authority

"Jim Rion offers a deep and intimate look at Yamaguchi's wonderful sake tradition. The result isn't only an illuminating look at the people who make the drink, but also a fascinating examination on how the region and its culture influence it. Let's drink to that. *Kanpai*!"—Brian Ashcraft, author of *The Japanese Saké Bible* and *Japanese Whisky*



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FICTION / JAPAN
(WE)

Introducing Hiromi Ito, an award-winning Japanese author who has been compared to Haruki Murakami and Yoko Tawada.

The Thorn Puller

HIROMI ITO; TRANSLATED BY JEFFERY ANGLES

The first novel to appear in English by award-winning author Hiromi Ito explores the absurdities, complexities, and challenges experienced by a woman caring for her two families: her husband and daughters in California and her aging parents in Japan. As the narrator shuttles back and forth between these two starkly different cultures, she creates a powerful and entertaining narrative about what it means to live and die in a globalized society.

Hiromi Ito came to national attention in Japan in the 1980s for her groundbreaking poetry about pregnancy, childbirth, and female sexuality. After relocating to the U.S. in the 1990s, she began to write about the immigrant experience and biculturalism. In recent years, she has focused on the ways that dying and death shape human experience. English translations include *Killing Kanoko* and *Wild Grass on the Riverbank*.

Jeffery Angles is a writer and professor of Japanese at Western Michigan University. He is the first non-native poet writing in Japanese to win the Yomiuri Prize for Literature, a highly coveted prize for poetry. His translation of the modernist classic *The Book of the Dead* by Shinobu Orikuchi won both the Miyoshi Award and the Scaglione Prize for translation.

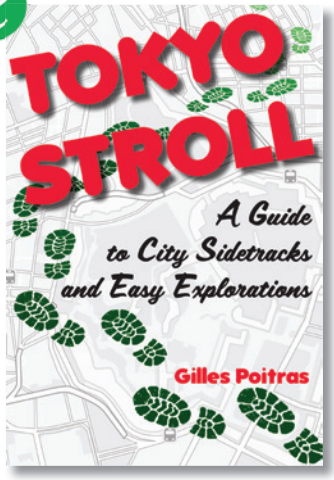
POINTS OF INTEREST

- This innovative and bestselling novel won two major literary awards in Japan: the Sakutaro Hagiwara Prize and the Murasaki Shikibu Prize.
- This is the first novel coming out under the new MONKEY imprint at Stone Bridge Press. *MONKEY New Writing from Japan* is a literary magazine known for introducing and promoting Japanese authors to English readers.

PRAISE FOR *THE THORN PULLER*

"Itō may have written this book in prose, but we never forget that she's a poet. There is a special music even in the complaints, scolding, arguments, phone conversations, and gossipy moments. As the narrative unfolds, Itō draws not only upon voices of her family members and others around her, she gathers in countless voices, including those of the dead. And how wonderful to find the rhythm of the Japanese reproduced so marvelously in this translation!"—Yoko Tawada, author of *The Emissary*

"When she was young, Hiromi Ito wrote about sex, menstruation, and childbirth. Later she wrote about child-rearing, affairs, and menopause. In *The Thorn Puller* she has written about parental caregiving and aging. Poets are amazing—their experiences become art, and what's more, Ito has created a completely original literary style, which no one could imitate even if they tried. *The Thorn Puller* is a great achievement."—Chizuko Ueno, author of *The Modern Family in Japan*



Available November 2022
5¼ x 8", 512 pp, paper; B&W photos and maps throughout (color photos in ebook)
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-058-7, $22.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-942-9, $10.95
TRAVEL / ASIA / JAPAN

Adventure! Wander! Discover! The guidebook to Tokyo that Japan lovers and the curious have been waiting for!

Tokyo Stroll

A Guide to City Sidetracks and Easy Explorations

GILLES POITRAS; FOREWORD BY JAKE ADELSTEIN

A guidebook for travelers who want to discover Tokyo as it unfolds before their eyes. Select neighborhoods are profiled with 150+ detailed navigation maps—linked to online MapsMe. There is no "start at point A and go to point B." Instead you wander as whimsy takes you. Food, shopping, and sights are highlighted at every turn, with detailed notes on etiquette, money, and travel. Indexed.

Neighborhoods covered include: Akihabara and Nearby Kanda, Asakusa, Fukagawa, Ginza and Nearby Areas, Hakusan/Koishikawa Area, Hongō, Imperial Palace / Kōkyo, Marunouchi to Nagatachō, Meguro Station Area, Nihonbashi, North, Nihonbashi South, Kyōbashi, and Yaesu, Ningyōchō, Northwestern Sumida Ward, Omotesandō/Harajuku Area, Ryōgoku, Shibamata, Shibuya Station Area, Shinjuku Station Area, Tsukiji, Ueno, Yanesen (Yanaka, Nezu and Sendagi), Yoshiwara (Former) and Sanya.

Gilles Poitras runs an anime/culture website and is author of *Anime Companion* (vols. 1 & 2) and *Anime Essentials*. He has written for magazines including *NewType USA* and *Otaku USA*, introduced films at the Smithsonian, and taught a course on anime for Pixar. He lives in Oakland, California.

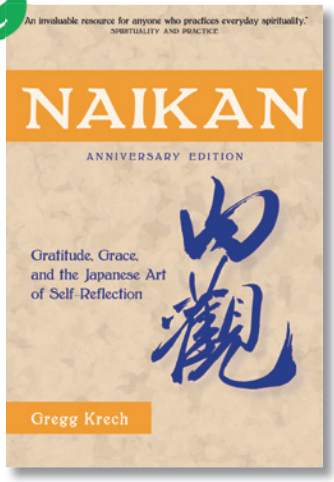
POINTS OF INTEREST

- A refreshing departure from the same-old same-old guides, this book focuses on little-known shops and less-crowded neighborhoods, without neglecting the familiar landmarks of modernity and tradition that epitomize Japan.
- Detailed maps (about 160) are linked to the free MapsMe app with author's customized bookmarks for easy navigation.
- According to *Conde Nast Traveler,* "Tokyo and Kyoto have been picked as the world's best and second-best cities outside the United States" (as reported by *The Japan Times*.)

FROM THE INTRODUCTION

Japan has a folk belief in the power of words, 言霊 (kotodama) or literally 'the spirit of words.' It is an animist society at heart and so everything is imbued with a living presence. In this book that you have in your hands, or on your smartphone, or on your tablet, there's a little bit of the soul of the author and his love for Tokyo and Japanese culture. Pick a neighborhood from the book and take an afternoon wandering through it, knowing that the author is there with you as a kind of guardian angel. You'll find that what seems to be ordinary becomes rather extraordinary and you'll be glad you took the stroll.

—Jake Adelstein, journalist and author of *Tokyo Vice*



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5½ x 8¼", 224 pp, paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-079-2, $19.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-959-7, $9.99
SELF-HELP / PHILOSOPHY

This new edition marks the 20th anniversary of this important and influential book with new and updated materials.

Naikan, Anniversary Edition

Gratitude, Grace, and the Japanese Art of Self-Reflection

GREGG KRECH

Naikan is a Japanese word that means "inside looking" or "introspection." A more poetic translation is "seeing oneself with the mind's eye." Drawing on Eastern spiritual and psychological traditions, Naikan is a unique method of self-reflection for cultivating self-awareness, gratitude, empathy, and a path for moving forward in our lives. This edition commemorates the 20th anniversary of this influential work's first publication. Author Gregg Krech, now after 30+ years of teaching Naikan, shares the depth of his experience with essays, parables, poems, quotations, and recommended reflection exercises, and includes new material on relationships, a 7-day practice program, and an updated appendix for counseling professionals.

Gregg Krech is the author of five books on Japanese Psychology, including *The Art of Taking Action* (2015), which has been an Amazon bestseller for five years. His books have been translated into Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, German, and Romanian. Gregg has spoken in international venues to audiences that include mental health professionals, Zen students, hospice volunteers, staff of domestic violence centers, employees of Fortune 500 companies, crisis center staff, Yoga students, Buddhist monks in Thailand, and university students. He has been conducting retreats and online courses on Japanese methods of psychology for 33 years at the ToDo Institute in Vermont, where he currently lives, writes, and teaches.

POINTS OF INTEREST

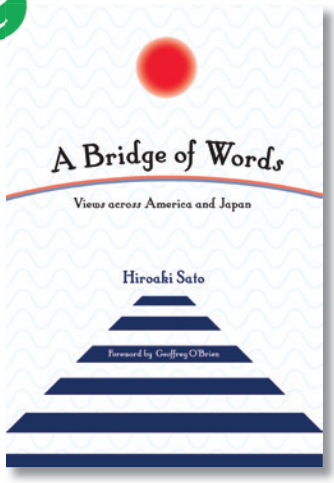
- Filled with contemplations, exercises, personal studies, and practical tips for honest and healthy relationships.
- This new edition has been updated with the author's insights over the past 20 years, a 7-day practice program, and an updated appendix for counseling professionals.
- *Naikan* invites you to engage in a practical treatment method heavily rooted in a sense of obligation and belonging.

PRAISE FOR *NAIKAN*

"The book's central notion of being mindful of the overlooked gifts we receive daily is illuminating and instructive."—*Publishers Weekly*

"*Naikan: Gratitude, Grace, and the Japanese Art of Self-Reflection* is an invaluable resource for anyone who practices everyday spirituality. The author presents plenty of concrete exercises that will spur your soul to attention, kindness, compassion, and, most of all, gratitude. Krech is especially cogent in his emphasis upon the connections that give life meaning and the importance of including inanimate objects in the orbit of our care and genuine love."—Spirituality and Practice

"Cultivating gratitude is among the most powerful and transformative spiritual practices in which you can engage. Gregg Krech's new book, *Naikan*, focuses on the art of gratitude, offering in a subtly simple, no nonsense, and highly useful style, practical ways to cultivate it in our own lives. This is a book to be read, and an art to lived."—Rabbi Rami Shapiro, author of *Proverbs, the Wisdom of Solomon*



Available November 2022
6 x 9", 304 pp, paper; B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-078-5, $24.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-958-0, $11.99
SOCIAL SCIENCE/ ESSAYS/ JAPAN

Prolific, award-winning translator of classical and modern Japanese poetry Hiroaki Sato recorded his thoughts on American society in two columns across 30-plus years, collected here for the first time.

A Bridge of Words

Views across America and Japan

HIROAKI SATO; FOREWORD BY GEOFFREY O'BRIEN

This anthology of over 60 of Sato's commentaries reflect the writer's wide-ranging erudition and his unsentimental views of both his native Japan and his adopted American homeland. Broadly he looks at the Pacific War and its aftermath and at war (and our love of it) in general, at the quirks and curiosities of the natural world exhibited by birds and other creatures, at friends and mentors who surprised and inspired, and finally at other writers and their works, many of them familiar—the Beats and John Ashbery, for example, and Mishima—but many others whose introduction is welcome. Whether Sato loves America or not is beside the point. He is in the business of critical appraisal and translation, of taking words seriously and watching to see how often those who speak and write measure up to their own ideals.

Hiroaki Sato is a prolific, award-winning translator of classical and modern Japanese poetry into English. American poet Gary Snyder has called Sato "perhaps the finest translator of contemporary Japanese poetry into American English." He has received several translation prizes. Among them are the PEN America prize, with Burton Watson, for From the Country of Eight Islands: An Anthology of Japanese Poetry (1981); the Japan-United States Friendship Commission translation prize for *Breeze Through Bamboo: Kanshi of Ema Saikō* (1997) and for *The Silver Spoon* (2015).

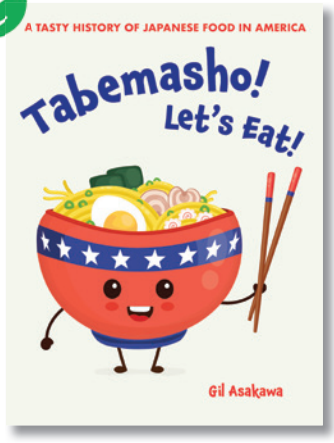
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Sato has received wide acclaim as a translator, but this is the first anthology of his writing on politics, society, and history.
- *Bridge of Words* offers a perspective that can be at turns witty, acerbic, and controversial, but always thoughtful.
- The astonishing variety of topics include World War 2, ecology, history, the lives and legacies of poets and writers, and Japanese-American relations.

FROM THE FOREWORD

These pieces, most of which appeared originally as columns in the Mainichi Daily News *and the* Japan Times*, have a conversational informality that allows for unexpected digressions and interjections. "I am prejudiced against golfing courses and golf courses," he announces, and explains why. He quotes a scientist's argument for limiting wild geese populations—"When you see geese, they're eating or they're defecating"—and immediately responds: "Isn't that what we human beings do as well, too well?" The back and forth is continual, and continually energizing.*

— Geoffrey O'Brien



6 x 8", 216 pp, paper; B&W photos throughout
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ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES / COOKING / HISTORY

Your favorite Japanese foods, home-cooked, packaged, or served in restaurants, and how they came to delight the American palate.

Tabemasho! Let's Eat!

A Tasty History of Japanese Food in America

GIL ASAKAWA

Tabemasho! Let's Eat! is a tasty look at how Japanese food has evolved in America from an exotic and mysterious—even "gross"—cuisine to the peak of culinary popularity, with sushi sold in supermarkets across the country and ramen available in hipster restaurants everywhere. The author was born in Japan and raised in the U.S. and has eaten his way through this amazing food revolution.

Gil Asakawa is the author of *Being Japanese American*. He is a nationally known journalist, blogger, and speaker about Japanese and Japanese American culture and history. He is also a foodie and an amateur chef who writes about food and posts photos of food on social media and on his blog, NikkeiView.com.

POINTS OF INTEREST

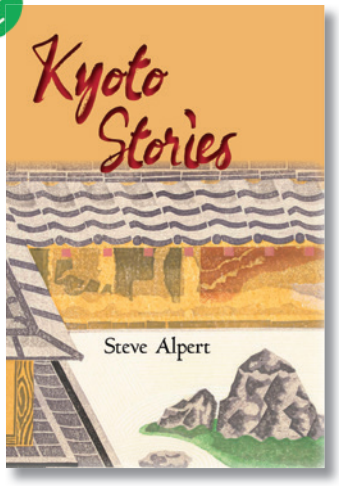
- A great resource for everyone who loves Japanese food.
- Covers everything from how Japanese food was introduced to the United States, to its rise in popularity, and how it's enjoyed today.
- Includes chapters on the history of ramen, sushi, and the evolution of Japanese dining in America.

PRAISE FOR *BEING JAPANESE AMERICAN*

"A must-read book that will delight you with its humor and amuse you with its insights; for non-Asians, a must-read book if you're curious about what makes Japanese Americans tick."—John Tateishi, National Executive Director, Japanese American Citizens League

"Offers a great opportunity for JAs to process their feelings and experiences in relationship to other JAs who, through their stories and photos, share empathy and understanding."—*Asian Reporter*

"Part history, part photo album, part cultural document, part memoir, part language lesson, even part cookbook, *Being Japanese American* is an entertaining primer on many aspects of the Japanese American experience."—BookDragon



5½ x 8", 320 pp, paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-074-7, $19.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-955-9, $9.95
FICTION / BIOGRAPHICAL

An American student in 1970s Kyoto rambles among the city's beauties and traditions, learning as he goes.

Kyoto Stories

STEVE ALPERT

A collection of stories based on the author's own experiences living in Kyoto as a student. The stories comprise a naturalistic depiction of a student's unusual life in Kyoto in the early years of the 1970s. In part a contemplative guide to and homage to the timeless beauty of the city at the heart of traditional Japan; seen by an outsider and with insights gained by having been in the right place at the right time and open to learning's path in whatever form it took.

Steve Alpert grew up in northern Minnesota before moving to Connecticut as a teenager. He attended Cornell University before enrolling in Columbia University's graduate department of East Asia Languages and Cultures, where he studied Japanese Literature under Donald Keene and Edward Seidensticker. He lived and worked in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Taipei for more than 35 years and speaks Japanese fluently and Chinese poorly. Alpert gave up a promising career as an extra in Japanese B movies to work in Tokyo as a vice president at a major bank, president of a TV animation company, and head of a company that produced and distributed Japanese films. He has translated a number of Japanese films and several short works of Japanese fiction. Kyoto, where he lived as a student, is his favorite city in the world. He is the author of *Sharing a House with the Never-Ending Man: 15 Years at Studio Ghibli.*

POINTS OF INTEREST

- A sardonic look at being a young and single American in Kyoto in the 1970s; it didn't happen just like this, but it could have.
- Before he wrote his successful memoir about working at Studio Ghibli, the author of *Sharing a House with the Never-Ending Man* had a very different experience of Japan; the many readers who enjoyed his behind the scenes adventures in business will surely come along for this very different but equally engaging ride.

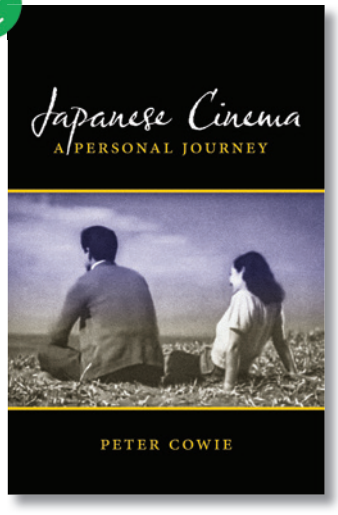
PRAISE FOR *SHARING A HOUSE WITH THE NEVER-ENDING MAN*

"It's a fabulous book. Informative and illuminating."—Neil Gaiman, author of *American Gods, Sandman*, and *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*

"An insider's view of how cultural products are translated and transformed, also how art and commerce collide in the world of cinema."—Japan Forward

"A comedic and detailed portal into what it was like to work with one of the world's most influential animators."—*Metropolis Magazine*

"An utterly priceless insider account, loaded with shouting matches, dastardly deals, moments of searing creative wisdom and fist-gnawing awkwardness. Ghibli, and anime, will never look the same again."—Jonathan Clements, author of *Anime: A History*



5½ x 8½", 204 pp, paper
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e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-956-6, $9.95
FILM / PERSONAL MEMOIRS / JAPAN

An informal yet informed journey through the classic works of Japanese cinema and their visionary directors.

Japanese Cinema

A Personal Journey

PETER COWIE

This is a passionate, personal journey through one of the world's greatest national cinemas, beginning with the classic directors who came to the fore in the postwar period. The book traces the common themes explored by these directors as well as the impact of important historical and cultural issues, including World War 2, the representation of women, and the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s. Finally, Peter Cowie surveys the state of contemporary Japanese film and its greatest living practitioners. Cowie brings a lifetime's commitment to film to bear on the human relationships so well explored by these Japanese auteurs.

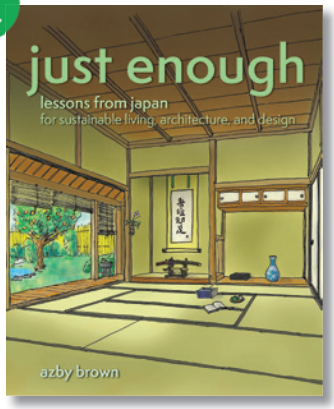
Peter Cowie has spent his life writing about cinema, and in particular about the prodigious talents that emerged during the 1950s and 1960s such as Ingmar Bergman and Akira Kurosawa. His more than thirty books include studies of the work of John Ford, Francis Ford Coppola, and the iconic actress Louise Brooks. He was international publisher of the trade paper, *Variety*, for more than twelve years, and he is also known for his numerous commentaries and video essays for the Criterion Collection in New York. Cowie has traveled throughout Japan on several occasions, and is an avid fan of its history, its literature, and its cinema.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Peter Cowie is a respected film critic with over 50 years of dedication to the cinematic arts, and more than 30 books on film-related topics.
- *Japanese Cinema* is an excellent primer for anyone interested in the history of Japanese film.
- Sure to enhance your appreciation of many of the classic works of Japanese cinema, whether you are watching for the first time or returning to a favorite film.

DIRECTORS FEATURED IN *JAPANESE CINEMA*

- *Akira Kurosawa*
- *Hiroshi Shimizu*
- *Keisuke Kinoshita*
- *Kon Ichikawa*
- *Juzo Itami*
- *Hirokazu Kore-eda*
- *And many more . . .*
- *Kenji Mizoguchi*
- *Mikio Naruse*
- *Yasujiro Ozu*
- *Nagisa Oshima*
- *Naomi Kawase*
- *Hayao Miyazaki*



7½ x 9¼", 232 pp, paper; B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-077-8, $29.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-957-3, $14.95
SUSTAINABLE LIVING / JAPAN

How the mindset of traditional Japanese society can guide our own efforts to lead a green lifestyle today.

Just Enough

Lessons from Japan for Sustainable Living, Architecture, and Design

AZBY BROWN

If we want to live sustainably, how should we feel about nature? About waste? About our forests and rivers? About food? Just Enough is a book of stories and sketches that give valuable insight into what it is like to live in a sustainable society by describing life in Japan some two hundred years ago, during the late Edo period, when cities and villages faced many of the same environmental challenges we do today and met them beautifully and inventively.

Azby Brown is a leading authority on Japanese architecture, design, and environmentalism and the author of several groundbreaking books, including *Small Spaces* (1993), *The Japanese Dream House* (2001), *The Very Small Home* (2005), and *The Genius of Japanese Carpentry* (1989/2014). He is lead researcher for Safecast, a global citizen-science organization that pioneered crowdsourced environmental monitoring. Azby Brown has lived in Japan since 1985.

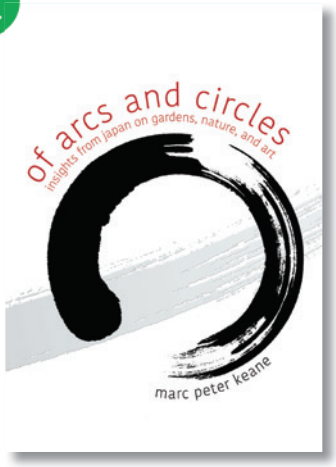
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Brown shows how sustainability and green living flow from a mentality toward nature and living that is independent of a specific time and place.
- Learn how you can adopt practices that have stood the test of time and that inspire modern solutions to living a sustainable lifestyle.
- Numerous hand-drawn illustrations guide the reader through the book, making it joy to browse.

PRAISE FOR *JUST ENOUGH*

"I cannot overstate the importance of *Just Enough*. It should be required reading for anyone who wants to help make today's world more sustainable, and capable of surviving the current imbalances of climate, energy, and resource distribution. . . . There's no other way to say it: This is an extraordinary book that holds the keys we're looking for to rebalance both our planet and our own lives. Read it, please."—Sarah Susanka, architect and author of *The Not So Big House* series, and *The Not So Big Life*

"Truly an eye-opener. Brown takes us behind the scenes, revealing the complex and ingenious techniques that put Japanese traditional life in harmony with nature. An indispensable reference for anyone wanting to know the secret formulae that made old Japanese life what it was."—Alex Kerr, author of *Dogs and Demons*, and *Lost Japan*



Available February 2022
6 x 8½", 180 pp, paper; B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-072-3, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-954-2, $9.95
Audiobook ISBN: 978-1-61172-801-9, $19.95
NATURE / ESSAYS / AESTHETICS

A renowned designer of Japanese gardens contemplates wildness, humanity, beauty, the liquid state of the world.

Of Arcs and Circles

Insights from Japan on Gardens, nature, and Art

MARC PETER KEANE

From his vantage point as a garden designer and writer based in Kyoto, Marc Peter Keane examines the world around him and delivers astonishing insights through an array of narratives. How the names of gardens reveal their essential meaning. A new definition of what art is. What trees are really made of. The true meaning of the enigmatic torii gate found at Shinto shrines. Why we give flowers as gifts. The essential, underlying unity of the world.

Marc Peter Keane has made Kyoto his home for 20 years. Among his books are the essay collection *The Art of Setting Stones,* and the designer's idea-book *Japanese Garden Notes*. His gardens have been published many times, including in *Architectural Digest, Landscape Architecture*, and *Martha Stewart* magazine.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The *New York Times* has labeled Keane "the undisputed American master of Japanese garden scholars."
- Keane broadens his insights from Japanese gardens to nature and aesthetics more generally—sure to please the gardener, the artist, and the curious reader alike.
- Sure to enhance the reader's appreciation of North America's more than 300 public Japanese gardens.

PRAISE FOR *OF ARCS AND CIRCLES*

"For a thoughtful romp through Kyoto's aesthete delights—from the utterly mundane to the exquisitely ineffable—I can't think of a better guide than Marc Peter Keane. I highly recommend his newest volume, Of Arcs and Circles."—Leonard Koren, author of *Wabi-Sabi: for Artists, Designers, Poets & Philosophers*

"Maybe it comes from years of working with gardens, paying attention to the twist of one branch, the spread of a patch of moss. Marc Keane notices things. He really looks. It might be a wasp nest, an old machiya being torn down, the wind in the trees, a dragonfly that landed on his finger. He looks, and his thoughts begin to swim, then fly, then swoop back down again, in cycle upon cycle, always returning to the inter-connectedness and impermanence—the wonder—of things."—Alex Kerr, author of *Finding the Heart Sutra*



5½ x 8 ½", 264 pp, paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-071-6, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-953-5, $9.95
FICTION / LITERARY

In Kanazawa, Japan, Emmitt and his wife Mirai clash over how to pursue their future together until a 30-year-old mystery reveals a way forward.

Kanazawa

DAVID JOINER

In Kanazawa, Japan, Emmitt's future plans collapse when his wife, Mirai, backs out of negotiations for a house in which they can live independently from her parents and start a family. After quitting an unsatisfying job at a local university, Emmitt's search for a more meaningful existence steers him to help his mother-in-law translate Kanazawa's most famous author, Izumi Kyoka, into English. While resisting Mirai's efforts to move to Tokyo, he becomes drawn into the mysterious death thirty years ago of a mutual friend of his parents-in-law. It is only when he and his father-in-law climb the mountain where the man died that he learns the truth about the relationship the three of them had as sculptor, model, and painter, and finds a way to bring Mirai back into the fold of their dreamed-of life. *Kanazawa* the first literary novel in English to be set in Kanazawa, is told in the tradition of both the best expatriate fiction and Japanese fiction in translation.

David Joiner made his first trip to Japan in 1991. Since then, he has called Sapporo, Akita, Fukui, Tokyo, and most recently the western Japanese city of Kanazawa home. David Joiner's writing has appeared in literary journals and elsewhere, including *Echoes: Writers in Kyoto 2017, The Brooklyn Rail, Phoebe Journal, The Ontario Review,* and *The Madison Review.* His first novel, *Lotusland*, set in contemporary Vietnam, was published in 2015 by Guernica Editions.

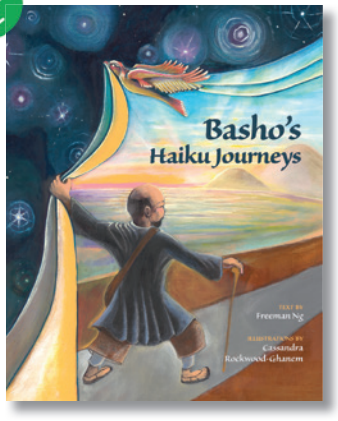
POINTS OF INTEREST

- In plot and style it calls to mind contemporary Japanese literature, but as filtered through a non-Japanese sensibility.
- Takes place in Kanazawa, a favorite destination for tourists for its stunning period architecture.
- Joiner has lived in Kanazawa and writes with the intimacy of a resident, not simply as an expatriate.

PRAISE FOR *KANAZAWA*

"Atmospheric... and shibui. A quietly captivating tale of life and art in Kanazawa. Slowly sinks its hooks in and doesn't let go."—Robert Whiting, author *Tokyo Junkie*

"The grand old city of Kanazawa, its lush historic environs and rich cultural legacy form the setting of this compelling narrative. *Kanazawa* weaves an intriguing story of a Japanese family worthy of the best of Japanese literature."—Roger Pulvers, author of *Liv*



8 x 10", 40 pp, color illustrations throughout
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-069-3, $16.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-951-1, $9.95
JUVENILE / POETRY

Haiku tell the story of the poet Basho and the diaries he wrote while walking throughout Japan in the 1600s.

Basho's Haiku Journey

TEXT BY FREEMAN NG, ILLUSTRATED BY CASSANDRA ROCKWOOD GHANEM

The 17th-century Japanese poet Matsuo Basho practically invented the haiku. He's most famous for his travel journals. But how did he come to be such a traveler in the first place? This delightful volume—written entirely in haiku and illustrated with vibrant hand-painted scenes taken directly from the poet's written travelogues—tells the true story of Basho's decision to abandon his comfortable city life and of the five great journeys he then took through the length and breadth of Japan.

Freeman Ng is the author of *Joan*, a YA retelling of the life of Joan of Arc that Horn Book Award-winning author Tim Wynne-Jones called, "An intimate meditation, textured and ingenious," and of *Who Am I?*, a personalizable picture book that comes in 20 different versions. Starting in 2010, Freeman wrote and posted one haiku every day for five years, and in 2016 published *Haiku Diem 1*, a collection of the first year's best haiku.

Cassandra Rockwood Ghanem is a San Francisco Bay Area-based poet and illustrator. Her award-winning visual art has been exhibited in journals and galleries throughout the United States and beyond. Her poems and creative nonfiction have been published in *The New Delta Review, Rip Rap, Hawaii Review, The Lifted Brow, For Women Who Roar, The Write Launch*, and elsewhere. This is her first book.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Rich colors and brief text bring a legendary literary figure to life, Matsuo Basho, haiku's most famed practitioner.
- A wonderful opportunity for parents and children to share thoughts on nature and transition, as well as learn about the structure and themes of haiku poetry.
- Vivid, painterly illustrations mark what is sure to be a children's book classic.

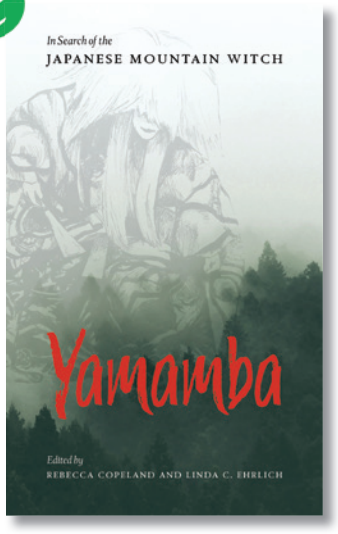
HAIKU FEATURED IN BASHO'S HAIKU JOURNEY

"The poet, bereft
of all but his words, wanders
deep into the woods."

"More beautiful still
is the moon that is not there,
glowing in the mind."

"The Sunshine Temple,
built a thousand years before,
still casting its light."

"Basho Wayfarer
travels on in the spirit,
like silk on the wind."



5¼ x 8", 152 pp, paper; B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-066-2, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-948-1, $9.95
SOCIAL SCIENCE / WOMEN'S STUDIES

Women, Magic, Wisdom: Explore a Japanese myth through the words and images of key scholars and artists.

Yamamba

In Search of the Japanese Mountain Witch

EDITED BY REBECCA COPELAND AND LINDA C. EHRLICH

Alluring, nurturing, dangerous, and vulnerable the *yamamba*, or Japanese mountain witch, has intrigued audiences for centuries. What is it about the fusion of mountains with the solitary old woman that produces such an enigmatic figure? And why does she still call to us in this modern, scientific era? This unique collection represents the creative and surprising ways artists and scholars from North America and Japan have encountered the yamamba.

Rebecca Copeland is a professor of Japanese literature at Washington University in St. Louis, a writer of fiction and literary criticism, and a translator of Japanese literature. Her stories travel between Japan and the American South and touch on questions of identity, belonging, and self-discovery. *The Kimono Tattoo*, her debut work, takes readers on a journey into Kyoto's intricate world of kimono design.

Linda C. Ehrlich is an independent scholar who has published extensively about world cinema and traditional theater. She has published poetry in *International Poetry Review, The Bitter Oleander, Southern Poetry Review, Literary Arts Hawaii, Pinesong,* and other literary journals. Dr. Ehrlich has taught at Duke University, Case Western Reserve University, the University of Tennessee/Knoxville, and on two Semester-at-Sea voyages.

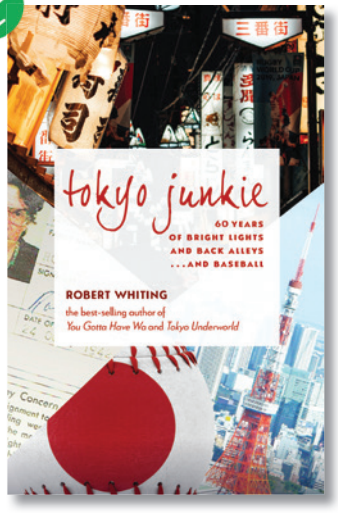
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Casts a wide net to include academicians, poets, fiction writers, professional Noh performers, contemporary choreographers and performance artists, and visual artists--all focused on one topic with broad application to gender and folklore studies.
- There are 233 programs in women's studies and 56 graduate programs in folklore in the US.
- "*Yama uba* [*yamamba*] are the old hags and witches of the Japanese mountains and forests. . . . Yama uba were once human, but were corrupted and transformed into monsters. They usually appear as kind old ladies. Some sport horns or fangs, but most often they look just like ordinary elderly women, with no sign of their evil nature until they attack." (from Yokai Wiki)

PRAISE FOR *YAMAMBA*

"Deftly unmasking the iconic Japanese witch through creative, scholarly, and speculative approaches, this collection is as enchanting and compelling as the yamamba herself."—Kristen J. Sollée, author of *Witches, Sluts, Feminists*

"Encompassing dance, poetry, fiction, essays, and the visual arts, this collection … will enhance readers' appreciation of Japanese arts, lore, and literature, inviting their own creativity."—Jan Bardsley, Professor Emerita, Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies UNC Chapel Hill



5½ x 8½", 384 pp; B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-067-9, $19.95 (paper)
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-073-0, $49.95 (case)
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-949-8, $9.95
Audiobook ISBN: 979-8-20073-788-8, $22.95
BIOGRAPHY / AUTOBIOGRAPHY

60 years of observation: an American journalist's memoir about Tokyo's modern urban transformation, its criminal underworld, and, oh yes, baseball.

Tokyo Junkie

60 Years of Bright Lights and Back Alleys . . . and Baseball

ROBERT WHITING

This astonishing book parallels the coming-of-age of its two main characters: a small-town American and the megacity of Tokyo, once a dark, fetid backwater and now the most populous, sophisticated, and safe urban capital in the world. As Whiting's journalism career takes off, we see Japan between two Olympics (1964 and 2021) and through his eyes: earthquakes, baseball heroes, gangsters, politicians, media stars, and many nights in bars and back alleys.

Robert Whiting is a best-selling, critically acclaimed author who has written extensively on Japan and Japanese-American relations. His books include *Tokyo Underworld, The Meaning of Ichiro, and The Chrysanthemum and the Bat*. His best-selling *You Gotta Have Wa*, a Pulitzer Prize nominee, has been required reading in the Japanese Studies departments of many American universities, as well as the Japan Desk in the US State Department. Whiting has lived in Japan on and off for the past fifty years and is a graduate of Sophia University. Tokyo Underworld is currently under option to Legendary Global, where he will join Sherry Marsh and Terence Winter as an executive producer of a planned series based on the book.

POINTS OF INTEREST

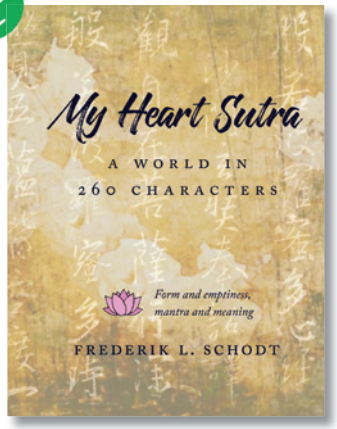
- A combination of memoir, social history, and cultural examination. Read *Tokyo Junkie* and you will understand Japan, Tokyo, and why anyone would want to live there.
- Spans a lifetime, bookended from the first Tokyo Olympics (1964) to the current one (postponed to 2021), a hook for discussion.
- Trip Advisor (2018): Tokyo was voted #1 in the world, topping several of the 16 categories listed including: local friendliness, taxi services, cleanliness and public transportation. Post-COVID it will be even better!

PRAISE FOR *TOKYO JUNKIE*

"Every visitor to Japan, every student of Japanese culture, and every diplomat posted there should have a copy.... An essential guide to understanding the country and its people."—Derek Shearer, former US ambassador and professor of diplomacy

"Whiting is the consummate raconteur, regaling readers with tales of bawdy exploits, how to befriend yakuza, and the art of hard living in a book brimming with wry humor and empathy."—Jeff Kingston, Director of Asian Studies, Temple University Japan and author of Japan (Polity Histories)

"What a joy!"—Nicholas Pileggi, author of *Wiseguy* and *Casino* and screenwriter of *Goodfellas* and *Casino*



5 x 8", 248 pp, paper; B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-062-4, $16.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-611944-3, $9.95
RELIGION / BUDDHISM / SACRED WRITINGS

A cultural and personal journey into the famous sutra that teaches "form is emptiness; and emptiness is form."

My Heart Sutra

A World in 260 Characters

FREDERIK L. SCHODT

The Heart Sutra is the most widely read, chanted, and copied text in East Asian Buddhism. Here Frederik L. Schodt explores his lifelong fascination with the sutra: its mesmerizing mantra, its ancient history, the "emptiness theory," and the way it is used around the world as a metaphysical tool to overcome chaos and confusion and reach a new understanding of reality—a perfection of wisdom. Schodt's journey takes him to caves in China, American beats declaiming poetry, speculations into the sutra's true origins, and even a robot Avalokiteśvara at a Kyoto temple.

Frederik L. Schodt is an author and translator of impressive breadth. He has written extensively on Japanese pop culture, technology, and history. His books include *Manga! Manga!*, *Dreamland Japan, America and the Four Japans,* and *Native American in the Land of the Shogun*, which was a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title in 2005. In 2009, Schodt was awarded the prestigious Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, by the Japanese emperor for his contribution "to the introduction and promotion of Japanese contemporary popular culture in the United States of America." He is also a recipient of the Japan Foundation Award for 2017. Schodt has lectured at venues worldwide, including San Francisco's Asian Art Museum, the Smithsonian Institution's Freer Art Gallery, Temple University Japan, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Tokyo University, Stanford University, and the University of California, Berkeley. He lives in San Francisco.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Few authors have the ability to cover such a wide range of material in primary sources and still write to a general trade audience.
- Neither a spiritual quest nor a religious tract, this book is an absorbing intellectual exploration of a religious text that is both meaningful and talismanic.
- The Heart Sutra is one of the most important scriptural texts in the Mahayana Buddhist School, the largest branch of Buddhism with around 185 million adherents worldwide.

PRAISE FOR *MY HEART SUTRA*

"This is not merely a book about the Heart Sutra. It's about the stories that grew up around it, its journey through human civilization like a self-replicating meme, a scrap of wisdom whispering in temples, shopping malls, and movies."—Jonathan Clements, author of *A Brief History of China*

"Schodt's obsession with the sutra and expertise as a translator shows in his ability to decode academic conversations and practical religious concerns into accessible language.—*Publishers Weekly*

"Unique...an engaging read to anyone with the slightest interest in the subject."—*Nikkei Asia*



304 pp, 5¼ x 8", paper; B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-063-1, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-945-0, $9.95
TRAVEL / ASIA / JAPAN

The most important aspects of Japanese arts, culture, and history, for actual and armchair travelers alike.

Japan from Anime to Zen

Quick Takes on Culture, Art, History, Food . . . and More

DAVID WATTS BARTON; ILLUSTRATED BY YUKO NAGASAKI

This friendly guide offers concise but detailed demystifications of more than 75 aspects of ancient and modern Japan. It can be read in sequence, or just dipped into, depending on the moment's need. Explanations go much deeper than a typical travel guide and cover 1,500 years of history and culture, everything from geisha to gangsters, haiku to karaoke, the sun goddess to the shogunate . . . and anime to Zen.

David Watts Barton is an award-winning freelance journalist who has covered popular music, culture, travel and outdoor recreation for 40 years for newspapers, magazines, radio, and online media. His former employers include *The Sacramento Bee*, Bloomberg, and NPR. For the last five years he has worked exclusively in Japan. He was writer/editor of Japanology.org and has written freelance for Japanese clients that include archi stectural firms, art galleries, hotels, and branding companies. In addition to awards including the first Arts Journalist of the Year, given by the Sacramento Arts and Business Council in 2011, Barton has been a fellow at UC Berkeley's Knight Digital Media Center and at the University of Southern California's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

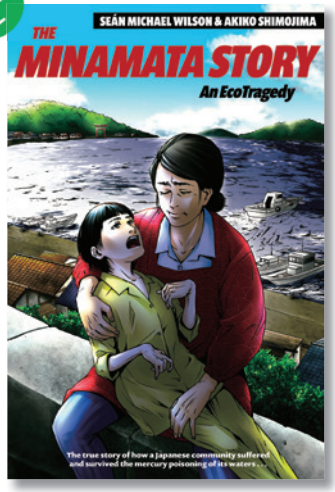
POINTS OF INTEREST

- With over 75 brief essays on both familiar (and unfamiliar) aspects of Japanese culture, this book has something for every tourist, Japanophile, dilettante, and otaku.
- There are many books on Japan, but almost all of them either limit their topics to a particular area, or go broad but superficial; others are essentially travel guides with cultural or historical sidebars; this book impresses with rich content in a readable format.
- This is a collection of what were originally columns for the website Japanology.org. The site's stated audience was English-reading, affluent, well-educated visitors (or potential visitors) to Japan, and these pieces were written with that audience in mind: readers wanted more depth and sophistication than is usual on the pop-culture-oriented websites that proliferate in Japan.

PRAISE FOR *JAPAN FROM ANIME TO ZEN*

"To those looking to take their first trip to Japan, or maybe left pondering many of the nuances of the nation's culture on their return, the sheer expansiveness in scope of the book makes it an ideal travel companion."—*The Japan Society UK Review*

"This is truly a book about Japan from A to Z. David Barton offers deep insight into Japanese culture, history, and language to show what makes Japan so endlessly fascinating. An excellent achievement!"—Yoji Yamakuse, author *Japaneseness*



6 x 9", 112 pp, paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-056-3, $14.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-940-5, $9.95
COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

The true story of how a Japanese community suffered and survived the mercury poisoning of its waters.

The Minamata Story

An EcoTragedy

SEÁN MICHAEL WILSON (TEXT) & AKIKO SHIMOJIMA (ART); FOREWORD BY BRIAN SMALL

This powerful graphic novel tells the story of "Minamata disease," a debilitating ailment linked to the Chisso chemical factory's release of methylmercury into the waters of a coastal village in southern Japan in the 1950s. It led to an epic and continuing struggle of citizens versus corporations and government agencies. In a time of growing concern over environmental safety—e.g., Flint, Michigan—Minamata is an iconic tale of human-caused disasters and what we can do about them.

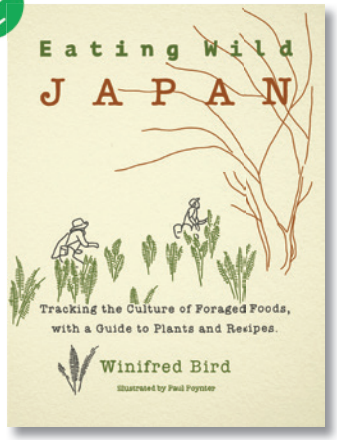
Sean Michael Wilson has published more than thirty books with a variety of US, UK, and Japanese publishers. In 2017, his *Secrets of the Ninja* won an International Manga Award from the Japanese government.

Akiko Shimojima is a frequently published comic artist from Japan. Her *Cold Mountain* won the China Comic and Animation Competition "Best Overseas Comic" award in 2015.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- This graphic novel dramatizes the story of "Minamata," famous around the world as one of the most egregious examples of environmental poisoning; identified in 1956.
- For ecowarriors of all ages; the manga presentation makes it a good choice for younger readers.
- The artist is Japanese and the writer a UK citizen residing in Japan, giving the book a great mix of narrative and authentic representation.





6 x 8", 280 pp, paper, B&W illustrations throughout
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-061-7, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-943-6, $9.95
COOKING / REGIONAL & ETHNIC / JAPANESE

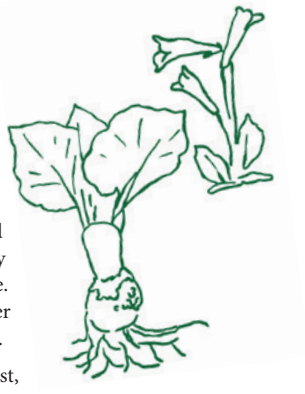
A delicious collection of essays, recipes, and practical plant information exploring Japan's thriving culture of foraged foods.

Eating Wild Japan

Tracking the Culture of Foraged Foods, with a Guide to Plants and Recipes

WINIFRED BIRD, ILLUSTRATED BY PAUL POYNTER

From bracken to butterbur to "princess" bamboo, some of Japan's most iconic foods are foraged, not grown, in its forests, fields, and coastal waters—yet most Westerners have never heard of them. In this book, journalist Winifred Bird eats her way from one end of the country to the other in search of the hidden stories of Japan's wild foods, the people who pick them, and the places whose histories they've shaped.



Winifred Bird is a writer, translator, lifelong cook, and lover of plants both wild and domesticated. From 2005 through 2014 she lived in rural Japan, where she worked as an environmental journalist, grew organic rice and vegetables, and ate as many foraged foods as possible. She currently lives with her family in northern Illinois.

Paul Poynter is an artist, tree climber, and woodsman living in Matsumoto, Japan.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- For foraging enthusiasts living outside of Japan (and maybe a few inside Japan) who want to know how other cultures use and relate to wild edible plants.
- For people who love Japanese food and want to discover something new about an otherwise well-known cuisine.
- For people traveling to Japan (especially rural Japan) who want a more in-depth understanding of what they are eating.
- For general Japanophiles hungry for any new angle on Japan.

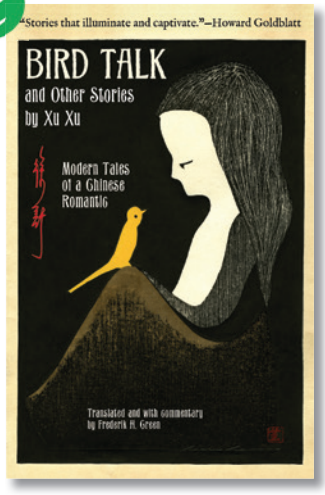
PRAISE FOR *EATING WILD JAPAN*

"*Eating Wild Japan* satiates the mind, providing a detailed exploration of Japan’s intricate, ever important food culture."—*The Japan Times*

"Bird is outstanding in illuminating the way food and subjugation have historically been tied together, causing the disappearance of foraging practices."—*The Asian Review of Books*

"Not only a superbly-written and engaging read but plays an important role in spreading and preserving the knowledge of the Japanese wilderness."—*Metropolis Magazine*

"Winifred Bird has penned a delightful homage to those who practice the art of bringing wild foods deliciously to table."—Elizabeth Andoh, author of *Washoku* and *Kansha*



224 pp, 5 x 8½"; B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-055-6 (paper), $19.95
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-059-4 (case), $29.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-939-9 (ebook), $9.95
LITERARY COLLECTIONS / ASIAN / CHINESE
(WE)

Introducing the works of a major Chinese writer—liberal, cosmopolitan, and lyrically exotic—once banned but now embraced, and newly "discovered" in the West.

Bird Talk

And Other Stories by Xu Xu

XU XU; TRANSLATED AND WITH COMMENTARY BY FREDERIK H. GREEN

Xu Xu was one of the most widely read Chinese authors of the 1930s to 1960s. His popular urban-gothic tales, his exotic spy fiction, and his quasi-existentialist love stories full of nostalgia and melancholy offer today's readers an unusual glimpse into China's turbulent twentieth century. These translations—spanning a period of some thirty years, from 1937 until 1965—bring to life some of Xu Xu's most representative short fictions from prewar Shanghai and postwar Hong Kong and Taiwan. The Afterword illustrates that Xu Xu's idealistic tendencies in defiance of the politicization of art exemplify his affinity with European romanticism and link his work to a global literary modernity.

Xu Xu 徐訏 (1908–80) enjoyed tremendous popularity throughout the late 1930s and 1940s. His writings were banned on the mainland from 1949 until the 1980s but are now widely read in China and a frequent source material for television and the stage. In Hong Kong Xu Xu edited several literary journals and taught Chinese literature at different colleges and universities, eventually chairing the Chinese Department at Hong Kong Baptist University until his death in 1980.

Frederik H. Green is associate professor of Chinese at San Francisco State University. He holds a BA in Chinese Studies from Cambridge University and an MPhil and Ph.D. in Chinese literature from Yale University.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Xu Xu's literary career spans three distinct/important periods of twentieth-century China: prewar Shanghai, war-time China, and postwar Hong Kong.
- Xu Xu was a major influence on a younger generation of Chinese writers in postwar Hong Kong and Taiwan.
- Xu Xu is regularly taught in graduate seminars.
- The collection gives insight into some of the most interesting and turbulent periods in modern Chinese history.

PRAISE FOR *BIRD TALK*

"Stories that illuminate and captivate."—Howard Goldblatt

"One of the most widely read Chinese authors of the mid-twentieth century finally available in English translation. A delight for scholars and general readers."—Chris Wen-chao Li, D.Phil., Oxford University. Professor of Chinese Linguistics, San Francisco State University

"An intriguing selection of short fiction by one of the great storytellers of modern China and postwar Hong Kong, elegantly translated and prefaced with an insightful and engaging introduction."—Jennifer Feeley, Ph.D., Yale University, and translator of Xi Xi's *Not Written Words*

"With style, humor, warmth, and pathos, Xu Xu turned the mid-century Chinese experience of revolution, war, and displacement into compulsively readable pop modernist romances."—Andrew F. Jones, Louis B. Agassiz Professor of Chinese, University of California, Berkeley



296 pp, 5½ x 8½"; B&W photos
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p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-060-0 (case), $45.00
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-941-2, $9.95
BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / PERSONAL MEMOIRS

An American's behind-the-scenes look at how the animated films of Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli were introduced to the world.

Sharing a House with the Never-Ending Man

15 Years at Studio Ghibli

STEVE ALPERT

This highly entertaining business memoir describes what it was like to work for Japan's premiere animation studio, Studio Ghibli, and its reigning genius Hayao Miyazaki. Steve Alpert, a Japanese-speaking American, was the "resident foreigner" in the offices of Ghibli and its parent Tokuma Shoten and played a central role when Miyazaki's films were starting to take off in international markets. Alpert describes hauling heavy film canisters of *Princess Mononoke* to Russia and California, experiencing a screaming Harvey Weinstein, dealing with Disney marketers, and then triumphantly attending glittering galas celebrating the Oscar-winning *Spirited Away*.

His one-of-a-kind portraits of Miyazaki and long-time producer Toshio Suzuki, and of sly, gruff, and brilliant businessman Yasuyoshi Tokuma, capture the hard work and artistry that have made Ghibli films synonymous with cinematic excellence. And as the lone *gaijin* in a demanding company run by some of the most famous and influential people in modern Japan, Steve Alpert tackles his own challenges of language and culture. No one else could have written this book.

Steve Alpert speaks Japanese and Chinese fluently, having lived in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Taipei for a combined total of over thirty-five years. For fifteen years beginning in 1996, he was a senior executive at Studio Ghibli. He lives in New Haven, Connecticut.

POINTS OF INTEREST

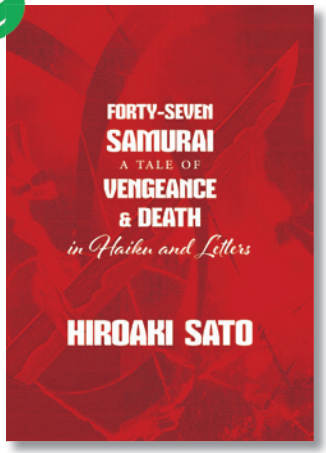
- PAGE-TURNING: A breezy read filled with vivid description of personalities and places, in Japan, Los Angeles, Berlin, Cannes, Tokyo.
- AN INSIDE, INTIMATE PORTRAIT Miyazaki does not reveal himself often, and there is no other person anywhere with Steve Alpert's access and insider knowledge.
- INFORMATIVE: How are Japanese animated films transformed and translated for overseas audiences? This book provides rich detail on translation, screenings, marketings, and licensing: lots of inside information and fly-on-the-wall reporting.

PRAISE FOR *SHARING A HOUSE WITH THE NEVER-ENDING MAN*

""It's a fabulous book. Informative and illuminating."—Neil Gaiman, author of *American Gods, Sandman,* and *The Ocean at the End of the Lane*

"... an utterly priceless insider account, loaded with shouting matches, dastardly deals, moments of searing creative wisdom and fist-gnawing awkwardness. Ghibli, and anime, will never look the same again."—Jonathan Clements, author of *Anime: A History*

"With humor and insight Steve Alpert describes his years working at Japan's premiere animation company, Studio Ghibli. Fans of Ghibli and its films, and its best-known founder and director, Hayao Miyazaki, will be delighted."—Frederik L. Schodt, author of *The Astro Boy Essays*



256 pp, 5 x 8½", paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-054-9, $18.95
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HISTORY / ASIA / JAPAN

One of the most spectacular vendettas in history, in a new narrative of its background, impact, and literary legacy.

Forty-Seven Samurai

A Tale of Vengeance and Death in Haiku and Letters

HIROAKI SATO

A remarkable and true tale of loyalty, vengeance, and ritual suicide. . . . In the spring of 1701, the regional lord Asano Naganori wounded his supervising official, Kira Yoshinaka, during an important ceremony in the ruling shogunate's Edo Castle and was at once condemned to death. Within two years, in the dead of winter, a band of forty-seven of Asano's retainers avenged him by breaking into Yoshinaka's mansion and killing him. Subsequently, all the men were sentenced to death but allowed to perform it honorably by seppuku.

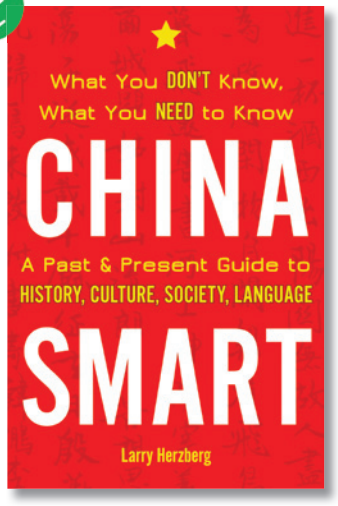
This incident—often called the Ako Incident—became a symbol of samurai honor and at once prompted stage dramatization in kabuki and puppet theater. It has since has been told and retold in short and long stories, movies, TV dramas. The story has also attracted the attention of foreign writers and translators. The most recent retelling was the 2013 Hollywood film *47 Ronin*, with Keanu Reeves, though it was wildly and willfully distorted.

What did actually happen and how has this famous vendetta resonated through history? Hiroaki Sato's examination is a close, comprehensive look at the Ako Incident through the context of its times, portraits of the main protagonists, and its literary legacy in the haiku of the avengers. Also included is Sato's new translation of Akutagawa Ryonosuke's short story about leader Oishi Kuranosuke as he awaited sentencing.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- The subject of the book is one of the most famous true samurai revenge tales in Japanese history, and was recently made into a feature film with Keanu Reeves.
- Author Sato is well known to readers of Japanese literature and samurai history and has been called "the pre-eminent translator of Japanese poetry in our time."
- Tales of samurai loyalty and bushido are evergreen with American readers.
- Sato's fresh combination of history, poetry, cultural analysis, and fictional narrative is a thoroughly new way of approaching a story that is already relatively well known in the West.

Hiroaki Sato is an award-winning writer of books on Japanese history and literature, and a translator of classical and modern Japanese poetry into English. American Beat poet Gary Snyder has called Sato "perhaps the finest translator of contemporary Japanese poetry into American English." He is the author of the classic work *Legends of the Samurai*. His reviews and articles have appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer, The New York Times Book Review, AsiaWeek, Mainichi Daily News, St. Andrews Review, Journal of the Association of Teachers of Japanese, The Journal of American and Canadian Studies, Comparative Literature Studies, The Japan Times, The Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies, The Journal of Japanese Studies, Modern Haiku, Japan Focus,* and others. He recently received the 2017–2018 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Translation Prize for *The Silver Spoon* (Stone Bridge Press).



5¼ x 8", 248 pp, paper, B&W photos
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-050-1, $16.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-935-1, $9.95
TRAVEL / ASIA / CHINA

Essential essays on all things Chinese that inform and entertain travelers, students, and anyone working or living in China

China Smart

What You Don't Know, What You Need to Know— A Past & Present Guide to History, Culture, Society, Language

LARRY HERZBERG

How much do you know about China?

Where did the Chinese language come from? How is China organized politically? What about Chinese art and why China produces so many virtuosos in Western classical music? Is the Chinese internet like our internet? What's China's role in the world today?

In nearly five dozen brief essays, long-time China expert Larry Herzberg tackles important facts and myths about China, its history, people, and culture. Anyone dipping into this book will emerge that much smarter about China, whether visiting, conducting business, studying the language, or simply being fascinated by one of the world's greatest and most influential civilizations. Includes a bibliography and index.

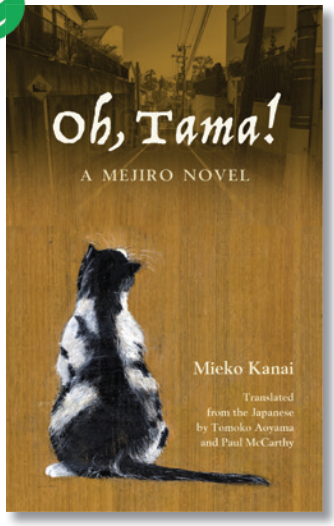
Larry Herzberg for the past three decades has taught the Chinese language at the college level. He is author of *Speak and Read Chinese* and along with his wife, Qin Xue Herzberg, of *China Survival Guide*, *Basic Patterns of Chinese Grammar*, *Chinese Proverbs and Popular Sayings* (all from Stone Bridge Press), and *A Writing Guide for Learners of Chinese* (Yale University Press).

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Timely. Contains sections on gender equality, the internet, the youth movement in China, and LGBTQ issues.
- Comprehensive. Topics range from earliest times to the modern day, and include history, culture, language, behavior, religion, and geopolitics.
- Smart! Like the title says, this book gives the readers China smarts. It explores myths and explodes them too. Great tidbits for conversation: the truth about foot binding, Chiang Kai-shek's lesser known record as a brutal tyrant, fun facts about language. A lifetime of solid China lore in a single volume.

EXAMPLES OF SUBJECTS COVERED IN *CHINA SMART*

Origin of the word "China" The Great Wall The imperial examination system Two bloody civil wars in China China's Queen Elizabeth I Hua Mulan Foot-binding Mao Ze-dong and his legacy Terms for family members in Chinese Chinese Holidays The nature of the Chinese written language Chinese dialects Chinese surnames The Communist Party and the government The Chinese military China's population The biggest cities in China China's economic growth and rise in personal incomes Gender eEquality The LGBT community



152 pp, 5 x 8", paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-051-8, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-936-8, $9.95
LITERARY COLLECTIONS / ASIAN / JAPANESE
(WE)

A deeply eccentric novel about lives and connections—and a cat of course—in 1980s Tokyo: witty, offbeat, and strangely profound.

Oh, Tama!

A Mejiro Novel

MIEKO KANAI; TRANSLATED BY TOMOKO AOYAMA AND PAUL MCCARTHY

Oh, Tama! describes the haphazard lives of Natsuyuki Kanemitsu and his loosely connected circle of dysfunctional acquaintances and family. Natsuyuki is prevailed upon by his friend Alexandre, an occasional porn-film actor, to adopt the very pregnant cat Tama, who gives birth and remains throughout the novel as a silent observer of her human hosts. Further complications arise surrounding the mystery of who the father of Alexandre's sister Tsuneko's unborn child is, with Tsuneko (a bar owner) happy to collect money from anyone who may be responsible. One of these possible dads turns out to be Natsuyuki's half-brother, abandoned and forgotten long ago as easily as Tama has parted with her kittens. A "fast and comedic novel," *Oh, Tama!* plays out against a backdrop of cramped apartments and cheap food and drink where everyone seems to have an opinion on film, photography, and fashionable French art theory. It is part of the author's esteemed series of "Mejiro" novels, named after the northeast area of Tokyo that so richly informs their urbanity and outlook.

Mieko Kanai is a prominent Japanese novelist.

Tomoko Aoyama is Associate Professor of Japanese at the University of Queensland, Australia.

Paul McCarthy has taught Japanese literature in the United States and comparative literature in Japan and Korea for forty years.

POINTS OF INTEREST

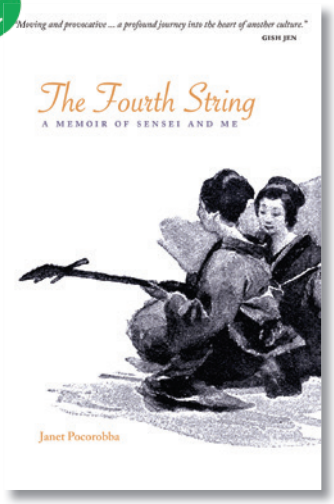
- Life in Tokyo as it is today, or maybe isn't. Kanai's characters are decidedly quirky, and impossible coincidences bring them and their lives crashing together in unexpected ways. The book is richly humorous and whimsical, a pleasure to read, but serious themes of abandonment and disconnectedness are lurking beneath the surface.
- Translations are booming. American readers are embracing foreign works as never before, and here's a great candidate to give readers a new taste that is accessible, clever, and engaging. Great commuter reading!
- Reminds us of Yumiko Kurahashi and Yoko Tawada, while the urbane scenes and good-for-nothing kind of protagonists are definitely Murakamian.
- Cats! 'Nuff said. The star of the show.

PRAISE FOR *OH, TAMA!*

"A comic masterpiece in a brilliant translation that captures the verbal acrobatics of the original with wit and warmth."—Janine Beichman, translator of Makoto Ōoka, *Beneath the Sleepless Tossing of the Planets*

"Mieko Kanai is one of Japan's leading authors, and her sly mix of high-minded ideas with earthy humor has been perfectly captured in this lively translation."—Phyllis Birnbaum, translator of *Heaven and Hell* by Toriko Takarabe

"An enticing novel."—Janet Mary Livesey, *World Literature Today*



5½ x 8½", 224 pp, paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-046-4, $16.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-934-4, $9.95
BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / PERSONAL MEMOIRS

Two women. Two cultures. One music.

The Fourth String

A Memoir of Sensei and Me

JANET POCOROBBA

The word *sensei* in Japanese literally means "one who came before," but that's not what Janet Pocorobba's teacher wanted to be called. She used her first name, Western-style. She wore a velour Beatles cap and leather jacket, and she taught foreigners, in English, the three-stringed shamisen, an instrument that fell out of tune as soon as you started to play it. Vexed by the music and Sensei's mission to upend an elite musical system, Pocorobba, on the cusp of thirty, gives up her return ticket home to become a lifelong student of her teacher. She is eventually featured in Japan *Cosmo* as one of the most accomplished *gaijin*, "outside people," to play the instrument.

Part memoir, part biography of her Sensei, *The Fourth String* looks back on the initial few years of that apprenticeship, one that Janet's own female English students advised her was "wife training," steeped in obedience, loyalty, and duty. Even with her maverick teacher, Janet is challenged by group hierarchies, obscure traditions, and the tricky spaces of silence in Japanese life.

Anmoku ryokai, Sensei says to explain: "We have to understand without saying." By the time Janet finds out this life might not be for her, she is more at home in the music than the Japanese will allow.

For anyone who has had a special teacher, or has lost themselves in another world, Janet Pocorobba asks questions about culture, learning, tradition, and self. As Gish Jen has said of *The Fourth String*, "What does it mean to be taught? To be transformed?"

Janet Pocorobba's involvement with Japan includes two decades of performing Japanese arts on two continents. Her work has appeared in *The Rumpus, The Writer, Harvard Review, [Nixes Mate], Kyoto Journal, Indiana Review,* and others. She is currently associate professor and associate director of the Low-Residency MFA Program in Creative Writing at Lesley University. Janet lives in Vermont and can be reached at janetpocorobba.com.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Where culture and personality come together: This book reveals the tenacity and struggles behind the art, and reveals that the end of art is not so much the final piece but the process of getting there.
- A tale of two women: The interplay between the author and her Sensei is a fascinating look at two women, both outsiders. To be an unconventional woman in Japan is distancing and dangerous.

PRAISE FOR *THE FOURTH STRING*

"An eloquent and insightful story about Japanese music and culture. Her observations shed light on our longing for beauty and purpose."—Kyoko Mori, author of the memoir *Yarn: Remembering the Way Home*



40 pp, 5 x 7", paper, B&W illustrations throughout
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-049-5, $9.95
HEALTH & FITNESS / BODY CLEANSING & DETOXIFICATION

An intoxicating, illustrated guide to Japan's ritual of hot-tub bathing.

How to Take a Japanese Bath

LEONARD KOREN; ILLUSTRATED BY SUEIHIRO MARUO

Since its first publication in 1992, this book has become a curious classic, taking a simple (yet often incorrectly performed) activity and depicting it with a graphic, manga-style edge. In twelve drawings a young Japanese man is shown preparing, rinsing, soaking, communing, relaxing, contemplating—all an encouragement to readers to slow down, ease into the hot water, and enjoy this timeless ritual of purity and release.

Leonard Koren was founder and publisher of *WET: The Magazine of Gourmet Bathing* in Los Angeles and is author of the classic work on bathing, *Undesigning the Bath*. He is also the author of the influential work on Japanese aesthetics *Wabi-Sabi*.

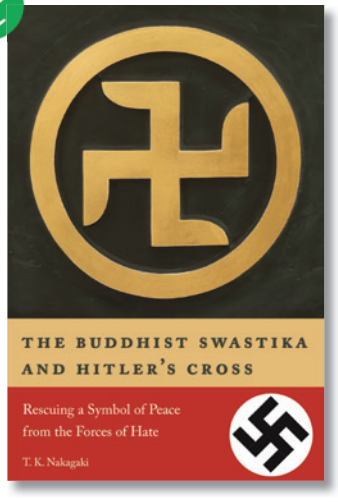
POINTS OF INTEREST

- A bathing "classic" featuring author Leonard Koren (viz. *Wabi-Sabi*), emphasizing that bathing is not bathing but relaxing and "getting pure."
- Features the fabulous art of now-famous graphic manga artist Suehiro Maruo, known worldwide by his fans for strong and sometimes gruesome, erotic works (definitely not the case in our benign volume, however!).
- Tourists in Japan always fear not doing the bath correctly; this book couldn't make it simpler: a no-fail method!
- Small, inexpensive, makes a great gift book and impulse bu.
- Bright red, branded cover with big "onsen" (bath) symbol draws attention
- Hipster and health factor: combines Japan, cleanliness, hygiene, bathing, soaking, hot tub, WET magazine retro feel

PRAISE FOR *HOW TO TAKE A JAPANESE BATH*

"Guaranteed to rinse away all your doubts and fears."—*Look Japan*

"This book is a physical work of art—as it should be, because the Japanese bath is an aesthetic event."—*Whole Earth Review*



6 x 9", 200 pp, paper, B&W photos throughout
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-045-7, $18.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-933-7, $9.95
RELIGION / BUDDHISM / HISTORY

A remarkable cross-cultural history that traces the misuse of the swastika by Nazis and hatemongers and celebrates its true role as a symbol of peace and happiness.

The Buddhist Swastika and Hitler's Cross

Rescuing a Symbol of Peace from the Forces of Hate

T. K. NAKAGAKI

The swastika has been used for over three thousand years by billions of people in many cultures and religions—including Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism—as an auspicious symbol of the sun and good fortune. However, beginning with its hijacking and misappropriation by Nazi Germany, it has also been used, and continues to be used, as a symbol of hate in the Western World. Hitler's device is in fact a "hooked cross." Rev. Nakagaki's book explains how and why these symbols got confused, and offers a path to peace, understanding, and reconciliation.

Rev. Dr. T. K. Nakagaki is a Buddhist priest, ordained in the 750-year-old Jodoshinshu tradition of Japanese Buddhism. He graduated from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, majoring in Buddhist History in 1983, and later conducted advanced study in Jodoshinshu Buddhist doctrine at Gyoshin Buddhist Seminary in Osaka, Japan, from 1983 to 1985. Rev. Dr. Nakagaki is currently President of the Buddhist Council of New York, Hiroshima Peace Ambassador, Peace Correspondent of Nagasaki City, Community Clergy Liaison for the NYC Police Department, and former Vice President of the Interfaith Center of New York. He is the author of three books in Japanese and is also a noted Japanese calligrapher.

POINTS OF INTEREST

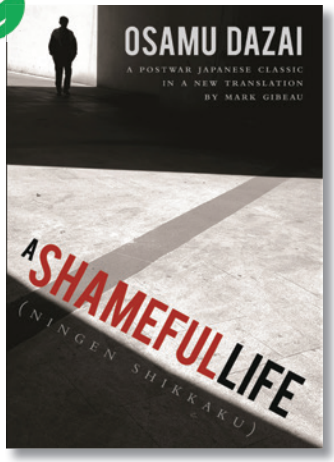
- Timely: the alt-right and neo-Nazis are much in the news rallies featuring the swastika as a symbol of hate; the author shows in detail what the swastika really means.
- A positive message: how surprising it is to discover that one of the world's great symbols of evil is in fact an ancient symbol of peace and happiness.
- Unknown history: this book reveals a fascinating history of the swastika's use in Asia and how it came to be misappropriated in Germany; history buffs will uncover lots of details and fascinating factoids.
- An activist author: Rev. Nakagaki is very active in the Peace community in New York, and is an engaging speaker and convincing spokesperson for his cause; this book is not just a history, it is a call to action that comes from his heart.

PRAISE FOR *THE BUDDHIST SWASTIKA AND HITLER'S CROSS*

"I would highly recommend this book to those who work in cultural institutions, especially those involving Japan, Japanese Americans and Buddhism."—Naomi Hirahara, *Nichi Bei Weekly*

"An incredible historical study of the importance of religious symbols and how they can be incorporated into a society in surprising and unlikely ways."—*The Seattle Book Review*

"A cogent and timely call for interreligious understanding and acceptance. Highly recommended!"—Dr. Leo D. Lefebure, Matteo Ricci, S.J., Professor of Theology, Georgetown University



142 pp, 5 x 7", paper
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FICTION / GENERAL
(WE)

A new translation of one of the greatest works of postwar Japanese literature, acutely capturing modern anxiety and alienation

A Shameful Life

A New Translation of a Postwar Japanese Classic

OSAMU DAZAI; TRANSLATED BY MARK GIBEAU

Osamu Dazai is one of the most famous—and infamous—writers of 20th-century Japan. *A Shameful Life (Ningen shikkaku)* is his final published work and has become a bestselling classic for its depiction of the tortured struggle of a young man to survive in a world that he cannot comprehend. Paralleling the life and death of Dazai himself, the delicate weaving of fact and fiction remorselessly documents via journals the life of Yozo, a university student who spends his time in increasing isolation and debauchery. His doomed love affairs, suicide attempts, and constant fear of revealing his true self haunt the pages of the book and reveal a slow descent into madness. This dark tale nevertheless conveys something authentic about the human heart and its inability to find its true bearing.

Author **Osamu Dazai** (b. 1909) is as famous for his darkly introspective novels as for the light-hearted children's stories that are a staple of many Japanese textbooks. He died in a lovers' suicide in 1948.

Mark Gibeau is a literary translator and scholar of postwar Japanese literature. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in the College of Asia and the Pacific at The Australian National University, Canberra.

POINTS OF INTEREST

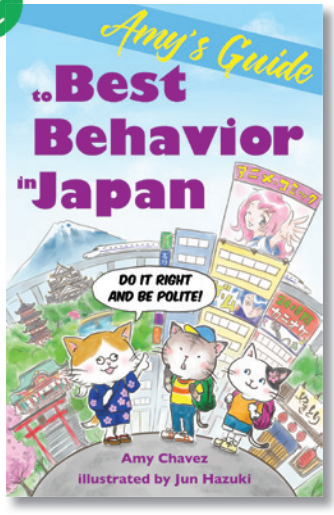
- This is a new translation of the second-best-selling novel in Japan (after Soseki's *Kokoro*).
- The work has been widely adopted by classrooms as one of the main representatives of postwar Japanese literature.
- Why a new translation? It brings the text into the 21st century: the standard Donald Keene translation is now almost 60 years old. This new rendering provides a more natural reading experience that closely parallels that of the contemporary Japanese reader of the original.

PRAISE FOR *A SHAMEFUL LIFE*

"Dazai's reputation has not waned a bit in seventy years. Reading Mark Gibeau's brilliant translation will show you why."—Roger Pulvers, award-winning translator, film director, and author of *LIV*

"This new translation brings fresh skill and sensitivity to the task of interpreting one of modern Japanese literature's most endearing classics. It gives us Dazai in all his quirky hilarity and pathos, and deepens our understanding of this complex and brilliant writer."—Dr. Meredith McKinney, award-winning translator of Sei Shônagon's *The Pillow Book*

"Certain novels evoke such a vivid sense of a character that it almost hurts to reach the end. This nuanced, engaging translation of Dazai Osamu's masterpiece, *A Shameful Life* is just such a work: subtle and complex, it pulls the reader in and refuses to let go .... it is Dazai at his finest."—Michael Emmerich, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature at UCLA



144 pp, 4½ x 7", paper, 2-color illustrations throughout
p-ISBN: 9781611720433, $12.95
e-ISBN: 9781611729313, $7.95
HOSPITALITY, TRAVEL & TOURISM

Going to Japan? This unfussy modern guide guarantees you keep it polite and get it right!

Amy's Guide to Best Behavior in Japan

Do It Right and Be Polite!

AMY CHAVEZ; ILLUSTRATED BY JUN HAZUKI

This guide to common courtesy, accepable behavior, and manners is essential for any visitor to Japan. Japanese are unfailingly polite and will never tell you if you've crossed the line. But by knowing how to act in every situation you'll gain the respect of your hosts and in the end get even better service and enjoyment during your travels. Covered here are all the essentials—like travel, greetings, dining—plus subtle niceties like tone of voice, body language, cell phone usage, city vs. country styles, and attire (and what to do about your tattoos!).

The author, a 25-year resident of Japan and tourist adviser who lives on the fabled Inland Sea, knows just what foreign visitors need and delivers it in a smart, compact, and delightfully illustrated package for quick use and reference.

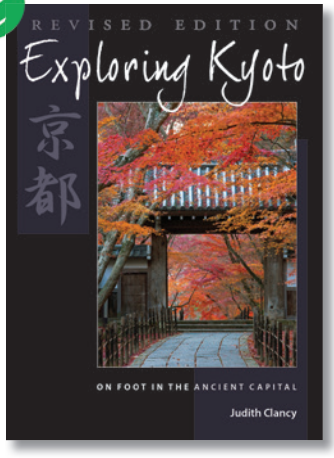
Amy Chavez has lived in Japan for 25 years, and is proprietor of the Moooo! Bar & Cafe on Shiraishi Island in the Inland Sea, where she helps tourists with reservations, language support, and cultural guidance. She writes frequently about cultural differences between Japan and the West for the *Japan Times, Huffpo*, and *RocketNews24*.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Tourism in Japan is booming: the dollar is up and the Japanese government is preparing a huge promotional campaign for the upcoming 2020 Olympics.
- Few authors could be as knowledgeable about tourism and good conduct in Japan as Amy Cahvez, a 25-year resident and bar/cafe proprietor who helps tourists every day.
- Most Americans have heard that Japanese are "very polite," but politeness is more than just saying please and thank you. It's attitude and behavior, too, and most tourists in Japan either don't know the rules or overthink them. Here's solid help so you can travel with confidence!

SUBJECTS COVERED IN AMY'S GUIDE TO BEST BEHAVIOR IN JAPAN

10 Things You Should Never Do in Japan *10 Things You Should Always Do in Japan* *Money* *Bowing & Shaking Hands* *Conversation* *Taboo Subjects* *Showing Appreciation* *Romance and Flirting* *Queuing* *Eating in Public* *Eating in Restaurants* *Drinking* *Drinking Establishments* *Shoes* *Toilets At the Hotel* *On the Subway/Train/Bus* *When You "Take a Meeting" in Japan* *Bringing Good Manners Home With You* *Index*



320 pp, 5 x 7", paper, B&W photos and maps throughout
p-ISBN: 9781611720419, $18.95
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HISTORY / ASIA / JAPAN

An updated guide to the legendary gardens, temples, and backstreet treasures of Japan's most walkable city.

Exploring Kyoto, Revised Edition

On Foot in the Ancient Capital

JUDITH CLANCY

This revised and updated edition of the Japan travel classic and cultural guide gets you wandering from downtown quarters to remote mountaintop temples and features expanded information on new museums and gardens now open year-round for viewing. Judith Clancy's expert research weaves a rich narrative of Kyoto's history, local lore, and artistic and religious background to guide you through your journey, bringing Japan's treasured ancient capital into vivid relief.

- 31 explorations including 5 mountain routes, 17 World Heritage Sites, Arashiyama, Kiyomizu-dera, Philosopher's Walk, the city's 6 Zen temple complexes, and much more
- Detailed maps tracing each route
- Over 30 descriptive photos
- Tips on etiquette and behavior
- A full index to all sites and attractions

Judith Clancy has lived in Kyoto since 1970. She writes about the many traditions of Japan and Kyoto, including music, tea ceremony, and ikebana, and acts as a guide and interpreter for groups and workshops. She is also the author of *Kyoto Machiya Restaurant Guide*.

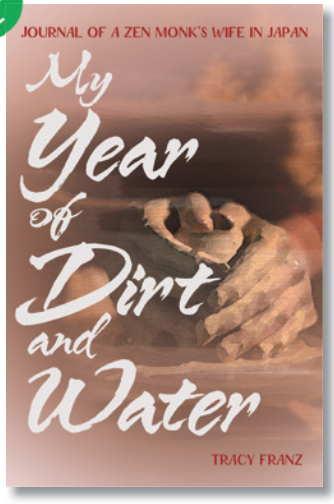
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Updated with current information on transportation, internet use, new locations, and new travel highlights.
- Not a mass-produced travel guide but an intimate, shared portrait of the city by a long-time resident who loves Kyoto and knows all its secrets.
- Kyoto is a perennial favorite of tourists to Japan. Everyone goes there and wants to know what to see and do. This book's unique approach is sure to satisfy anyone who loves to walk and explore.

FROM THE INTRODUCTION

During April and November, the city seems bursting at its seams with the number of visitors. . . .The stillness of its gardens and shrine precincts remain refuges of sublime beauty and a reflection of a millennium of architectural, landscaping, and cultural tradition, a testament to the dedicated maintenance of its assets by its inhabitants.

Kyoto remains one of the world's great cities, an ancient capital gracefully attuned to its past and comfortably positioned in the twenty-first century.



276 pp, 5½ x 8½" paper
p-ISBN: 9781611720426, $16.95
e-ISBN: 9781611729306, $9.95
BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / PERSONAL MEMOIRS

Married to a Zen monk in training, an American woman in Japan chronicles her own year of growth and discovery.

My Year of Dirt and Water

Journal of a Zen Monk's Wife in Japan

TRACY FRANZ

In February 2004, when her American husband, a recently ordained Zen monk, leaves their home in Kumamoto, Japan, to enter a Buddhist monastery, Tracy Franz resolves to make it her year of Zen, too. She begins to pay attention.

My Year of Dirt and Water is a record of that journey. Able to see her cloistered husband only occasionally, Tracy teaches English, studies Japanese, and devotes herself to making pottery. Her teacher instructs her to turn cup after cup—creating one failure after another. Her husband's life at the temple is challenging, and in her brief visits to the monastery, Tracy becomes increasingly aware of how, as in her day-to-day life in Japan, she is an outsider. She is alone. As past and present, East and West intertwine, Tracy is twice compelled to return to Alaska to confront the ghosts of a devastating childhood and a broken family. She returns to Japan, ready to move on.

Revolving through the days, *My Year of Dirt and Water* circles hard questions: What is love? What is art? What is practice? What do we do with the burden of suffering? The answers are formed and then unformed—a ceramic bowl born on the wheel and then returned again and again to dirt and water.

Tracy Franz lived in Japan for ten years. She now lives with her husband—Soto Zen priest Koun Franz—and their two children in Nova Scotia, where she teaches at Dalhousie University. You can find her at tracyfranz.com.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Much more than Zen, this is a book that examines how it feels to be left behind and also out of context in Japan, a book about seeking and the spirituality of everyday life.
- Here are unexpected details of personal relationship and physically and mentally taxing practices that are fresh and insightful—a portrait of Japan rarely seen.
- The author is an active blogger and someone who connects with practicing Buddhists through her website and other writings.

PRAISE FOR *MY YEAR OF DIRT AND WATER*

"Intriguing... Franz writes in elegantly understated journal entries, each with a satisfying heft, like a rustic wabi-sabi tea bowl."—*The New York Times*

"Tracy Franz's poignant memoir, *My Year of Dirt and Water*, is full of carefully observed details. . . what emerges is a discreet love story, but also an account of a woman discovering her own inner strength while living in Japan."—*The Japan Times*

"Franz lovingly introduces readers to the intimate parts of Japanese culture and society, while using what she's learned to look honestly at her own life"—*The Literary Review*



296 pp 6⅝ x 10", 400 color photographs, hardcover
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-035-8, $65.00
GARDENING / ARCHITECTURE (WE)

Marc Peter Keane's personal journey through 100 Japanese gardens, looking at them with a designer's eye.

Japanese Garden Notes

A Visual Guide to Elements and Design

MARC PETER KEANE

Matching some 400 color photographs to brief, informed observations, renowned garden designer Marc Peter Keane walks us through 100 Japanese gardens, stopping along the way to note essential elements of design, technique, and culture. Covering everything from large-scale aspects of space and balance to subtle elements that are often overlooked, this is an innovative, stunningly visual guide for planning and inspiration.

Landscape architect and author **Marc Peter Keane** lived in Kyoto, Japan, for nearly 20 years and specializes in Japanese garden design. He lives in Ithaca, New York. He is the author of several books about garden design and is a fellow at the Research Center for Japanese Garden Art in Kyoto, the East Asia Program at Cornell University, and the Institute for Medieval Japanese Studies at Columbia University. He has lectured widely throughout the United States, England, and Japan. He is the author of *The Art of Setting Stones* and *The Japanese Tea Garden*, both available from Stone Bridge Press.

POINTS OF INTEREST

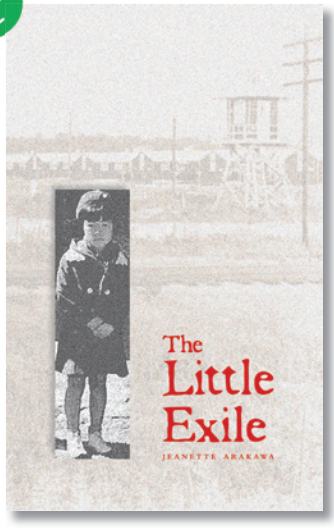
- The only book that looks in detail at the elements of Japanese gardens through the eyes of a successful, contemporary garden designer.
- No matter what kind of Japanese garden you're building, you will find examples and to-the-point observations here.
- Stunning photographs in full color throughout.
- Organized by element for quick reference by designers and builders.

PRAISE FOR MARC PETER KEANE

"The undisputed American master of Japanese garden scholars; he is also an educator and garden designer in his own right. Two of his previous books, *Japanese Garden Design* and *The Art of Setting Stones*, are indispensable."—*New York Times*, Dominique Browning

"What sets Keane's beautifully measured and considered prose style apart from other garden writers is the carefully created mood of his text, which aspires at times to verbalized contemplation. It is the first book of this depth and scope to appear in English, and is likely to remain the standard work on the subject for a very long time to come."—*Kyoto Journal*, review of *The Japanese Tea Garden*

"When Marc Peter Keane describes, with poetry and erudition, the experience of the Japanese garden today, he has no peer."— Leonard Koren, author of *Wabi-Sabi*



240 pp, 5 x 8", paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-036-5, $14.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-923-8, $7.95
FICTION

A Japanese-American girl's life changes forever when she and her family are forcibly relocated from San Francisco to Arkansas during WW2.

The Little Exile

JEANETTE ARAKAWA

After Pearl Harbor, little Marie Mitsui, who considers herself a typical American girl, sees her life of school and playing with friends in San Francisco totally upended. Her family and 120,000 others of Japanese ancestry are forcibly relocated to internment camps far from home. Living conditions in the camps are harsh, life after camp is similarly harsh, but in the end, as she and her family make their way back to San Francisco, Marie sees hope for the future. Told from a child's perspective, *The Little Exile* deftly conveys Marie's innocence, wonder, fear, and outrage.

Though some names and details have been altered, this is the author's own life story. She believes that underlying everyone's experience, no matter how varied, are threads of humanity that bind us all. It is her hope that readers of all ages are able to find those threads in her story.

Jeanette Arakawa was born in San Francisco, California to Japanese immigrants. During World War II, she was part of a diaspora that took her to Stockton, California, Rohwer, Arkansas, and Denver, Colorado. She returned to San Francisco in time to enter high school and then went on to U.C. Berkeley. She and Kiyoto Arakawa, who have two sons and a granddaughter, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Jeanette has devoted the past sixty years to education-related projects and is still going strong.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- "This book has caused me to retrace a journey long past: occasionally joyful, occasionally painful. I believe that underlying everyone's experience, though varied, are threads of humanity that bind us all. It is my hope that you are able to find those threads in my story as you read it."
- A book that appeals to multiple generations, to those who lived through this period and to their descendants who want to know more about their family background.
- Today's focus on immigrant rights has brought public attention back to the incarceration of innocents during WW2.

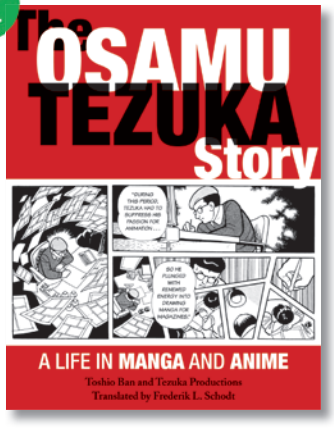
PRAISE FOR *THE LITTLE EXILE*

"Each Nisei memoir is precious and adds its own contribution to our collective knowledge of the incarceration period. Arakawa's detailed child's eye view of that story is by turns funny, angry, and sad, like most children are. It is a worthwhile addition to the camp memoir club."—Densho

"Deeply moving and poignant"—Gayle Noguchi, *Wheel of Dharma*

"The Little Exile is a memoir worth reading. One piece of advice though: be prepared to read it in multiple sittings. My heart needed time between chapters or it would've broken."—*Hippocampus Magazine*

"These are experiences that need to be remembered"—*Kirkus Reviews*



928 pp, 7 x 9", paper
p-ISBN: 978-1611720259, $36.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-961-0, $19.95
COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS (WE)

A documentary manga biography of the influential artist and the birth and evolution of manga and anime in Japan.

The Osamu Tezuka Story

A Life in Manga and Anime

TOSHIO BAN AND TEZUKA PRODUCTIONS CO., LTD.; TRANSLATED BY FREDERIK L. SCHODT

This graphic-format biography of Osamu Tezuka—Japan's "God of Manga"—looks at one of the twentieth century's great creative artists. It is also an anecdotal study of the evolution of Japan's early manga and anime business and its heroes. A never-before-seen popular culture history of postwar Japan, it is sure to fascinate fans and anyone interested in manga, anime, and the potential of the graphic

Toshio Ban joined Tezuka Productions in 1974 as one of Tezuka's assistants. After working for a period as a free-lancer, he later re-joined Tezuka Productions in 1978 as the sub-chief of manga production for magazines, supporting Tezuka's creative work.

Tezuka Productions Co., Ltd., is the now-legendary company founded by Osamu Tezuka in 1968 to produce his own manga and anime. In the wake of Tezuka's death in 1989, it has continued as a family enterprise, responsible for the development, production, merchandising, licensing, and distribution of his many manga and anime creations, including books, films, and characters.

Frederik L. Schodt is a translator, conference interpreter, and award-winning author of books on Japanese history and pop culture. He often served as Osamu Tezuka's English interpreter and was a consultant on one of his animated features and a TV series.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Osamu Tezuka is nicknamed the "god of manga" and is revered by fans worldwide for his seminal role in the creation of the manga medium and its commercial success in postwar Japan.
- This book is a monster bargain at over 900 pages and combines the two original books into one.
- Filled with explanatory notes and references; at the back is a full filmography and bibliography of all of the master's known works.

PRAISE FOR *THE OSAMU TEZUKA STORY*

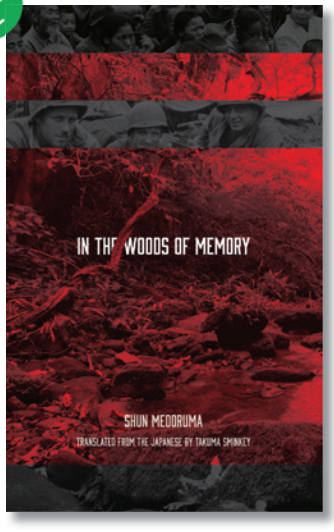
"Beautifully done. . . entertaining, heartwarming, and quite sad in places, the warmth and charm that defined Tezuka's work has been captured here ... an essential book to own."—*Forbes*

"Captures its subject's tireless genius through WWII, the lean postwar years, and the emergence of Japan as a superpower. Legendary manga scholar Schodt provides a first-rate translation."—*Publisher's Weekly*

"This massive biography in comic form has finally been translated into English—and it's more than worth the wait."—Vox

"Fascinating.... Schodt does a terrific job bringing Tezuka's story to an English-speaking audience."—Kotaku

"A must for Tezuka devotees… this near 1,000-page biography of manga artist Osamu Tezuka will spark excitement and rabid consumption."—*Library Journal*



208 pp, 5 x 8", paper
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-037-2, $16.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-924-5, $9.95
FICTION / POLITICAL SCIENCE
(WE)

A powerful and thought-provoking novel that raises important questions about World War II, war memory, and US imperialism and blowback.

In the Woods of Memory

SHUN MEDORUMA; TRANSLATED BY TAKUMA SMINKEY; AFTERWORD BY KYLE IKEDA

In the Woods of Memory is a powerful, thought-provoking novel that focuses on two incidents during the Battle of Okinawa, 1945: the sexual assault on Sayoko, 17, by four US soldiers and her friend Seiji's attempt at revenge. Narrations through nine points of view, Japanese and American, from 1945 to the present day reveal the full complexity of events and how war trauma inevitably ripples through the generations.

Akutagawa Prize–winner and activist **Shun Medoruma** was born in Okinawa. This is his first full-length work in English translation. He has written unique novels that are based on Okinawan nature, history, and climate, focusing especially on the Battle of Okinawa and memories of that war experience. Medoruma often expresses his strong anti-base political views through his articles in the local newspapers—and in his blog.

Takuma Sminkey (né Paul Sminkey) is a professor in the Department of British and American Language and Culture at Okinawa International University. He has been living in Japan for over twenty years and acquired Japanese citizenship in 2010.

Kyle Ikeda received his doctorate in Japanese from the University of Hawai'i—Manoa in 2007 and is now an associate professor at the University of Vermont. He is one of the leading researchers in English on Shun Medoruma.

POINTS OF INTEREST

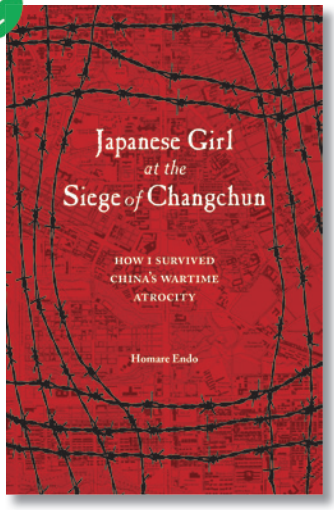
- Medoruma's experimental use of point of view, language, and creative storytelling challenge the assumptions of readers of contemporary Japanese literature; this is the author's first full-length work in English.
- Sheds light on political issues in Japan and current Okinawan attitudes toward US military bases on the island, an unresolved conflict that is still in the news.
- Raises important questions about war memory, especially the memories of the powerless and victimized.

PRAISE FOR SHUN MEDORUMA

"Generally regarded as Okinawa's most adventurous and promising writer of fiction today."—Michael Molasky, University of Minnesota

"Medoruma's uniquely visceral and realistic writing style creates a powerful portrait of a chain of sorrow that has destroyed human beings through the generations. Readers will yet again be astonished by the talents of the author, who obviously released this complex work after thoroughly crafting it."—Sadatoshi Oshiro, author

"One of Okinawa's leading literary figures and critical intellectual voices since receiving the coveted Akutagawa Prize in 1997. . . . His writing about Okinawan war memory and trauma stands out as particularly powerful and important."—Kyle Ikeda, University of Vermont



304 pp, 5½ x 8½", paper, B&W photographs
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-038-9, $16.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-925-2, $9.95
BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / HISTORY
(WE, EXCEPT JAPAN)

An unforgettable memoir of the horrors suffered by a Japanese family trapped in Changchun, China, at the end of WW2.

Japanese Girl at the Siege of Changchun

How I Survived China's Wartime Atrocity

HOMARE ENDO; TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL BRASE

Over 150,000 innocents died of starvation in Changchun, northeastern China, after the end of WW2 when Mao's army laid siege during the Chinese Civil War. Japanese girl Homare Endo, then age seven, was trapped in Changchun with her family. After nomadic flight from city to city, Homare eventually returned to Japan and a professional career. This is her eyewitness, at times haunting account of survival at all costs and of unspeakable scenes of barbarity that the Chinese government today will not acknowledge.

Homare Endo was born in China in 1941, lived through the Chinese Revolutionary War, and returned to Japan in 1953. She is a Doctor of Science, director of the Center of International Relations at Tokyo University and Graduate School of Social Welfare, and professor emeritus at the University of Tsukuba. She was a visiting researcher and professor at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She has published many works about postwar China.

A longtime editor at Kodansha International and now freelance translator, **Michael Brase** counts among his translations *The Manga Biography of Kenji Miyazawa, The Culture of Japan as a New Global Value*, and T*he Building of Horyu-ji*. His miscellaneous writings and translations can be seen on Facebook at Japan & Stuff Press.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Sure to be a controversial book and denounced, as the Chinese government refuses to discuss this incident.
- Feeds into the discussion of what the US's relationship with China should be, considering their continuing controversies over human rights and freedom of expression.
- An amazing and loving portrait of a family, very much in the model of Anne Frank, from a young girl's perspective; in this case, the author does survive and remains a living witness to all she has seen.

FROM REVIEWS OF OTHER TITLES BY HOMARE ENDO

"A tour de force."—*Mainichi Shinbun*

"[Homare Endo] may love [her homeland] but says, 'What happened at Changchun is a stain that remains on the birth of modern China. It is time to speak out about the truth!' And we agree."—*Asahi Shinbun*

"An exceptional true-to-life documentary narrative."—*Yomiuri Shinbun*



140 pp, 5 x 7", paper
p-ISBN: 9781611720266, $12.95
e-ISBN: 9781611729184, $7.95
PERSONAL GROWTH / PHILOSOPHY
(WE, EXCEPT JAPAN)

Can traditional Japanese life concepts—like loyalty, harmony, meticulousness--make sense in Western societies? Here are dozens of ideas for "decluttering the spirit."

Japaneseness

A Guide to Values and Virtues

YOJI YAMAKUSE

This book introduces 76 core Japanese life concepts, such as harmony, meticulousness, sensitivity, loyalty, reverence, hierarchy, trust, and beauty. Sensitive readers will note how Western variants of these can help form new systems of values and virtues to cultivate inner strength, mindfulness, and long-lasting relationships at home and the workplace. A provocative guide for practitioners of ethics and humanism.

Yoji Yamakuse (born in Oita Prefecture, Japan, 1955) has worked for major publishing companies in Tokyo and New York and has been active as a consultant for nearly 100 Japanese and American global firms, focusing on personnel management, staff training, and development of joint projects in cross-cultural environments.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Readers looking for a self-help-styled book that borrows from Asian culture and tradition will find a roadmap to live a happier, more meaningful life.
- Japanophiles will find this a handy resource that distills traditional Japanese notions of virtue and character into an easy to read and understandable digest.
- Makes a great gift for anyone going to do business or live in Japan.

PRAISE FOR *JAPANESENESS*

"Like every other country, Japan has its own unique characteristics that you may not know the true story behind, and *Japaneseness* offers an informative tour of the virtues that Japanese people hold dear."—*JQ Magazine*

"If you are a student of anything Japanese—whether you are someone who wants to do business with the Japanese, live amongst them or live with them . . . you need to read *Japaneseness*."—Andrew Joseph, It's A Wonderful Rife

"A provocative workbook for 'decluttering the spirit' . . . An indispensable guide and reference for Americans wanting to understand Japanese culture and perspectives. Impressively well written, organized, and presented . . . very highly recommended for community, corporate, and academic library collections."—John Taylor, *Midwest Book Review*



144 pp, 6 x 6", paper, B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-032-7, $9.95
DESIGN / FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

Japanese characters served up with histories and cultural clues to help you decorate your skin, body, and life with just the right word!

Kanji Box

Japanese Character Collection

SHOGO OKETANI AND LEZA LOWITZ

Bold, visual, profound, symbolic: Japanese kanji characters communicate powerful graphic messages that look great on skin, walls, stationery, T-shirts, and more. Here are dozens of edgy, targeted characters hand-picked to help you find the inner you and express yourself in a distinctive stylish way. With cultural clues, readings, font varieties, and ideas for proper use. Don't embarrass yourself with bad ink!

Shogo Oketani is an editor and author in Tokyo and a long-time student of Japanese martial arts, philosophy, poetry, and history. **Leza Lowitz** is the author of twenty books of fiction and poetry, including several from Stone Bridge Press, and is owner and teacher at Sun and Moon yoga studio in Tokyo.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Beautiful white/black design with simple Japanese kanji-centric cover makes this book an easy gift option.
- Book focuses on character design, history, and meaning, with big example characters that take up the entire page and font variants for design matching. Easy to flip through and experience.
- Appreciation of Japanese kanji isn't limited to designers and tattoo artists; anyone who studies Japanese or Japanese culture will enjoy this book.

PRAISE FOR THE AUTHORS' PREVIOUS WORK

"Armed with this book, the next time you commit to having a kanji tattoo, or an indelible imprint made on some cherished fabric, you can be sure it will be the right way up."—*Japan Times*

"Not only new words but whole new worlds are revealed, creative worlds where reading is pure seeing, . . . Indispensable. An utter enjoyment."—Gary Gach, author *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Understanding Buddhism*

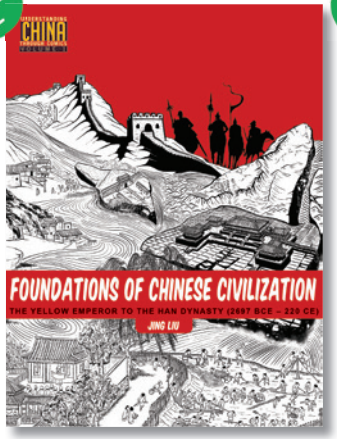
"An invaluable resource for tattooers, artists, and anyone interested in better understanding kanji."—Horitaka, tattooer

"Handy for those who want to add a few stylish pictographs from the Land of the Rising Sun to a bicep or backside, or are seeking to illuminate a literary work or work of art with that certain Japanese phrase or look."—*Asian Reporter*



(these images do not represent pages from the book)

"This direct, appealing introduction to the foundations of one of the world's oldest civilizations is recommended for teens and adults."—Library Journal

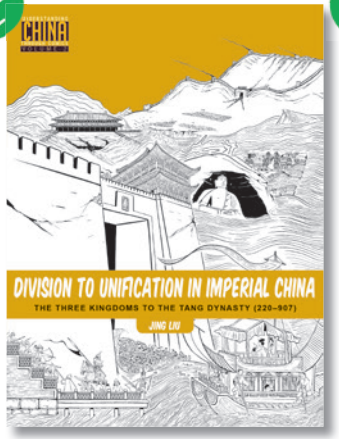


Volume 1

Foundations of Chinese Civilization

The Yellow Emperor to the Han Dynasty (2697 BCE – 220 CE)

160 pp, 6 x 8", paper, B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-027-3, $14.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-918-4, $9.95
HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

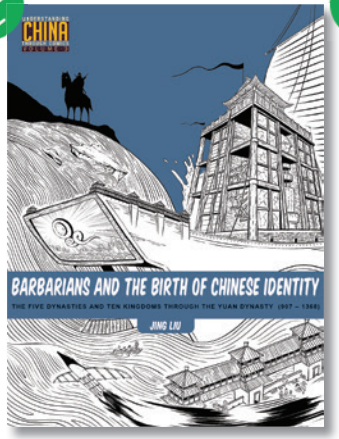


Volume 2

Division to Unification in Imperial China

The Three Kingdoms to the Tang Dynasty (220 – 907)

144 pp, 6 x 8", paper, B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-030-3, $14.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-920-7, $9.95
HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

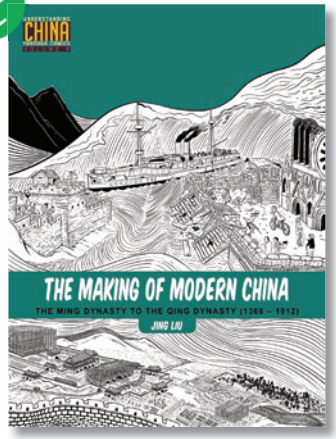


Volume 3

Barbarians and the Birth of Chinese Identity

The Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms to the Yuan Dynasty (907 – 1368)

152 pp, 6 x 8", paper, B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-034-1, $14.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-926-9, $9.95
HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS



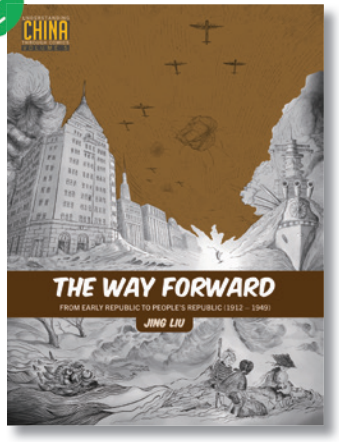
Volume 4

The Making of Modern China

The Ming Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty (1368 – 1912)

184 pp, 6 x 8", paper, B&W illustrations
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-039-6, $14.95
e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-927-6, $9.95
HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

Who founded China? Who are the Chinese people? What is Chinese culture and how has it changed over time? The Understanding China Through Comics series answers these questions and more.



Volume 5

The Way Forward

From Early Republic to People's Republic (1912 – 1949)

6 x 8", 224 pp, paper; B&W illustrations
p-ISBN 978-1-61172-070-9, $16.95
e-ISBN 978-1-61172-952-8, $9.95
HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

The five volumes in the **Understanding China Through Comics** series cover all the great dynasties, upheavals, population movements, and political alliances and rivalries from ancient times up to the modern age. Author and artist Jing Liu uses strong ink art and a storyteller's feel for pace and plot to depict storylines that don't simply recount China's history but leave readers with a nuanced understanding of the forces that shaped and continue to shape a great nation. Understanding China Through Comics. is the perfect introduction to Chinese history for younger students as well as older readers. To understand how China emerged is to understand the forces that will shape the 21st century for us all.

Each volume includes a handy timeline.

Jing Liu is an artist and entrepreneur from Beijing, China. He is currently the Managing Director of Moli Design, a China-based design firm that counts the BBC, MasterCard, The Ford Foundation, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and UNICEF among its many clients. Liu graduated from Beijing University of Technology with undergraduate degrees in industrial design and engineering, and a masters in international economics and trade.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- For librarians, educators, and parents looking for ways to get students and children reading about China, and who are often looking for such resources themselves.
- An engaging reading experience, full of gripping narratives about dynastic struggles, fierce battles, and colorful characters.
- Bold illustrations make facts and names accessible and memorable.
- Available in print and fixed-format e-book, making this an excellent purchase for libraries, home schoolers, and classrooms.

PRAISED BY EDUCATORS AND LIBRARIANS

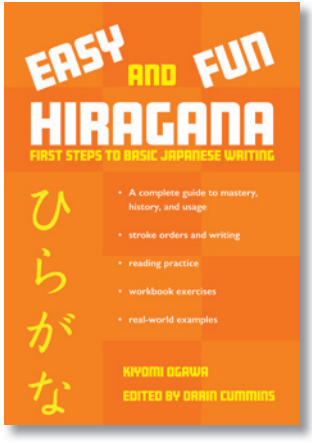
"Especially excels at clarifying the often-confusing transitional periods between dynasties. . . . An excellent introduction."—*School Library Journal*

"This comic-style book manages to bring Chinese history to readers in a more clear, fun, and accessible way than it's ever been done before. I can't wait to get a copy for my class."— Grace Zeng, Chinese Teacher and Middle School Chinese Curriculum Area Leader at International School of Beijing

"The lucid, economical text makes one eager for the successive volumes." —*Booklist*

"A great way to learn about China's vast history!"—Amy Tan, author

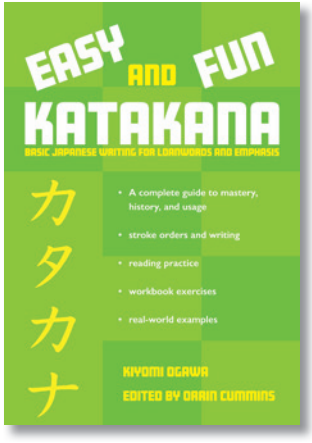
Learn the two basic Japanese syllabaries from every angle: reading, writing, and real-world examples.



Easy and Fun Hiragana

First Steps to Basic Japanese Writing

96 pp, 7 x 10", paper, 2-color drawings throughout
p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-047-1, $16.95
FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY / JAPANESE (WE)



Easy and Fun Katakana

Basic Japanese Writing for Loanwords and Emphasis

96 pp, 7 x 10", paper, 2-color drawings throughout
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FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY / JAPANESE (WE)

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Learning Japanese remains popular: Number of Japanese learners in USA: 170,988 (up 9.7% since 2012)——number of institutions: 1,462 (up 0.9%)——number of teachers: 3,894——5 states with most Japanese learners: WA MI, CA, HI, NY——total US textbook market is $14 billion USD
- According to the Japan Foundation, interest in Japanese pop culture "has become the most popular reason to study Japanese for learners."
- The only books you need to learn hiragana and katakana; you can't even begin to study Japanese without these syllabaries.
- Get both—since you really can't learn one syllabary without the other.
- These books go way beyond just teaching forms and pronunciations, since they show usage and real-world examples.
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- Cute illustrations and a spacious layout give these a lot of eye appeal!

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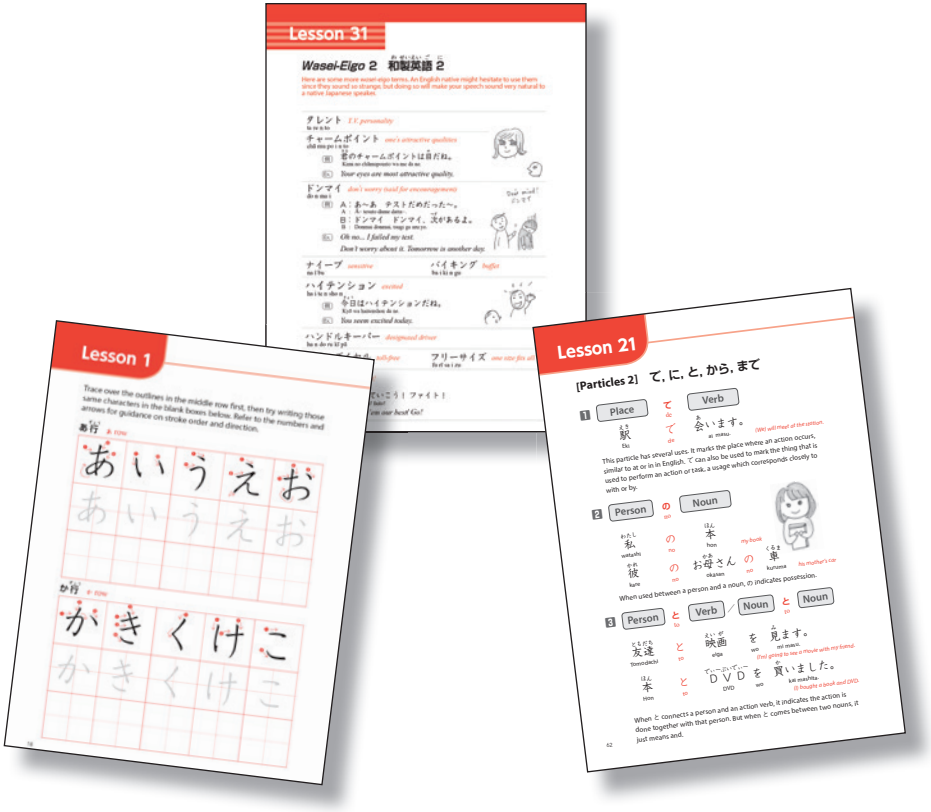
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Kiyomi Ogawa teaches and translates Japanese. She has taught at Boeing in Nagoya and now teaches online throughout the world.

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POINTS OF INTEREST

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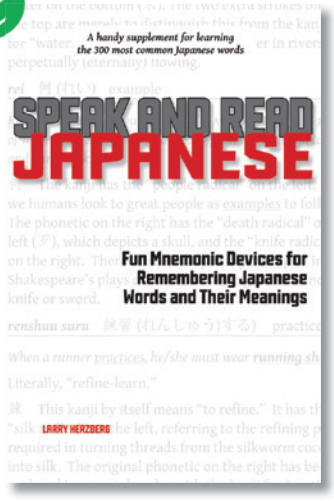
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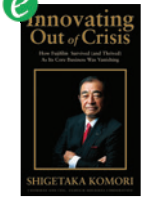
A SAMPLE ENTRY FROM *SPEAK AND READ JAPANESE*

aoi *(あおい) blue*

When sailors sail the deep ***blue*** *seas and spot land, they shout* **"aoi"** *(ahoy)!*

青い~This kanji is a general color word that originally meant everything from "green" to "indigo." On the top of the kanji is a plant coming out of the ground, symbolizing the color green. The bottom part, written exactly like the moon, was originally written with the kanji 丹. It shows a crucible in which the red metal cinnabar was placed in an attempt to create the elixir of immortal life in ancient times. In Japanese this kanji is now only used to mean the color "blue."

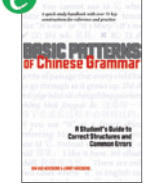
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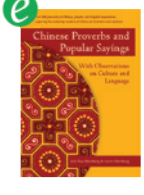
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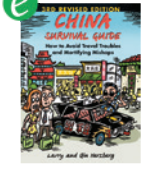
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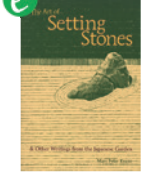
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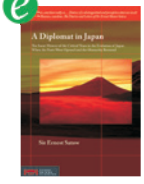
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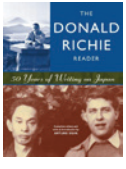
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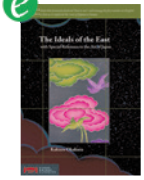
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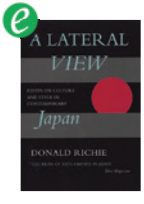
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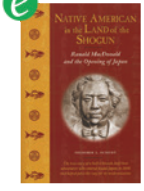
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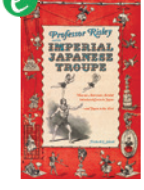
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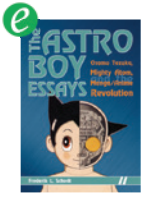
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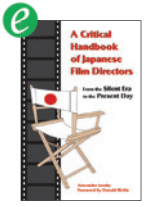
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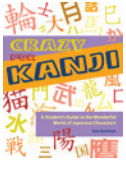
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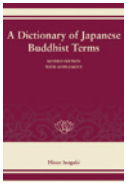
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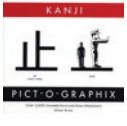
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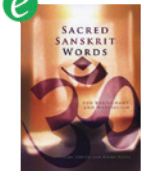
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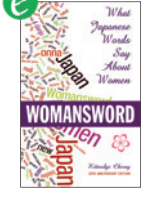
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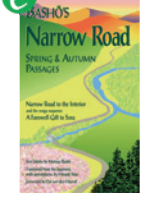
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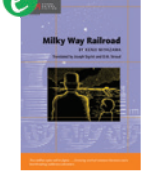
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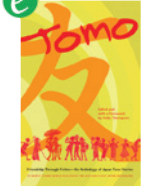
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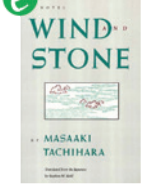
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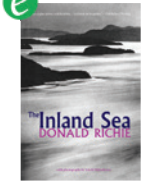
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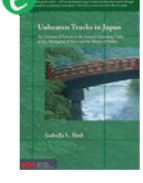
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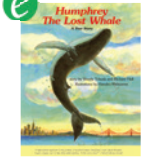
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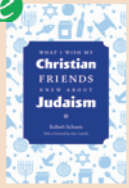
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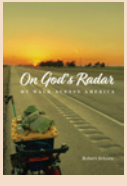
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