

The West's Encounter with Japanese Civilization 1800-1940



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This collection picks up the story of Western contact with Japan (after some 200 years of isolation) at the beginning of the 19th century when the Russian navigator Vasili Golownin was captured by the Japanese while surveying the Kurile Islands and held prisoner for three years (1811-1813) at a time when Japan's doors were still 'closed' to the outside world. On his return to Russia, he wrote about his experiences, subsequently translated into English and published in London in 1818. This extremely rare 2 volume set is reprinted as the first title in this collection, marking the beginning of the end of Japan's isolation. The final, fully illustrated, entry in the collection is Samuel Wainwright's *Beauty in Japan* (1935), a study of Japan's 'aesthetic achievement', from gardens to sports and 'art and life'. In all, this collection brings together 12 of the rarest of the early and pre-war works (a total of 14 volumes) published in European languages, recording the Western experience of Japan as it moved from feudal state in the early 1800s to becoming a regional superpower and 'unique culture' in the 1930s. This is an indispensable collection of material not available to the general public and will add substantial relevance to any library with a remit to provide comprehensive coverage of Japan.

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