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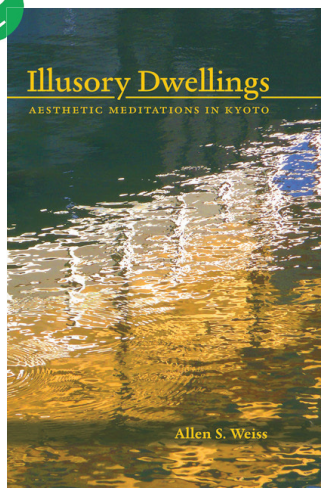


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 ART / ASIAN / JAPANESE

Essays on the nature, creation, and presentation of art, craft, and architecture in Japan, springing from the author's experiences in Kyoto.

Illusory Dwellings

Aesthetic Meditations in Kyoto

ALLEN S. WEISS

Illusory Dwellings is not a guide concerning what to see in Kyoto, but a philosophical meditation on how to travel and observe in this capital of traditional Japanese art. Both intimate and scholarly, the book accompanies the reader on visits to famed gardens like Ryōanji, investigates the complex symbolism of the tea ceremony and the important role of the tea room, reveals the beauty of Japanese cuisine, and delves into the world of contemporary ceramics. It also provides context for the tensions and harmony between traditional and modern forms of art and craft in Kyoto and throughout Japan, and contrasts these with how they are received at home versus their treatment by Western museums. This is a robust and provocative analysis of artist and observer, a book to shape the reader's aesthetic worldview and the terms of discussion.

Allen S. Weiss is the author and editor of over forty books in the fields of performance theory, landscape architecture, gastronomy, sound art, experimental theater, and ceramics. He has written extensively on Japanese culture, including *Zen Landscapes: Perspectives on Japanese Gardens and Ceramics* (Reaktion Books) and *The Grain of the Clay: Reflections on Ceramics and the Art of Collecting* (Reaktion Books), as well as *Le goût de Kyoto* (Mercure de France) and *Guide anachronique de Kyoto* (Éditions Arléa). He has been the recipient of Fulbright, Japan Society, and Étant donné grants, and is Distinguished Teacher in the departments of Performance Studies and Cinema Studies in the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Allen S. Weiss has had a long and distinguished career as an art theorist, critic, and teacher, with a bold and innovative approach to contemporary Japanese arts and crafts.
- In the tradition of *In Praise of Shadows* by Jun'ichiro Tanizaki, Alex Kerr's *Another Kyoto*, Marc Peter Keane's *The Japanese Tea Garden*, and Donald Richie's *A Treatise on Japanese Aesthetics*.
- Fifty elegant black and white photos illustrate the author's perspective on gardens, pottery, architecture, tea, ikebana, graphic arts, with excursions into Buddhism and Shinto.

PRAISE FOR OTHER WORKS BY ALLEN S. WEISS

"This is a brilliant, almost hallucinatory, revelation of landscape architecture—its profoundly metaphysical origins, its transfixing history, and its virtually infinitizing future. . . . Weiss has raised our understanding of the garden to an exponentially higher level."—Professor David B. Allison, State University of New York at Stony Brook, in praise of *Unnatural Horizons*

"Weiss himself is a genuine aficionado. He writes with knowledge and enthusiasm about many aspects of Japanese aesthetics."—*Crafts* magazine, in praise of *The Grain of the Clay: Reflections on Ceramics and the Art of Collecting*

"The first in-depth Western study that looks at the relationship that exists between gardens and ceramics, suggesting new theories of representation and, above all, presenting ideas that may change the way we view such places."—*Japan Times*, in praise of *Zen Landscapes: Perspectives on Japanese Gardens and Ceramics*



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 FICTION / LITERARY



Introducing Tatsuhiko Shibusawa—Japan's Italo Calvino—in this fantastical tale of a Japanese prince who encounters both beauty and danger on a pilgrimage to India.

Takaoka's Travels

TATSUHIKO SHIBUSAWA

A fantasy set in the ninth century, *Takaoka's Travels* recounts the adventures of a Japanese prince-turned-monk on a pilgrimage to India. As Prince Takaoka and his companions pass through faraway lands, the rules of the ordinary world are upended, and they find curiosities and miracles wherever they go. The travelers encounter strange creatures—a white ape who guards a harem of bird-women, beasts who feed on dreams, a dog-headed man who can see hundreds of years into the future. At every turn, Prince Takaoka is drawn to the beauty around him, whether it takes the form of a perfectly shaped pearl or a giant blood-red flower, but such beauty proves to be extremely dangerous. Seductive and mysterious, offering high adventure yet deeply human, this is a novel that transcends all expectations.

Tatsuhiko Shibusawa (1928-1987) published only one novel, *Takaoka's Travels*, but it is considered a touchstone of Japanese counterculture. In addition to *Takaoka's Travels*, he wrote several volumes of short fiction and numerous essays dealing with topics ranging from dreams to the occult.

David Boyd is an assistant professor of Japanese at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. His translation of Hideo Furukawa's *Slow Boat* (Pushkin Press, 2017) won the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature. He won the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the second time for his translation of Hiroko Oyamada's *The Hole*. With Sam Bett, he co-translated three novels by Mieko Kawakami: *Breasts and Eggs* (2020), *Heaven* (2021), and *All the Lovers in the Night* (2022).

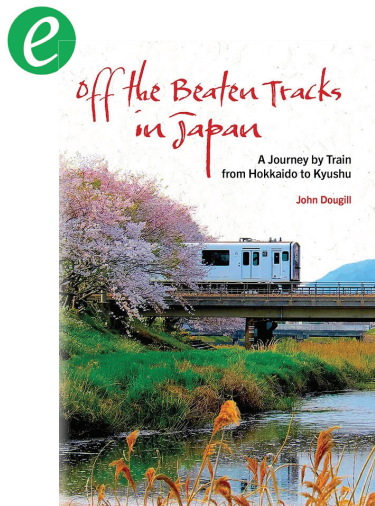
POINTS OF INTEREST

- Winner of the Yomiuri Prize and the 2022-23 William F. Sibley Memorial Subvention Award for Japanese Translation.
- Tatsuhiko Shibusawa is a counterculture icon dating back to the 1960s. A close friend of Yukio Mishima, Shibusawa first rose to prominence as a translator of the Marquis de Sade, and became a literary celebrity when his 1959 translation of *Juliette* was censored.
- This is the third title under the new MONKEY imprint at Stone Bridge Press. MONKEY New Writing from Japan is an annual anthology known for introducing and promoting Japanese authors to English readers.

PRAISE FOR TAKAOKA'S TRAVELS

"I love *Takaoka's Travels* so much that my novel *The Third Love* features a character inspired by Shibusawa's hero, Prince Takaoka. With the publication of this translation, readers around the world will be able to enjoy this marvelous book!"—Hiromi Kawakami, author of *Strange Weather in Tokyo* and *Dragon Palace*

"*Takaoka's Travels* will somehow remind you, simultaneously and impossibly, of a hundred books you've loved and nothing you've ever read. The plot moves in eddies, playfully forgetting and then remembering itself. . . . It's rare to read a book and feel not only that you don't know where it's taking you but, over and over again, that you don't know where it took you, and I can't stop thinking about the experience."—Kevin Brockmeier, author of *The Ghost Variations*



6 x 9", 312 pp, paper, B&W photos and illustrations

p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-082-2, \$19.95

e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-960-3, \$9.95

TRAVEL / JAPAN / MEMOIR

Observations on the people, culture, and history of Japan from a long-time resident riding the rails along the less-traveled western coastline.

Off the Beaten Tracks in Japan

A Journey by Train from Hokkaido to Kyushu

JOHN DOUGILL

This journey the length of Japan takes the reader off the beaten tracks to explore some of the country's remoter regions along the Japan Sea—from Wakkanai in northern Hokkaido to Ibusuki in southern Kyushu—in a fascinating mix of travelogue, anecdote, and personal memoir. At each of the thirty stops along the journey the author, who has lived in Japan for thirty years, goes in quest of the spirit of place, determined to highlight what makes it special. Mixing comments on landscape and culture, the author was inspired by Alan Booth and Donald Richie and brings a contemporary perspective to his writing. The book provides practical information on travel by rail and railway lines, but goes into far more depth and personal observation than a conventional guidebook for tourists.

John Dougill has lived in Japan since 1994 and is the author of several books about the country. His 2012 book, *In Search of Japan's Hidden Christians*, was hailed as "one of the most compelling and important books on Japan in recent years." As well as a cultural history of Kyoto, he has published *Japan's World Heritage Sites*, for which he traveled the length of the country, from northern Hokkaido to Okinawa and the Ogasawara Islands. For seven years he ran the Writers in Kyoto website and oversaw the anthologies the group produced. He also runs the Green Shinto blog.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Consciously inspired by the finest armchair travel books of Donald Richie and Alan Booth.
- Japan is now open to tourism after two years of pandemic restrictions and is making a big push to win back foreign travelers.
- Traveling the "backroads" of Japan provides a refreshing perspective for tourists, and this book presents helpful information about travel as well as a wealth of notes on regional culture and destinations.

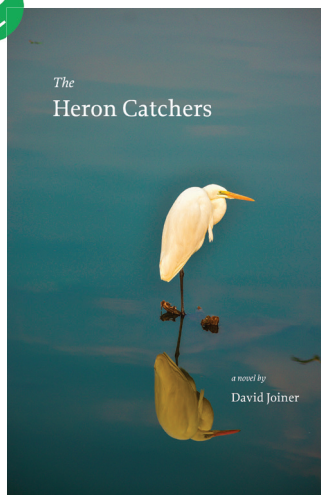
PRAISE FOR *OFF THE BEATEN TRACKS IN JAPAN*

"John Dougill's honest observations and deeply personal style leave a lasting impression."—*Nikkei Asia*

"Skillfully combining history, culture, food, society, literature, and old-fashioned observation, Dougill educates as well as entertains, soothing the restless spirit of the traveler who is determined to visit every place they read or hear about."—*Rebecca Otowa, author of At Home in Japan*

"Dougill takes delight in every aspect of Japan, from the fish and pickles he has for dinner, to a weird conversation with a stranger that takes a surprise turn. I know of no Japan journey that is so full of joy as this one."—*Alex Kerr, author of Lost Japan and Another Kyoto*

"Erudite and deftly constructed, Dougill offers an original point of view and a sense of literary composition yoked with a deep knowledge of the country and culture."—*Stephen Mansfield, author of Tokyo: A Biography*



5.5 x 8.5", 264 pp, paper
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 FICTION / LITERARY

Joiner's second novel set in the fabled Kanazawa area is an intimate yet understated look at an American who seeks recovery after his marriage to a Japanese woman has failed.

The Heron Catchers

DAVID JOINER

After Nozomi abandons Sedge and their marriage, taking all their money and leaving him with a ceramics shop he can't manage alone, her brother and his wife offer him a lifeline at their Japanese hot spring inn until he can get back on his feet. As he proceeds forward from this devastation in his life, he becomes involved with the wife of the man Nozomi ran off with as well as her stepson, a troubled sixteen-year-old whose jealousy and potential for violence contrast with his interest in birds, origami, and the haiku of Matsuo Basho. What unfolds in the shadow of "the immortal mountain of cranes" will change their lives forever.

Set in Kanazawa and Yamanaka Onsen near the Sea of Japan, *The Heron Catchers* explores the importance of recognizing suffering both in others and in oneself, of being compassionate, and of trusting those who offer love in the shattering wake of loss.

David Joiner made his first trip to Japan in 1991—a five-month study program in Hokkaido—and three years later moved for the first of seven times to Vietnam. In Japan, where he has also moved numerous times, he has called Sapporo, Akita, Fukui, Tokyo, and most recently the western Japanese city of Kanazawa home.

POINTS OF INTEREST

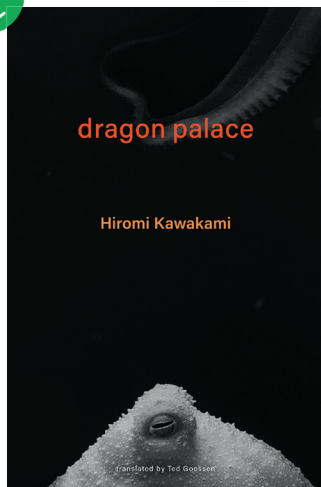
- Combines strong character-driven plot with the fine lyrical attributes and suggestive literary details of classic Japanese novels.
- A great pre- or post-travel read for those wishing to "visit" the Kanazawa area, a popular tourist locale with a strong literary and artistic tradition.
- Joiner's *Kanazawa* was published in 2022 and named a Foreword Reviews Indie Finalist for multicultural novels.

PRAISE FOR KANAZAWA

"Kanazawa is both a sensitive portrayal of the struggles of an international marriage and a paean to the city in which it is set." —*The Japan Times*

"With its deliberate, expressive descriptions of the city and the mountains that surround it, *Kanazawa* is a character-driven novel that illustrates the importance of communication and compromise." —Dontanā McPherson-Joseph, *Foreword Reviews*

"Reflective and atmospheric, *Kanazawa* is a story for sitting with. Joiner's patient attention to the interiority of his characters and a strong sense of place create a moving portrayal of the messiness of relationships and the ways that all the things we hope to bury in the past stay with us." —Reid Bartholomew, *World Literature Today*



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 FICTION / JAPAN / SHORT
 STORIES



Stories from a Japanese master of transformative fiction, where reality, myth, and human foibles meet shifting dimensions of gender, biology, and destiny.

Dragon Palace

HIROMI KAWAKAMI; TRANSLATED BY TED GOOSSEN

From the best-selling author of *Strange Weather in Tokyo* comes this otherworldly collection of eight stories, each a masterpiece of transformation, infused with humor, sex, and the universal search for love and beauty—in a world where the laws of time and space, and even species boundaries, don't apply. Meet a shape-shifting con man, a goddess who uses sex to control her followers, an elderly man possessed by a fox spirit, a woman who falls in love with her 400-year-old ancestor, a kitchen god with three faces in a weasel-infested apartment block, moles who provide underground sanctuary for humans who have lost the will to live, a man nurtured through life by his seven extraordinary sisters, and a woman who is handed from husband to husband until she is finally able to return to the sea.

Hiromi Kawakami is one of Japan's most popular novelists. Many of her books have been published in English, including *Manazuru*, *The Nakano Thrift Shop*, *Parade*, *Record of a Night Too Brief*, *Strange Weather in Tokyo* (shortlisted for the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2013), and *The Ten Loves of Nishino*. *People from My Neighborhood*, translated by Ted Goossen, was published in 2020.

Ted Goossen is the editor of *The Oxford Book of Japanese Short Stories*. He translated Haruki Murakami's *Wind/Pinball* and *The Strange Library* and co-translated (with Philip Gabriel) *Men Without Women* and *Killing Commendatore*.

POINTS OF INTEREST

- Hiromi Kawakami has won numerous Japanese literary awards, including the Akutagawa Prize, the Tanizaki Prize, the Yomiuri Prize, and the Izumi Kyoka Prize for Literature.
- Kawakami often incorporates elements of fantasy and magical realism in her stories.
- This is the second title under the new MONKEY imprint at Stone Bridge Press. *MONKEY New Writing from Japan* is an annual anthology known for introducing and promoting Japanese authors to English readers.

PRAISE FOR HIROMI KAWAKAMI

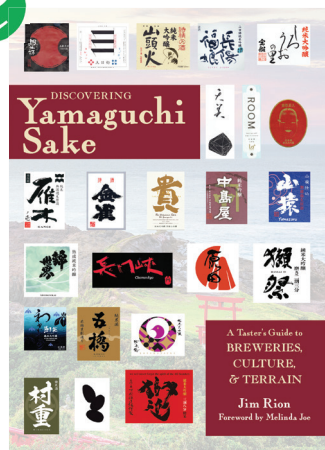
"How can a person resist?"—*Paris Review*

"Magical and engaging." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Beguiling and beautiful." —*The Times*

"Quirky and delicate . . . timeless . . . I fell totally under the spell." —*Daily Mail*

"Kawakami knows she doesn't need fireworks to keep the reader entertained, and is pushing her exploration of form and style." —*Japan Times*



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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.

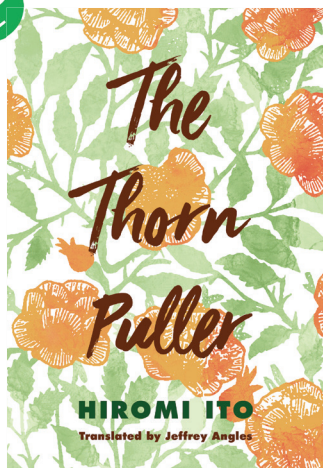
POINTS OF INTEREST

- 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 Gauntner, 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.

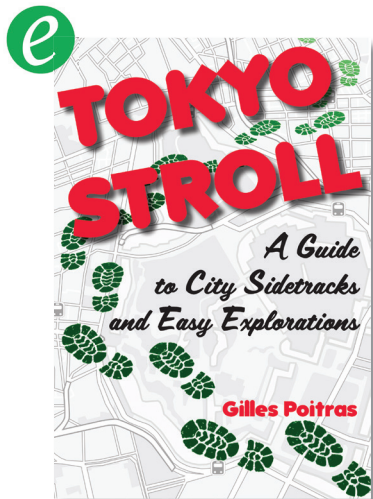
POINTS OF INTEREST

- This innovative and best-selling novel won two major literary awards in Japan: the Sakutarō 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 gossip 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*



5 1/4 x 8", 512 pp, paper; B&W photos and maps throughout (color photos in ebook)
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 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 / Kōkyō, 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*.)

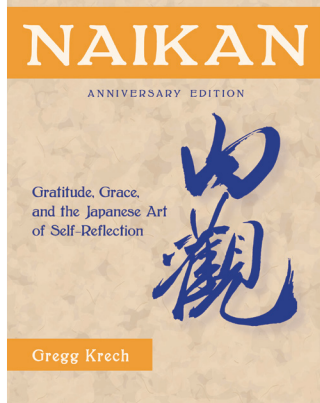
FROM THE INTRODUCTION

Japan has a folk belief in the power of words, 言霊 (koto-dama) 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*



An invaluable resource for anyone who practices everyday spirituality.
SPIRITUALITY AND PRACTICE



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

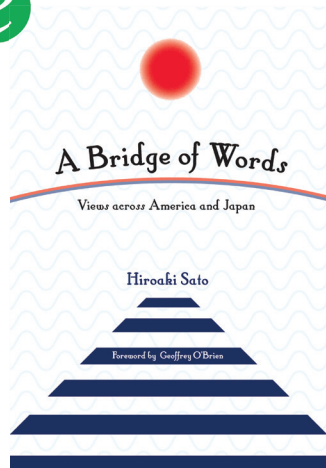
- Filled with contemplations, exercises, personal studies, and practical tips for honest and healthy relationships.
- This new edition has been updated with the author’s insights over the past 20 years, a 7-day practice program, and an updated appendix for counseling professionals.
- *Naikan* invites 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*



6 x 9", 324 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. Sato is neither cheerleader nor angry expatriate. Remarkably clear-eyed and engaged with American culture, he is in the business of critical appraisal and translation, of taking words seriously, and of observing how well others write and speak to convey their own truths and ambitions.

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



A TASTY HISTORY OF JAPANESE FOOD IN AMERICA

Tabemasho! Let's Eat!



Gil Asakawa

6 x 8", 216 pp, paper; B&W photos throughout
 p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-068-6, \$18.95
 e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-950-4, \$9.95
 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

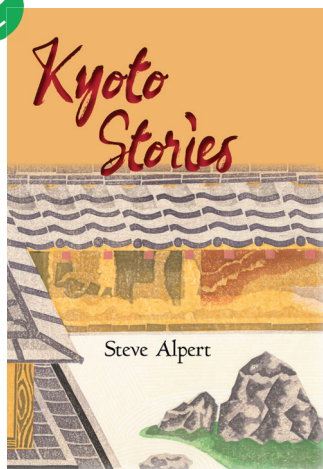
- A great resource for everyone who loves Japanese food.
- Covers everything from how Japanese food was introduced to the United States, to its rise in popularity, and how it's enjoyed today.
- Includes chapters on the history of ramen, sushi, and the evolution of Japanese dining in America.

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.”—Book-Dragon



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.

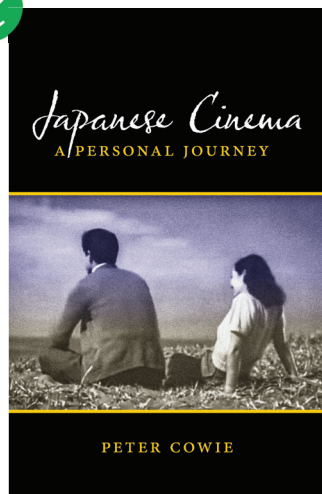
PRAISE FOR *SHARING A HOUSE WITH THE NEVER-ENDING MAN*

"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*



5 1/2 x 8 1/2", 204 pp, paper
 p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-075-4, \$18.95
 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.

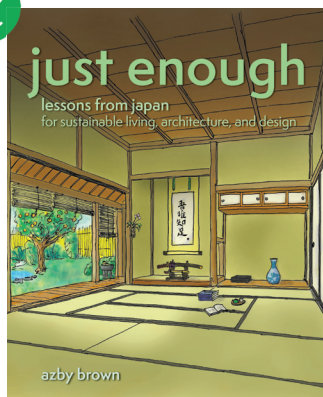
Peter Cowie has spent his life writing about cinema, and in particular about the prodigious talents that emerged during the 1950s and 1960s such as Ingmar Bergman and Akira Kurosawa. His more than thirty books include studies of the work of John Ford, Francis Ford Coppola, and the iconic actress Louise 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.

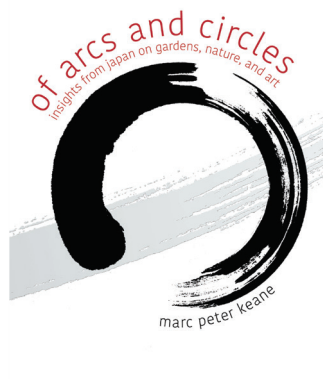
POINTS OF INTEREST

- 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
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 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.

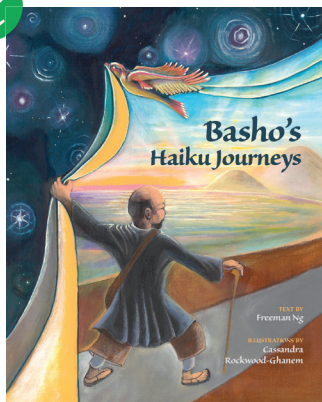
POINTS OF INTEREST

- 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.

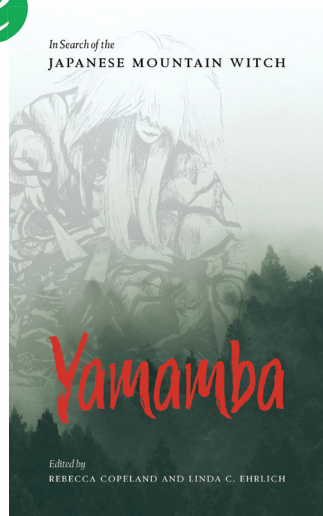
HAIKU FEATURED IN BASHO'S HAIKU JOURNEY

**"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.

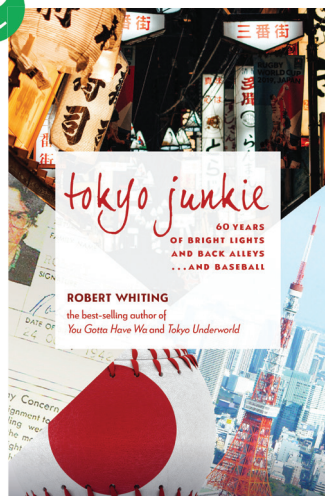
POINTS OF INTEREST

- 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



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 \$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!

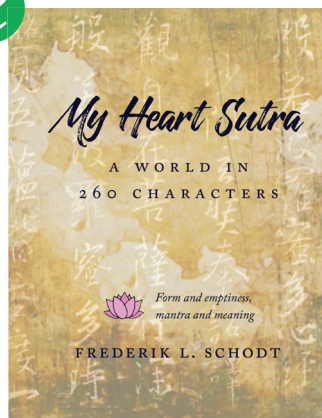
PRAISE FOR TOKYO JUNKIE

"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
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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

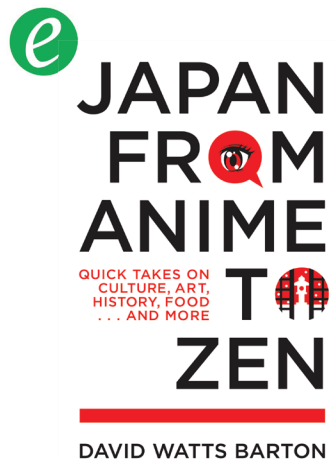
- Few authors have the ability to cover such a wide range of material in primary sources and still write to a general trade audience.
- Neither a spiritual quest nor a religious tract, this book is an absorbing intellectual exploration of a religious text that is both meaningful and talismanic.
- The 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, 5 1/4 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 architectural 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.

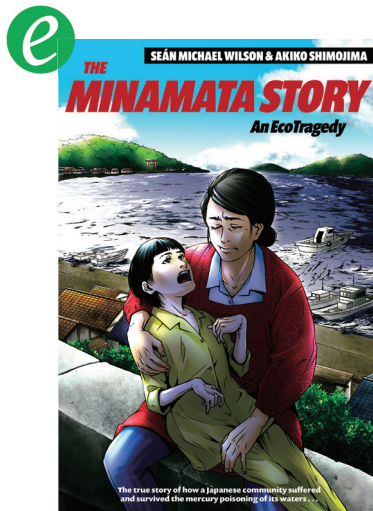
POINTS OF INTEREST

- 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
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 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.

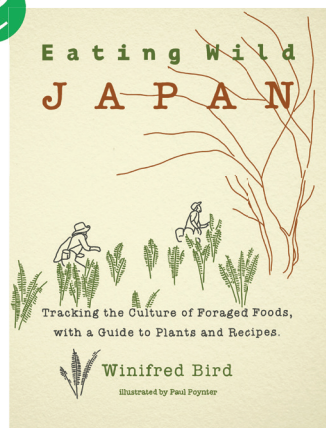
Sean Michael Wilson has published more than thirty books with a variety of US, UK, and Japanese publishers. In 2017, his *Secrets of the Ninja* won an International Manga Award from the Japanese government.

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
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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, life-long 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

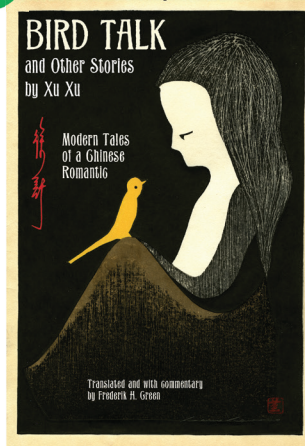
"Bird is outstanding in illuminating the way food and subjugation have historically been tied together, causing the disappearance of foraging practices."—The Asian Review of Books

"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



"Stories that illuminate and captivate."—Howard Goldblatt



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LITERARY COLLECTIONS / ASIAN
/ CHINESE
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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, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2", B&W photos
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 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

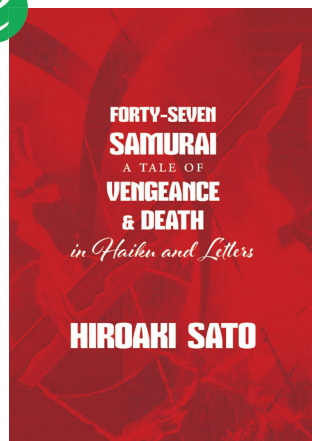
- **PAGE-TURNING:** A breezy read filled with vivid description of personalities and places, in Japan, Los Angeles, Berlin, Cannes, Tokyo.
- **AN INSIDE, INTIMATE PORTRAIT** Miyazaki does not reveal himself often, and there is no other person anywhere with Steve Alpert's access and insider knowledge.
- **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 8 1/2", paper
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 e-ISBN: 978-1-61172-938-2, \$9.95
 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.

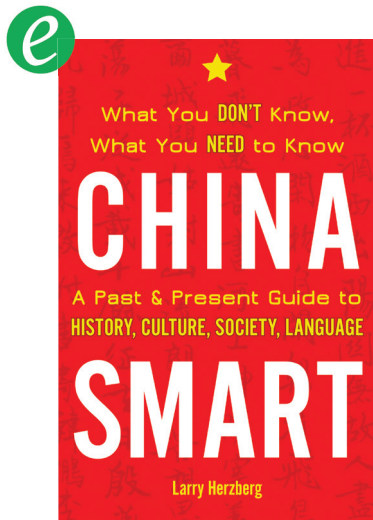
This incident—often called the Ako Incident—became a symbol of samurai honor and at once prompted stage dramatization in kabuki and puppet theater. It has since has been told and retold in short and long stories, movies, TV dramas. The story has also attracted the attention of foreign writers and translators. 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 Ryunosuke'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).



5 1/4 x 8", 248 pp, paper, B&W photos
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 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
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 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 Meijiro Novel

MIEKO KANAI; TRANSLATED BY TOMOKO AOYAMA AND PAUL MCCARTHY

Oh, Tama! describes the haphazard lives of Natsuyuki Kane-mitsu 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 "Meijiro" 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 disconnect- edness 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*



Moving and provocative ... a profound journey into the heart of another culture.
GISH JEN

The Fourth String

A MEMOIR OF SENSEI AND ME



5 1/2 x 8 1/2", 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 Pocerobba’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, Pocerobba, 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 Pocerobba asks questions about

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.

culture, learning, tradition, and self. As Gish Jen has said of *The Fourth String*, “What does it mean to be taught? To be transformed?”

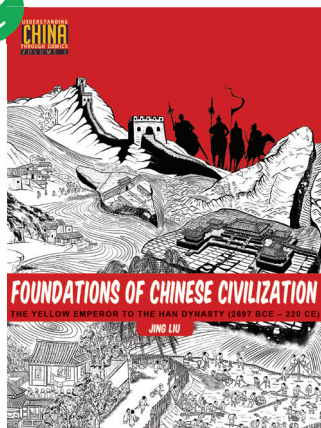
Janet Pocerobba’s involvement with Japan includes two decades of performing Japanese arts on two continents. Her work has appeared in *The Rumpus*, *The Writer*, *Harvard Review*, *[Nixes Mate]*, *Kyoto Journal*, *Indiana Review*, and others. She is currently associate professor and associate director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

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*

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

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Volume 1

Foundations of Chinese Civilization

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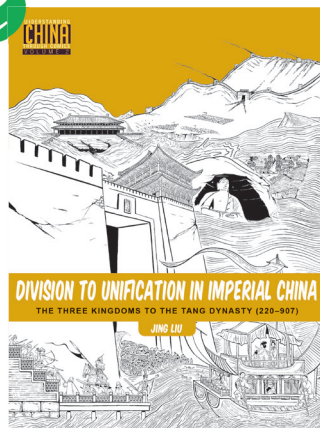
160 pp, 6 x 8", paper, B&W illustrations

p-ISBN: 978-1-61172-027-3, \$14.95

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HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

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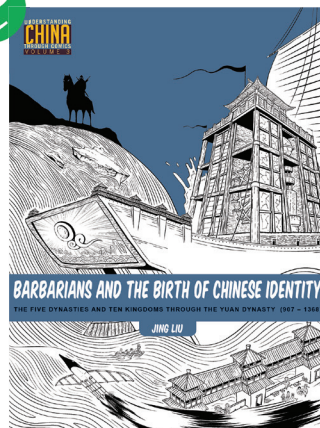
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HISTORY / COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS

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Volume 3

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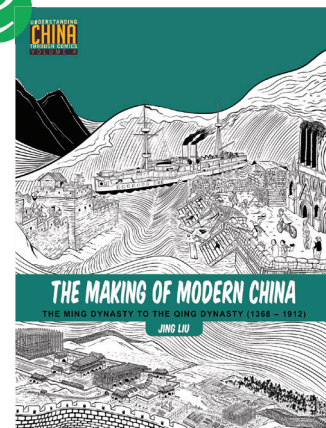
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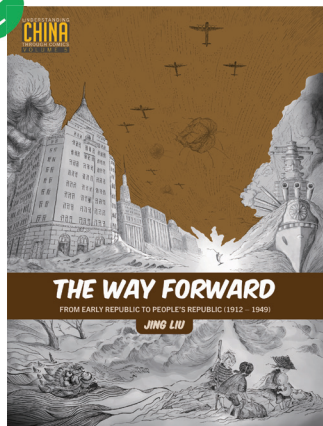
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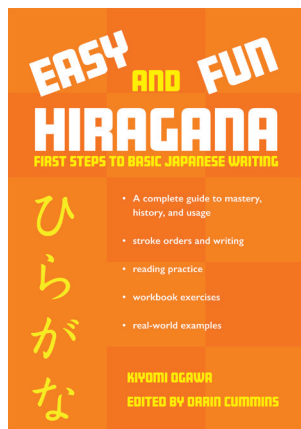
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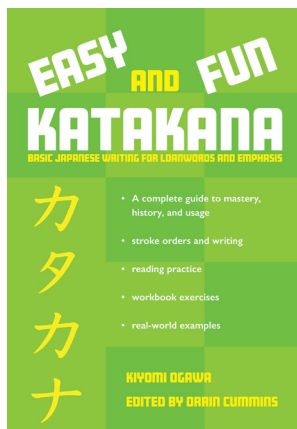
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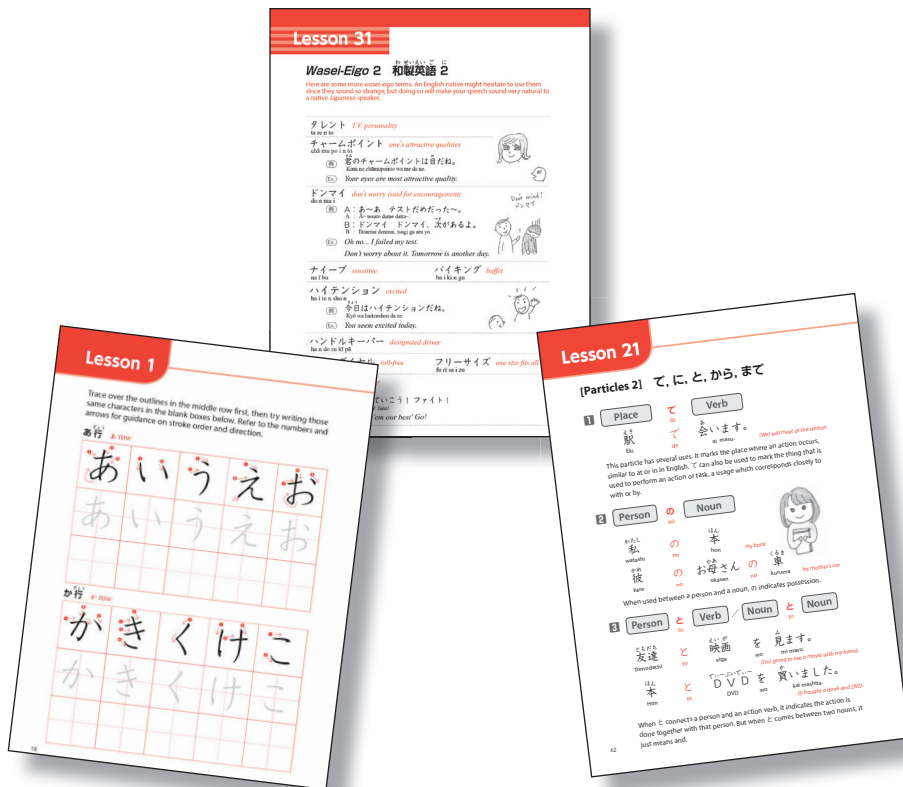
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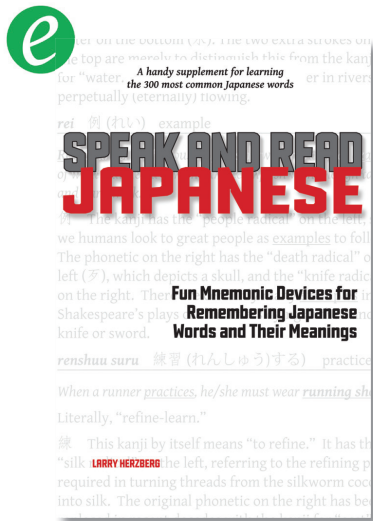
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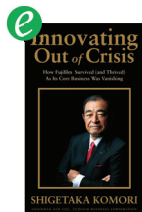
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aoi (あおい) *blue*

*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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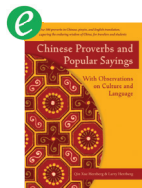
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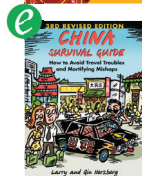
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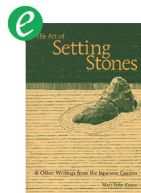
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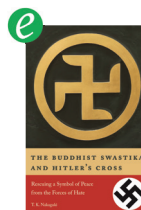
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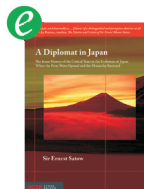
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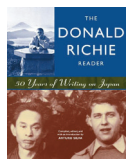
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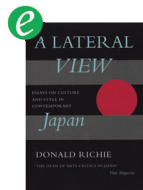
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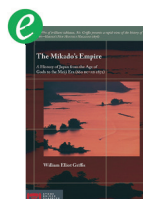
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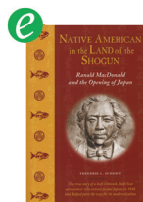
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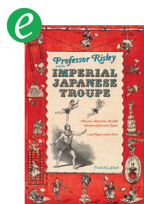
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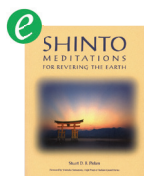
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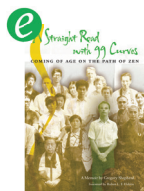
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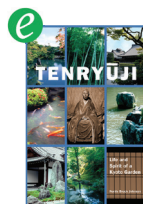
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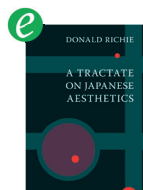
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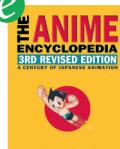


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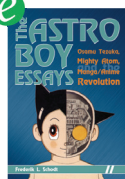
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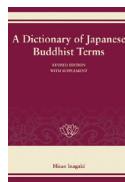
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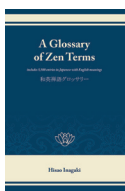
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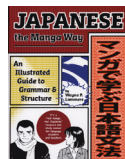
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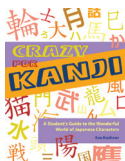
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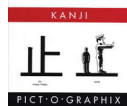
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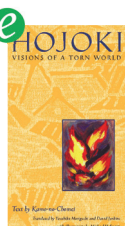
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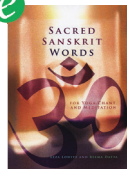
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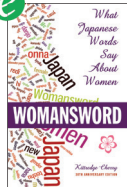
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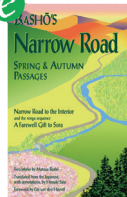
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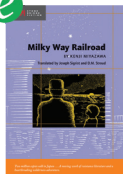
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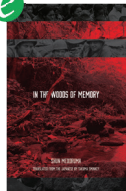
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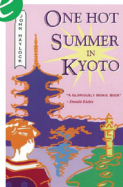
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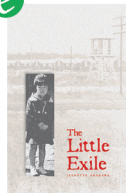
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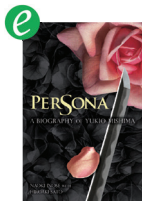
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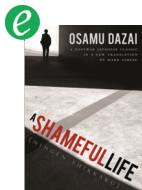
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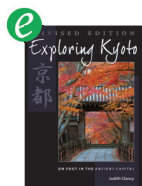
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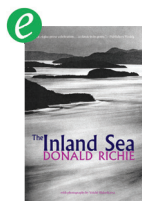
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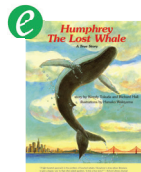
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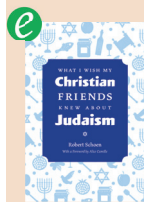
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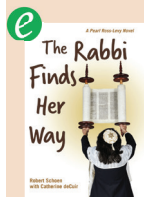
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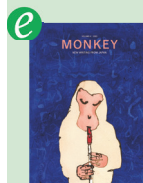
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