

"Tweets" from 19th century Japan



ASIA BOOKROOM

"TWEETS" FROM 19TH CENTURY JAPAN

Kawaraban or early modern Japanese broadsheets were unauthorised publications which were eagerly bought on the streets by the Japanese population during the Edo period. By the late Edo period they were printed in large numbers and accuracy was not seen to be of ultimate importance, but rather the aim was to tell an interesting story that would sell.

The arrival of Commodore Perry and his Black Ships provided a perfect opportunity to sell kawaraban. The appearance in Tokyo Bay of Perry and his ships was a terrifying event, in fact it has been described as sending a current of shock through the Japanese population similar to that of 9/11 in America. The population's fear was further exacerbated by the Tokugawa Shogunate who chose not to share information with their population and so Japanese people turned to the kawaraban publishers. Although it is not possible to be sure of numbers, it is believed that 400 – 500 different Kurofune or Black Ships Kawaraban were published. Print runs may have been as high as 2000, but crucially, given the kawaraban's ephemeral nature and thin paper on which they were printed, most have not survived. Kurofune Kawaraban offer a very direct and invaluable insight into Japanese reactions to the arrival of the Americans.

The subject of the kawarabans was not limited to defence. There are some such as 阿めりかことバ和解の写 [American Words Reconciliation Paper] pictured in this catalogue which illustrate the curiosity and interest in the Americans and what contact with them might offer.

Front Cover - Map of Land and Sea Defenses including Domain Posts [161639]

Layered Images from Left to Right - [162011] [162010] [161644]



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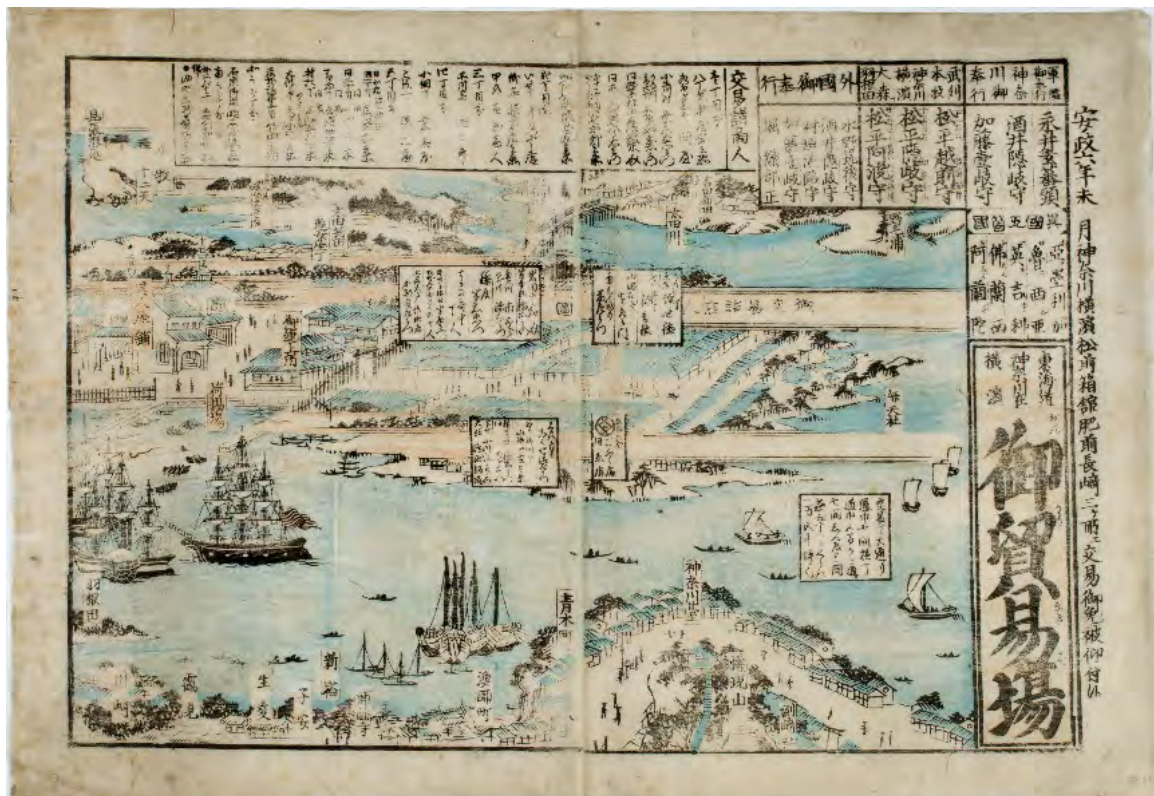


黒船瓦版 Black Ships Kwaraban

異國五箇國御貿易場 [Ikoku Gokakoku on kōeba]

[The Trading Post of the Five Foreign Countries]

東海道神奈川在横濱 [Tōkaidō Kanagawazai Yokohama]



Colour woodblock kwaraban, centre fold. 47.8 x 33cm. A little light soiling and wear but generally very good. 安政六年 (1859).

Delicately coloured early modern Japanese newspaper or kwaraban showing an overview of the newly created western trading posts at Yokohama (Kanagawa), December 1859. The lower part of the image shows the shoreline stretching from Kanagawa to Kawasaki, with western and Japanese ships in the bay. In the centre of the image is a depiction of the trading post with the building occupied by American, Russian, British, French and Dutch merchants, and the offices used by Japanese officials. The print includes delightful detail of houses, shrines, and miniature human figures in the streets, and the accompanying text includes a list of the names of Japanese officials responsible for dealings with the foreigners.

Names of five countries permitted to trade: United States, Russia, England, France and Netherland are printed on the sheet. The kwaraban gives names of registered merchants and Japanese imperial officers who are responsible for dealing with the foreign trade listed in the upper section of the sheet. The names of seven Japanese 奉行 or Bugyō's, often translated as commissioner or magistrate, are listed on the right. Among them five were commissioners who were in charge of trade and diplomatic relations the 外國御奉行[Gaikoku onbugyō], another is titled 御軍艦奉行[On gunkan bugyō] a commissioner of warships, the seventh bears the title 神奈川御奉行[Kanagawa onbugyō] an

overseer of the port of Kanagawa. A government organisation called 御運上所[On unjōsho] is located next to the residence of the foreigners 異人屋鋪[Ijin Yashiki. The map shows a government organisation called 御運上所[On unjōsho] located next to the residence of foreigners. This organisation functioned as the tax office, a customs office, and was also involved in imports and exports.

AU\$2000.00 (Approximately US\$1400.00)

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神国泰平亜墨利伽船号人物性名録 [Shinkoku taihei Amerikasengō jinbutsu shōmeiroku]

[List of Ship Names and Family Names of the Americans]



[Roll Call of the Americans and Their Ships on Perry's Second Expedition]

Black and white woodblock kawaraban, 35.2 x 47cm. Some browning, folded, some worming neatly repaired with Japanese tissue. A handsome and interesting record. 1854

Print showing a procession of Americans from Perry's second mission to Japan, with a list of the names of ships and of the surnames of prominent crew members from each ship, their rank or position and

an approximation of their age. Names (given in Japanese katakana approximations) include [Matthew] Perry, [Henry A.] Adams, [Samuel] Archbold, engineer-in-chief, [Thomas] Houston, midshipman, [Samuel Wells] Williams, the mission's interpreter, and Dutch interpreter [Anton] Portman. The image depicts the Americans' uniforms and hats, which clearly seemed very unfamiliar to Japanese eyes, and some rather fanciful banners.

AU\$2000.00 (Approximately US\$1400.00)

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阿めりかことバ和解の写 [Amerika Kotoba wakai no sha]

[American Words Reconciliation Paper].



Black and white woodblock kwaraban, 23 x 31cm. Very good copy. (circa 嘉永七年 1854)

Japanese woodblock kwaraban showing supposed American equivalents of Japanese words. The panel on the left describes the travels of Nagahama Manjiro (also known as John Manjiro), who was rescued by an American ship after being castaway on Torishima Island, he was then taken to the United States. At the time of the early encounters with Americans in the later Tokugawa period, several

kwaraban were produced purporting to show English translations of Japanese words, but (as in this case) the English words are unrecognisable (although the English word for ie - house - is given as "koretechii", which could possibly be a version of "cottage").

It can be guessed from the title that the publisher of this kwaraban was trying to help Japanese people better understand the Americans by learning some English. The text tells us that the Americans can offer interesting things to the Japanese people but unfortunately the publisher clearly was misinformed as to the pronunciation of English words.

AU\$1200.00 (Approximately US\$840.00)

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五ヶ国御貿易場 [Gokakoku on kōeba]

[The Trading Post of the Five Foreign Countries]

Black and white woodblock kwaraban, worn along horizontal and vertical fold, two tiny chips in lower margin, some small barely visible holes, a few small ink stains otherwise good. 安政六年 (March 1859).

Black and white kwaraban showing the newly-established foreign trading post at Yokohama (Kanagawa) in 1859. The shoreline extending from Kanagawa to



Kawasaki is shown at the bottom of the print, with western and Japanese ships in the bay, while the central sections show the residences of foreign merchants, the wharf, and offices of Japanese officials. Buildings are depicted in detail, with miniature human figures in the streets and on the decks of ships. A small inset section at the top left of the print provides a schematic map of the foreigners' quarters. The names of the officials responsible for negotiations with the foreigners is given in the bottom right quarter of the image, together with their clan crests.

Names of the five countries permitted to trade; United States, Russia, England, France and the Netherlands, are listed along the right edge. The names of Japanese imperial officials responsible dealing with the foreign trade are listed. The names of seven Japanese 奉行 Bugyō's, often translated as commissioner or magistrate, are listed on the right. Of these men, five were commissioners who were in charge of trade and diplomatic relations titled 外國御奉行[Gaikoku on bugyō], another carries the title 御軍艦奉行[Go gunkan bugyō] a commissioner of warships and the seventh 神奈川御奉行[Kanagawa on Bugyō] was an overseer of the port of Kanagawa.

The town plan shows a government organisation called 御運上所[On unjōsho] located next to the residence of foreigners. This organisation functioned as the tax office, a customs office, and also dealt with import/export trade. This kwaraban also shows the relative sizes of Yokohama's roads for example the widths of the main commercial road, back roads and a new road are all given.

AU\$1500.00 (Approximately US\$1050.00)

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[海陸御固] [Kairiku Okatame]

[Plan of Sea and Land Defences]

Black and white woodblock kwaraban on two joined sheets laid down on washi, some soiling and even discolouration. 41.7 x 62.5cm. (circa 1854).

This detailed karawaban published at the time of Commodore Perry's Second Expedition to Japan in 1854, gives details of the Japanese defence; offers a map of Tokyo Bay showing six of Perry's ships with the Tōkaidō Road running along the lower edge (includes 相模 [Sagami], 武藏 [Musashi], 伊豆 [Izu], 安房 [Awa], 上總 [Kazusa] and 下總 [Shimōsa]); and a large illustration of one of the Black Ship steamers with an inset portrait of an armed American in uniform.



The text offers details of all the clans who had been called upon to form the Japanese defence together with their family crest. The descriptions of Perry's ships inform the reader that there are three steamships and four ブリガッド or Brigado as those under sail are described. Although not dated it appears that this kwaraban is reporting the events of the 8th of March 1854 at which time seven of Perry's vessels had entered Tokyo Bay. The reader is given details of Perry's ship including the number of people on board and the ship's size.

AU\$1500.00 (Approximately US\$1050.00)

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五ヶ国御貿易場 [Gokakoku on kōeba]

[The Trading Post of the Five Foreign Countries]



Attractive black and white woodblock kwaraban on two joined sheets. A prior owner's chop lower right corner. Very good. 23.5 x 59.8cm. 安政六年 (March 1859).

A very attractive example of a kwaraban or early modern news broadside published in Japan at the time of the opening of the foreign trading posts at Yokohama, Kanagawa and surrounding regions of Tōkaidō. The black and white woodblock map provides a detailed town plan of Yokohama village (横浜村) on the left and includes places like Haneda, Ōmori, Kawasaki, Kanagawa along Tōkaidō on the right.

Listed at the right are the names of the five countries, United States, Russia, England, France and the Netherlands, permitted to trade. The names of the six Japanese 奉行 or Bugyōs, often translated as commissioner or magistrate, are listed on right together with their family crests. Of these Bugyōs, five were commissioners who were in charge of trade and diplomatic relations and bearing the title 國御奉行[Gaikoku onbugyō], and the sixth is titled 御軍艦奉行[On gunkan bugyō] a commissioner of warships. The map shows a government organisation called 御運上所[On unjōsho] located next to the residence of foreigners. This organisation functioned as the tax office, a customs office, and also dealt with import/export trade.

AU\$1500.00 (Approximately US\$1050.00)

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五ヶ国御貿易場 [Gokakoku on kōeba]

[Trading Post of the Five Foreign Countries]



Black and white woodblock printed on two joined sheets, 36.3 x 69.5cm. Very good copy. 安政六年 (June 1859).

Black and white kwaraban or Japanese early modern newsheet showing a map of the newly opened trading post at Yokohama (Kanagawa) and the Tōkaidō highway running through Kanagawa. The trading post, the meeting place where negotiations were conducted, and the buildings used by Japanese officials are shown in schematic form. The bay is shown as filled with small Japanese craft interspersed with a few large western sailing ships. At the upper middle section there is a list of the key officials responsible for negotiations with the foreigners, with their clan crests.

Names of the five countries, United States, Russia, England, France and the Netherlands, permitted to trade are listed along the right edge. The names of the six Japanese 奉行 or Bugyōs, often translated as commissioner or magistrate, are listed on right together with their family crests. Of these Bugyōs, five were commissioners who were in charge of trade and diplomatic relations and bearing the title 國御奉行[Gaikoku onbugyō], and the sixth is titled 御軍艦奉行[On gunkan bugyō] a commissioner of warships. The map shows a government organisation called 御運上所[On unjōsho] located next to the residence of foreigners. This organisation functioned as the tax office, a customs office, and also managed imports and exports.

AU\$2000.00 (Approximately US\$1400.00)

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北亜墨利加洪和政治州上官真像之写 [KitaAmerika kōwa seijishū jōkan shinzō no sha]



[Image of North American Sea Captain]

Black and white woodblock portrait, horizontal crease. 31.5 x 23cm. Very good copy. No date. (circa 1854).

Printed portrait of Commodore Matthew C. Perry from a series of portraits of officers from the Black Ships. The title uses the traditional term commonly used for Qing officials to describe Perry's position. The text states that the mission had traveled a distance of 4500 Ri (17672.73km) to come to Japan from Washington.

AU\$900.00 (Approximately US\$630.00)

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海陸御固泰平鑑 [Kairiku Okatame Taiheikan]



[Plan of Sea and Land Defences].

[Defence Against the Americans].

Black and white woodblock kawaraban map on two joined sheets, Some worming with loss, repaired with Japanese tissue. 41.2 x 63.4cm. (circa 1854).

Following Perry's first visit to Japan in 1853, the Shogunate sought support from various domains to strengthen

the defense of Edo Bay in preparation for the return of foreign vessels. This map shows the real or intended defense preparations around Edo Bay by various domains, with a chart at the top showing the symbols of the domains, domain wealth in terms of rice yield, and the locations which each domain had been ordered to defend. Experts suggest that these maps, of which there are a number, sometimes represent planned rather than actual defenses. It is interesting to see, on closer examination, the considerable differences of this type of Kawaraban map in that regard.

The text running along the upper section of the map lists the names of places, prominent families and

their family crests, grain yield of those areas that belonged to these families and the population of the defence force. Running along the lower section of this kawaraban is a pictorial map of the 東海道[Tōkaidō Road]. The towns of 伊豆 Izu, 相模 Sagami, 武蔵 Musashi, 安房 Awa, 上総 Kazusa, 下総 Shimōsa are all shown.

AU\$1250.00 (Approximately US\$875.00)

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[海陸御固] [Kairiku Okatame]

[Map of Land and Sea Defenses including Domain Posts]

[The Arrival of Perry in 1854]



Attractive colour woodblock kawaraban on two joined sheets now laid down on washi, vertical centre fold, 47 x 65.8cm. Worming and torn with some loss. Still a very handsome and scarce kawaraban. (circa 1854).

This very striking colour detailed kawaraban shows the arrival of Perry's Black Ships in 1854, with images of the two types of American ships (Perry's own and another type called called ブリガッド or Burigaddo at bottom left). A lively procession of Perry's crew marches across the centre of the image to the beat of a drum while along the top of the sheet a table shows the location, number of people, family crest, name and class for each defense unit. The map shows Edo Bay and the defense preparations made for Perry's second visit, while the chart at the top of the image shows the names of the domains which had been mobilised to provide defense of Edo Bay, with details of the numbers of men they were able to deploy. The text tells us that the Japanese defence numbered 586,750 men while the number of soldiers on board the US ships totalled 360.

AU\$2500.00 (Approximately US\$1750.00)

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Sino-Japanese War

三國交渉画報 第二号 [Sangoku kōshō gahō dainigō]

[Pictorial News on the Relation of the Three Nations (No.2)]

Kawaraban - The Battle of Seonghwan]



Single sheet colour woodblock with Japanese text. Sheet measures 25.5 x 37.5cm. There are several small holes in lower section though the loss is not significant, some light browning mainly along the edges, a 8 x 9cm brown stain on the right hand side of the image. Still a good strong image which gave news to Japanese people of the outcome an important battle between Japanese and Chinese forces. 片山房吉 (Katayama Fusakichi). Osaka. Meiji 27 (1894).

This second part of a kawaraban, or illustrated newspaper style hand bill was issued on the 14th of August, 1894. The text and coloured illustration describe the first land battle in the Sino-Japanese War which took place on a couple of weeks before on the 29th of July. The war was not officially declared until August 1st, 1894.

The Japanese troops [the 9th Mixed Brigade], which were heading for Gazan 牙山 [Asan in Korean] to attack the Chinese force but were ambushed by the Chinese troops at the bridge of the Anjō 安城 [Anseong in Korea] River in the early hours of July 29th. According to the text, when the Japanese troops tried to cross the bridge, about 500 strong Chinese troops ambushed the Japanese forces from their hiding place under the bridge. The Japanese troops, though surprised, fought back successfully and after a series of skirmishes defeated the Chinese troops. Chinese casualties were high with over one hundred Chinese soldiers dead and over four hundred wounded. This battle is now known as The

Battle of Seonghwan 成歆 [Seikan in Japanese].

AU\$750.00 (Approximately US\$525.00)

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清朝南京人,亜墨利加婦人,魯西亜軍師 [Seichō Nankinjin, Amerika fujin, Roshia Gunshi.]



[Portraits of Russian, American and Chinese People]

[Portraits of a Russian Man, A Young American Woman and a Russian Soldier]

Black and white woodblock kawaraban, 23.7 x 29.7cm. Closed tear repaired with Japanese paper on reverse, some browning and creasing. A few small holes. No date. (1853?).

This kawaraban shows three images of foreigners: a Chinese official from Nanjing (described

as an official of the Nanjing, a young American woman and a Russian soldier. To the right of each portrait the name and age of the subject of the portrait is given. The Qing official from Nanjing is 45 year old 朱道[?] [Zhu Dao?] from Nanjing. The young American woman was 21 and the Russian officer was 51 years old.

AU\$850.00 (Approximately US\$595.00)

[When referring to this item please use our stock number 162011]

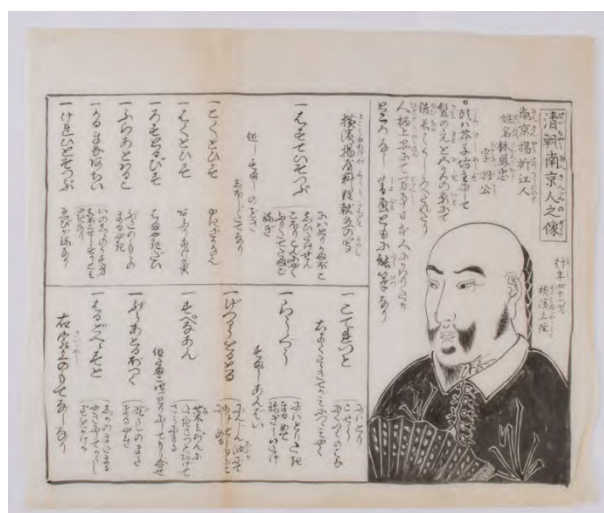
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清朝南京人之像 [Shinchō Nankinjin no zu]

[Image of a Nanjing Person in the Qing Dynasty].

[Menu/Advertisement Listing the Dishes of a Yokohama Pleasure House With a Description of a Chinese Foreigner]

Black-and-white handbill size print depicting a Chinese man from Nanjing in the Qing Dynasty.



Very good copy. 23 x 30cm. Late Edo.

This black and white image of a Qing dynasty man is accompanied by extensive text. On one section of the sheet the text lists the menu for a pleasure house in Yokohama, while the other gives a description of the man depicted. The names of dishes listed are clearly derived from their Dutch names and are quite fascinating linguistically, culturally and historically. For example, the first dish is a soup, "Hasuteisoppu" with ingredients of chicken paste, shiitake mushroom, dried konnyaku, stirred eggs, and shallots. The note beside the listing of this dish says: "It is clear soup flavoured with salt." The second dish is "Kokutohisu" accompanied by an explanatory note: "It is grilled fish." "Hisu" is "fish" ["vis" in Dutch.] A dish of lobster soup is listed as "Kerehitosoppu". "Kerehito" meaning "lobster" ["kreeft" in Dutch].

Japanese text also accompanies the image of the Chinese man. Translated this reads "[He is] a man from Yangzhejiang 揚折江, Nanjing. His name is Rin Hōchū 林鳳忠 [Lin Fengzhong in Chinese] and his azana [common name] is Ukō 羽公. His head is bald, only leaving hair on the top. The hair is tied with a five-coloured cord at the base and hangs down on the back of the head. His personality is decent and no different from that of the Japanese. He is both good at calligraphy and painting. He is forty-one years old and landed in Yokohama.

AU\$950.00 (Approximately US\$665.00)

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瓦版 関東大地震圖 [Kawaraban: Kantō Daijishin-zu]

[News-sheet: Illustration of the Great Earthquake in the Kantō Region]

[Kawaraban - Great Earthquake Kantō - 1854]



Large black and white woodblock kawaraban on two joining sheets showing a map of the coastal areas of the Kantō region [present Tokyo and surrounding prefectures with text. Kawaraban has been folded, some browning particularly along central fold but generally very good. 35.5 x 70.8cm. Edo Kaei 7. [1854].

This kawaraban or commercial news-sheet of the Edo period reports the great earthquake which

struck the coastal areas of the Kantō region [present Tokyo and surrounding prefectures] on November 4th 1854 [December 23rd in the western calendar]. This earthquake is the first of the three major earthquakes known as the Ansei Great Earthquakes, which took place in 1854 and 1855. Modern estimates suggest that this terrible earthquake was magnitude 8.4 with the hypocentral region ranging from the Kumano Sea off Wakayama to Suruga Bay off Shizuoka. On this map north is in the lower left corner, where the Edo area lies. As the map shows, the most affected area were the coastal areas of present-day Chiba prefecture to Shizuoka prefecture, including Edo, the capital of the Tokugawa government.

The text details the extensive damage caused by the earthquake. A great number of houses and government offices were destroyed by shocks and ports were hit by a big tsunami, which swallowed hundreds of houses. In many areas the earthquake not only caused damage to buildings, but following the quake itself fires raged burning down many more, including several castles. This earthquake was so big that even the inland province of Shinano [present Nagano prefecture] was deeply affected; the text reports that houses in the castle town of Matsumoto were seriously damaged and seventy percent of them were burned down. The text in the lower left section describes the damage in Edo. In Edo many samurai mansions were destroyed in Marunouchi, inside and outside of the Hibiya Gate, and Sakurada, and in the other areas a great number of townsmen's and samurai houses were badly damaged. A second smaller map inset into this area of text shows Fukagawa, Honjo, and Asakusa which are the areas along the Sumida River. At the time of the earthquake it was low tide, but a large wave came up the river a couple of times and sank many boats. The Russian frigate *Diana*, commanded by Vice-Admiral Putyutin, which was moored in Shimoda at the time was damaged by Tsunami.

AU\$1600.00 (Approximately US\$1120.00)

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異國人酒宴ノ圖 [Ikokujin shuen no zu]

[Picture of Foreigners Having a Drinking Party]

[Englishman, Russian Enjoy a Drinking Party with a Geisha]



Black and white woodblock, 24.1 x 28.7cm. Very good copy. No date. (Late Edo).

This print shows an Englishman, a Russian and a geisha clearly having a lively drinking party. In the middle of the image an English man, named "Metsuchii", is dancing with a fan, to the tune of shamisen played by the geisha, while "Gyaatsu", the Russian is seated on a stool singing and drumming with a chop stick. The accompanying text says, "[They] are

having a drinking party and having a great time, singing English and Russian folk songs to the tune of shamisen playing. The songs are recorded on the left."

The text in the left upper section explains the meaning of the songs. Russian song translates as: A good [or good-looking] man from "Beitorukumiyako [St. Petersburg?]" in Russia felt happy that he met a young woman but he thought it too bothersome to kiss her. The English lyrics: "It is great that, after coming to this fantastic place all the way from my country, I drink [sake] poured by a beautiful woman by the generous arrangement of the king of that country. It would be even better if I could sleep with her."

The text on the lower left section shows the transcriptions into Japanese of the Russia and English songs plus a English song in a dodoitsu [5-7-7-7-5 syllables] form. Unfortunately these words written in hiragana do not make much sense as the Russian and English words so the meaning of the song is unclear.

AU\$950.00 (Approximately US\$665.00)

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詩文書画人名一覽 [Shibunsho Gajinmei Ichiran]

[List of Poets Names and Accompanying Cartoon Style Images of a Poet's Party]



A most unusual piece of poetry ephemera on two attached sheets. Upper sheet is a list in Japanese of Tokyo poets names and addresses, attached below is a cartoon style illustration printed in green and black showing poets writing, discussing and admiring the work. Torn along some folds and repaired on reverse, few small holes at folds, some loss at margins, light browning.

1885.

A rather quirky but nonetheless fascinating piece of ephemera listing the names and places of residence of poets in Tokyo, with accompanying cartoon style illustration of poets taking part in a New Year's poetry writing party!

AU\$225 (Approximately US\$157.5)

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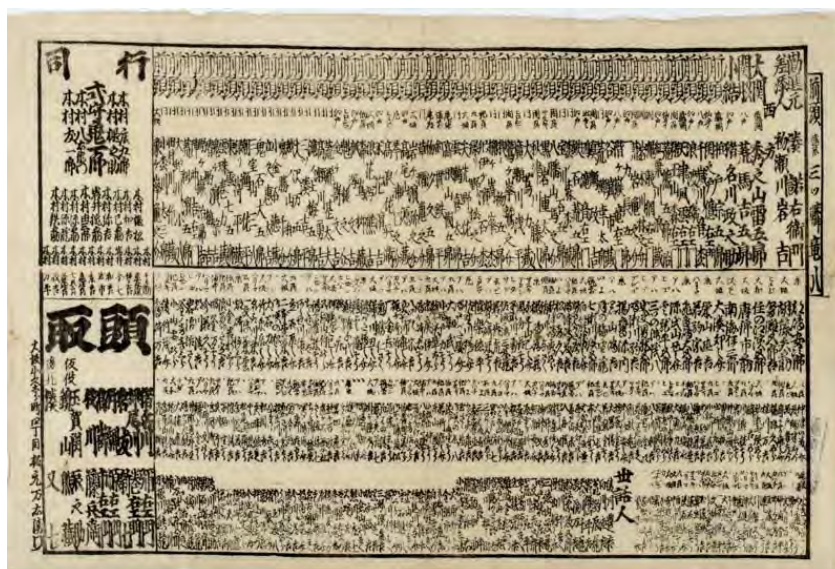
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[相撲番付瓦版 [Sumō banzuke kawaraban]

[Sumo wrestling banzuke (list)]

Black and white
woodblock printed
sheet, 30.7 x 46.4cm.
(circa 1843).

*This kawaraban is a
sumo banzuke or
ranking table of sumo
wrestlers. It shows
their name, level,
hometown and the
name of the referees.
The kawaraban was
published at 4 Okubo-
cho(?) Osaka. On the
reverse a stamp reads
Takaoka Yuukamon, it is unclear as to where he was a prior owner or the publisher.*



Sumo banzuke were very popular and became the model used in Japan for ranking of other products and services such as restaurants.

Although undated this kawaraban must have been published during the period between 1843 - 1847. High ranking sumo wrestler, Ōyodo Otoemon, whose name appears on the left of the kawaraban as Mitsuuroko Ryūhachi, only used this name for those four years.

AU\$350.00 (Approximately US\$280.00)

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