

Appreciations of Japanese landscapes by the western visitors arrived (1549-1858)

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Introduction

This report listed and summarized the descriptions of Western visitors about "Fu-kei" of Japan since the first arrival on Tanegashima Island in 1549 (Table 1). We could define 'Fu-kei' as similar to the concept as the appreciation of landscape or the impression of scenery. Japanese appreciation of scenery had been affected by Chinese culture since ancient times. For example, the idea of "Eight Scenery", which evolved in the 10th century in old China, was introduced in the 14th century to Japan, has affected more than five centuries of the appreciation of Japanese landscape (Aoki, et al. 2003). Because Japan was closed to western foreigners until the end of the Edo era, i.e., the 19th century, those effects continued until the opening of the country. And the educated Japanese used the Chinese method for the sophisticated way of landscape observation as Chinese poetry. After the opening of the country, Japanese began to accept Western culture and its way of landscape appreciation. The educated Japanese began to understand the natural phenomena by the natural sciences developed in western countries. Although the western countries had experienced the period of Landscape Painting from the 16th to the 19th centuries and they sometimes described Japanese landscape to belong the similar kind of beauty, most Japanese never understand their appreciation. So by studying the descriptions of Western visitors to Japan, we find how they understood and appreciated Japanese landscapes and what the landscape beauty of Japan was existed in those times.

Summary of the focal objects appreciated were listed in table 2.

(1) Until open the country, 1853

The first period began with the arrival of the first Portuguese, Mendes Pinto, to Tanegashima Island in 1549 and ended at the time of opening the country by negotiation with Perry in 1853. During the period, Portuguese and Spaniards visited and mostly engaged in missionary work and obtained many believers in western Japan. Although the domestic warfare sometimes threatened not only Japanese lives but also Westerners' lives, they established many churches as the result of their activities. But the Japanese government since the 17th century excluded them, because the government feared the country's stability. In that period, westerners were not yet accustomed to the plant taxonomy or landscape paintings. They never describe the natural landscape or vegetation in Japan, the outstanding features of Japanese landscape. During the closed country, i.e. the Edo era, the Dutch including German or Sweden visitors traveled from Nagasaki to Edo. Some of them knew plant taxonomy and found the features of Japanese landscape to be endowed with a diversity of plants. In this period, Russia also investigated Japanese landscape from the coasts and found pleasant impressions. Unfortunately, the Japanese government sometimes met them and arrested some Russians as prisoners unfortunately. They also reported the landscape beauty of Japan.

(2) Until diplomat residence, 1858

U. S. A. and Russia visited to negotiate the opening the country of Japan in 1853. Some members of the troop could understand Japanese and some had known plant taxonomy. They could describe the landscape and vegetation more precisely. Moreover the troops came accompanied with landscape painters, so they could report in detail the vegetation of Japan. Some enjoyed familiar vegetation at Hokkaido Island and some admired the beauty of topographic features of Japanese landscapes. Vysheslavitsov appreciated rice terraces at mountainside.

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Keywords: appreciation of landscape, 1549-1858, western visitor

Table 1 Chronological table of western visitors to Japan translated into Japanese

Name of visitor	Period	Nationality	Literature	Published	Translator
Pinto, P. F. M.	1549-1556	Portugal	Peregrinacao / Fernao Mendes Pinto, edicao popular com uma noticia, notas e glossario, J. I. de Brito Rebello, Ferreira, Lisboa, 1908-10, 4vols.	1980	Okamura, T.
Companhia de Iesus	1549-1590	Portugal	Cartas que os Padres e Irmãos da Companhia de Iesus, que andao nos Reynos de Iapao & China escreueram aos da mesma Companhia da India & Europa, desde anno de 1549 ate o de 1590., Manoel de Lyra, Erolva, 1598.	1996	Murakami, N.
Frois, Luis	1562-1597	Portugal	Primeira Parte de Iapom, Biblioteca da Ajuda. Cod. 49-IV.54	1977	Matsuda, K. and Kawasaki, M.
Valignano, Alejandro	1579-1603	Italy	SUMARIO de las cosas de Japon 1583.	1996	Matsuda, K.
Giron, Bernardino Avila	1594-1616	Spain	Relacion del Reino de Nippon a que llaman corruptamente Jappon	1965	Aida, Y. and Iwao, S.
Vivero, D. R.	1609-1610	Spain	Relacion y noticias de el reino del Japon, C Otros abisios y proietcs para el buen Gvierno de la Monarcia Espanola, quien la delica a la C. R. M. del Rei N. S. A. D 1609.	1929	Murakami, N.
Vizcaino, Sebastian	1611-1613	Spain	Coleccion de Documentos Ineditos relativos al descubrimiento, conquista y organization de las antiguas posesiones espanoles de America y Oceania, 8(2,3), biblioteca National, Madrid, 1867.	1929	Murakami, N.
Saris, John	1612-1613	U. K.	The voyage of Captain John Saris to Japan, 1613. ed. by Sir Ernest M. Satow, Printed for Hakluyt Society, London, 1900.	1986	Murakawa, K.
Cocks, Richard	1613-1624	U. K.	Diary keep by Head of the English factory in Japan: diary of Richard Cocks, June 1, 1615-March 24, 1622.	1979-82	Tokyo Uni.
Willman, O. E.	1651-1652	Sweden	Beskrifwes een nessa till Ost Indien, China och Japan, Johann Kankel, Wisingborgh, 1667.	1953	Ozaki, Y.
Kaempfer, Engelbert	1690-1692	Germany	Geschite und Beschreibung von Japan Aus den Originalhandschriften des Verfassers, Meyer, Lemgo, 1777-79.	1993	Saito, M.
Benyazyk, J. G.	1771	Hungary	Janko, Dr. Janos. Grof Benyovszky Moricz mint foeldrajzi Kutato, Kritikai megjegyzesek Kamcsatkatol Makaoig tett utjara, Budapest, 1890.	1994	Miziguchi, S. and Numata, J.
Thunberg, Carl Peter	1775-1776	Sweden	Resa uti Europa, Afrika, Asia, foerraettad aren 1770-1779, del 3-4, Upsala, 1791, 1793.	1996	Takahashi, F.
Tising, Issac	1779-1784	Holland	Illustration of Japan, London 1822.	1980	Numata, J.
Polonskii, A. S.	1792-1793	Russia	Terasawa Hajime, Chishimashi, Japanese translation, 1979.	1953	Hayashi, K.
Broughton, William Robert	1797	U. K.	Voyage of Discovery to the North Pacific Ocean, London 1804.	1974	Sudo, T.
Doeff, Hendrick	1798-1817	Holland	Herinneringen uti Japan, Haarlem, 1833.	1966	Saito, A.
Wardenaar, Willem	1800-1803	Holland	Nagasaki Oranda Shokan Nikki Vol. 1, Anno 1801-1803.	1989	Nitirangakkai
Krusenshtern, A. J.	1803-1804	Russia	Reise um die Welt in den Jahren 1803, 1804, 1805 und 1806, gedruckt in der Schnoorschen Buchdruckerey, St. Petersburg, 1810.	1931	Hani, G.
Rezanov, Nikolai Petrovich	1804-1805	Russia	Ohshima, M. Nihon Taizai, Japanese translation, Iwanami, Tokyo, 2000.	2000	Oshima, M.
Golovnin, W. M.	1811-1813	Russia	Zapiski Vasil'ya Mikhailovicha Golounina plenuu yaponstsev 1811, 1812 i 1813, godakh, i zhizneopisanie avtora, 1816.	1984	Tokuriki, S.
Hall, Basil	1816	U. K.	Account of voyage of discovery to the West Coast of Corea, and the Great Loo-choo Island, John Murray, London, 1818.	1986	Haruna, T.
M'Leod, John	1816	U. K.	Narrative of a Voyage, in His Majesty's Late Ship Alceste, to the Yellow Sea, along the Coast of Corea, and through its Numerous Hitherto Undiscovered Islands to the Island of Lewchew; with an Account of Her Shipwreck in the Straits of Gaspar, John Murray	1999	Ohama, N.
Fisscher, J. F. O.	1820-1829	Holland	Bydrage tot de kennis van het Japansche Ryk, J. Muller, Amsterdam 1833.	1966	Saito, A.
Siebold, P. F.	1822-1829	Germany	NIPPON. Archiv zur Beschreibung von Japan und dessen Neben und Schutzlaendern Jezo mit den suedlichen Kurilen, Sachalin, Korea und den Liukiu-Inseln. Herausgegeben von seinen Soenen. Zweite Auflage, K. U. K. Hofbuchhandlung von Leo Woelfl, Wuerzburg und	1983	Saito, M.
Beechey, Frederick William	1827	U. K.	A narrative of the voyage and travel of Captain Beechey, London, 1836.	1979	Ohguma, R.
Peard, Georg	1827	U. K.	The journal of Lieutenant Georg Peard of H. M. S. Blossom, 1825-1828.	1979	Ohguma, R.
Meilan, G. F.	1827-1831	Holland	Japan, 1830.	2002	Shoji, M.
Adams, A. F. L. S.	1845	U. K.	Travel of a Naturalist in Japan and Manchuria, Hurst and Blackett, London, 1870.	1974	Sudo, T.
Leijssohn, Joseph Henry	1845-1850	Holland	Dag Register der door het Nederlandsh Opperhoofd, J. H. Leijssohn in het Jaar 1850 gedane Hofreize naar Jedo en terug naar Deshima.	2003	Katagiri, K.
MacDonald, Randal	1848-1849	Canada	Japan, Story of Adventure of Randal MacDonald, First Teacher of English in Japan, A. D. 1848-49.	1979	Tomita, T.
Goncharov, I. A.	1853-1854	Russia	Fregat "Pallada" ocherki po puteshestviu inana Goncharova, C. Peterburg, 1857.	1988	Takano, A. and Shimada, Y.
Hawks, Francis L.	1853-1854	U. S. A.	Narrative of the expedition of an american squadron to the Cina Seas and Japan, The Congress of the United States, Washington, 1856, 2vols.	1997	Kanda, S.
Perry, Matthew	1853-1854	U. S. A.	The Japan Expedition, 1852-1854 The Personal Journal of Commodore Matthew C. Perry, Pineau, Roger, ed., Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, 1968.	1989	Kanai, M.
Spalding, J. Willet	1853-1854	U. S. A.	The Japan Expedition, Japan and around the World, 1855.	2002	Shimada, T.
Taylor, Bayard	1853-1854	U. S. A.	A vist to India, China, and Japan, in the year 1853, G. P. Puntum, New York 1855.	1979	Ohguma, R.
Williams, S. W.	1853-1854	U. S. A.	A Journal of the Perry Expedition to Japan (1853-1854), Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan 37(2), Maruya, Tokyo, 1910.	1993	Hori, T.
Heine, Wilhelm	1853-1855	Germany	Reise um die Erde nach Japan an Bord der Expeditions-Escadre unter Commodore M. C. Perry in den Jahren 1853, 1854 und 1855, unternommen im Auftrage der Regierung der Vereinigten der Staaten, Holzschnitt von Eduard Kretschmar, Leipzig, Hermann Costnabe u	1983	Nakai, A.
Morrow, James	1854	U. S. A.	A Scientist with Perry in Japan, the Journal of Dr. James Morrow, Edited by Allan B. Cole, The University of North Carolina press, 1947.	1974	Sudo, T.
Luehdorf, Fr. Aug.	1855-1856	Germany	Acht Monaten in Japan, nach Abschluss des Ver trags des von Kanagawa, H. Strack, Bremen, 1857.	1964	Nakamura, T.
Heusken, Henry	1856-1861	Holland	Diary of Henry Heusken 1855-1861 translated and edited by Jeannette C. Van der Corput and Robert A. Wilson, Rutgers University Press, New Brunswick, 1964.	1989	Aoki, S.
Harris, Townsend	1856-1863	U. S. A.	The complete journal of Townsend Harris, Japan Society in New York, Garden City, 1930.	1953	Sakata, S.
Kattendyke, W. J.	1857-1859	Holland	Uittreksel uit het dagboek van W. J. C. Ridder H. V. Kattendyke gedurende zijn verblijf in Japan in 1857, 1858 en 1859, W. P. van Stockum, 'sGravenhage, 1860.	1964	Mizuta, N.
Oliphant, Laurence	1857-1859	U. K.	Narrative of The Earl of Elgin's Mission to China and Japan in the years 1857, '58, '59, William Blackwood and son, Edinburgh and London, 1859, 2vols.	1995	Okada, A.
Osborn, Sherad	1857-1859	U. K.	A cruise in Japanese waters, William Blackwood and sons, Edinburgh and London, 1859.	2002	Simada, Y.
Meerdervoort, Ponpe	1857-1862	Belgium	Vijf Jaren in Japan (1857-1863): Bijdragen tot de kennis van het Japansche keizerrijk en zijne bevolking, 2 dls, Firma van den Heuvel & van Santen, Leiden, 1867.	1988	Numata, J.
Polsbroek, J. D. G.	1857-1870	Holland	Journal van Jonkheer Dirk de Graeff van Polsbroek 1857-1870, ingeleid en geannoteerd door Herman J. Moeshart, Van Gorcum, Assen, 1987.	1995	Ikuma, A.
Vysheslavtsov, A. V.	1858-1859	Russia	Ocherki perom i karandashom iz krugovetnogo plavaniya v 1857, 1858, 1859 i 1860 godakh, 1862.	1990	Nagashima, Y.