New Titles
Autumn 2016-Spring 2017

Renaissance Books publishes both monographs and major collections for the scholarly market in East Asian and Central Asian Studies.

SEE PAGE 3
Culture, Power and Politics
In Treaty-Port Japan, 1854–1899
J.E. HOARE (ed.)

TREATY PORT OF NAGASAKI IN THE 1860s, SHOWING DESHIMA ISLAND IN THE BACKGROUND. PHOTOGRAPH BY FELIX BEATO
The History of Manchuria, 1840–1948
A Sino-Russo-Japanese Triangle
Ian Nish
978-1-898823-42-1 • Hardback • 2-vol. set • 736pp • £195.00.
E-book 978-1-898823-43-8
Renaissance Books Asia Pacific Series, Vol. 2, ISSN 2396-8877
September 2016

KEY FEATURE: The History of Manchuria, 1840–1948 is the first fully researched and documented history of its kind, representing a significant benchmark in scholarly studies of the region. In this his long-awaited final major work, Ian Nish provides valuable new perspectives on the turbulent times suffered by the three north-eastern provinces of China, generally called ‘Manchuria’, in the course of the last two centuries.

The territory rarely enjoyed peace, although its economy progressed as a result of the building of arterial railways. Two major wars – both resulting in appalling casualties – were fought on its soil in 1894 and 1904; in addition, a major international incident took place in 1919 involving the forces of many Powers. Manchuria also had an important role in world affairs from 1932, when the state of Manchukuo, based at Changchun, was declared by the Japanese Government. But that was to be short-lived, being brought to an end by the punitive incursion and occupation of the country by Soviet forces in August 1945. Thereafter, the devastated country was fought over in a brutal civil war by Chinese Nationalist and Communist armies until Mukden (Shenyang) fell to the Communists in October 1948.

Volume 1 - Historical Narrative comprises ten chapters, supported by a 12-page colour plate section of rarely seen images, plus bibliography.

Volume 2: Primary Sources. Importantly, this work is supported and enhanced by extracts from a wide selection of contemporary documents from the archives of the parties concerned, including the full report of the Lytton Commission (1932).

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Britain & Japan
Biographical Portraits - Volume X
Hugh Cortazzi (ed.)
978-1-898823-44-5 • Hardback • 832pp • £65.00.
E-book: 978-1-898823-46-9
[Co-published with The Japan Society, London]
June 2016

KEY FEATURE: This tenth volume in the series, comprising a total of sixty-nine essays, offers a further wide-ranging selection of portraits and themes that celebrate the life and work of men and women, both British and Japanese, whose contributions are worthy of being remembered in the history of Anglo-Japanese relations. Here, the portraits of key figures range from Sir Stamford Raffles in the nineteenth century to Lisa, Lady Sainsbury in more recent times.

Importantly, the volume provides a special focus on Anglo-Japanese trade and investment – a major theme in the history of Anglo-Japanese relations, which is worthy of considerably more exploration. General subject-matter includes Bonsai in Britain, Victorian Novelists in Japan and Britain and the JET Programme.

The volume is divided into the following sections: Personalities and Entrepreneurs, Writers and Broadcasters, Missionaries, Politicians, Officials and Diplomats, Scholars, Business, Trade and Investment and Culture. Also included is an extensive eighteen-page Select Bibliography of Works in English relating to Anglo-Japanese relations, together with a list of works in Japanese.

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Japanese Studies in Britain
A Survey and History
Hugh Cortazzi and Peter Kornicki (eds)
978-1-898823-58-2 • 336pp • Hardback • £45.00
E-book: 978-1-898823-59-9
[Co-published with The Japan Society, London]
October 2016

Comprising essays written by scholars from universities across Britain – from Edinburgh and Newcastle to Cardiff, SOAS and Oxbridge, as well as...
KEY FEATURE: This book takes an in-depth look at the study of Japan in contemporary Britain, highlighting the many strengths but also pointing out some weaknesses, while at the same time offering a valuable historical record of the origins and development of Japanese Studies in British universities and other institutions.

contributions from various supporting foundations and organizations – from the British Association of Japanese Studies (BAJS) to the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SIJAC), Japanese Studies in Britain provides an important new benchmark and point of reference regarding the present options for studying Japan at British universities. It offers in addition a wider perspective on the role, relevance and future direction of Japanese Studies for academia, business and government, students planning their future careers and more generally the world of education, as well as readers interested in the developing relationship between Britain and Japan.

Carmen Blacker
Scholar of Japanese Religion, Myth and Folklore
• Writings and Reflections •
Hugh Cortazzi (ed.)
with James McMullen & Mary-Grace Browning
978-1-898823-56-8 • Hardback • 478pp + 16pp col.Plates • £50.00.
[Co-published with SIJAC – The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures]
January 2017

KEY FEATURE: Carmen Blacker was an outstanding scholar of Japanese culture, known internationally for her writings on religion, myth and folklore – her most notable work being The Catalpa Bow: A Study of Shamansitic Practices in Japan. Importantly, a third of the volume comprises significant extracts from the author's diaries covering a period of more than forty years, together with a plate section drawn from her extensive photographic archive, thus providing a rare opportunity to gain a personal insight into the author's life and work.

The volume includes a wide selection of writings from distinguished scholars such as Donald Keene and Peter Kornicki, and also her former pupils James McMullen and John Breen in celebration of her work and legacy together with various essays and papers by Carmen Blacker herself that have hitherto not been widely available.

In addition to her scholarship, Carmen Blacker was also highly regarded for her work in promoting Japanese Studies at Cambridge and played a vital role in helping to re-establish The Japan Society, London, post-war.

A Unique Banchado
The Documentary Painting, with Commentary, of King Jeongjo's Royal Procession to Hwaseong in 1795
Han Young-woo
RENAISSANCE BOOKS KOREAN LITERATURE SERIES ISSN 2398-9866 Vol. 1
978-1-898823-49-0 • Hardback • 128pp, full colour • £45.00.
E-book: 978-1-898823-54-4
April 2017

KEY FEATURE: Fully illustrated in colour, here is the first introduction in English to one of Korea’s outstanding cultural assets – the banchado (painting of the order of guests at a royal event) relating to all those taking part (1800 people) in the eight-day royal procession to Hwaseong (Gyeonggi Province) organized by King Jeongjo in 1795 in order to visit the tomb of his father and to celebrate his mother’s sixtieth birthday.

The banchado is a fine example of the meticulous record-keeping of the period (known as uigwe) and the skills of the court painters at that time. The author provides a full analysis of the context, planning, execution and significance of the event.

Culture, Power and Politics in Treaty-Port Japan, 1854–1899
Key Papers, Press and Contemporary Writings
J.E.Hoare (ed.)
978-1-898823-61-2 • Hardback [ 2-vol.set] • 700pp • £175.00.
E-Book: 978-1-898823-62-9
September 2017

Compared with their counterparts in China, the Japanese treaty ports cast a small shadow. They were far fewer – only four really mattered – and lasted for just under fifty years, while the Chinese ports made their centenary. Yet the Japanese ports were important. The thriving modern cities of Yokohama and Kobe had their origins as treaty ports. Nagasaki, a major centre of foreign trade since at least the sixteenth century, may not have owed so much to its treaty-port status, but it was a factor in its modern development.
A.B. Mitford and the Birth of Japan as a Modern State

Letters Home

Robert Morton

978-1-898823-48-3 • Hardback • 256pp + 8pp (b/w) plates • £30.00
E-book: 978-1-898823-53-7

May 2017

KEY FEATURE: Drawing on his (unpublished) letters to his father, this new study on A.B. Mitford focuses for the first time on his life in Japan from 1866 to 1870 and examines the part he played during one of the great turning points in world history: the 1868 revolution that saw the demise of Japan’s 250-year feudal dynasty ruled over by a Shogun and its replacement by a modern state – the so-called Meiji Restoration.

Why Mitford (later to become the first Lord Redesdale)? He was an urbane aristocrat, had charm, looks and excellent manners. He was always in the right place at the right time, almost drowned, could have burned to death, was shot at, and was nearly cut down by samurai swords. But ‘Bertie’, as he was known, was never fazed by events. He stood face-to-face with the new teenage Emperor when almost everybody else, including the Shogun, could only talk to him behind a screen. He became friendly with the last Shogun and witnessed a *hara-kiri*, his atmospheric account of which is now a classic. An accomplished linguist and writer, Mitford was the outstanding chronicler of the Meiji Restoration, complementing the writings of his contemporary Ernest Satow.

This book will be of particular interest to students and readers of Japanese history, as well as readers of nineteenth-century biography in general. It will also have special appeal to those who are familiar with the Mitford family history.
Consul in Japan, 1903–1942
Oswald White’s Memoir ‘All Ambition Spent’
Hugo Read (ed.)
978-1-898823-64-3 • Hardback • 204pp + 12pp (b/w) plates • £40.00
E-book: 978-1-898823-66-7
April 2017

KEY FEATURE: Here is a rare first-hand account by a foreigner living and working in Japan in the first half of the twentieth century which provides a unique insight into this important period of Japan’s history, and complements the existing archival material. Beginning life as a student interpreter, he went on to become an assistant in Korea, Vice-Consul in Yokohama and Osaka, Consul in Nagasaki and Dairen, then Consul-General in Seoul, Osaka, Mukden and Tientsin.

N ot a contemporary diary as such, but a write-up of notes made towards the end of White’s career spanning thirty-eight years. Importantly, it includes reflective passages on the momentous developments of the later 1930s, as Japan moved onto a war-footing in China – and as Consul-General in the Chinese treaty port of Tianjin under Japanese occupation, White was in the middle of the growing tensions between Britain and Japan. His post-war recollections are also valuable. Like others who had lived and worked in Japan, he sought to come to terms with what had happened to the country in which he had spent so much of his adult life. Along the way he provides fascinating vignettes of his colleagues, some well known, others less so, while his service in Seoul, Mukden (now Shenyang) and Tianjin provides fresh material on the Japanese colonial empire.

Wars and Rumours of War, 1918–1945
Japan, the West and Asia Pacific
Selected Contemporary Readings on Crises and Conflict
Series 2: 1937–1945. From Manchuria to Tokyo Bay
Roger Buckley (ed.)
978-1-898823-63-6 • Hardback • 6-vol. set • 3000pp • £795.00
February 2017
[Co-published with Eureka Press, Japan]

This six-volume set complements Series 1 (1918–1937 – From Armistice to North China), addressing the history between 1938 and 1945.

Anjin – The Life and Times of Samurai William Adams, 1564–1620
As Seen Through Japanese Eyes
Hiromi T. Rogers
978-1-898823-22-3 • Hardback • 312pp + 12pp. col. plates • £24.95
October 2016

KEY FEATURE: This is a highly readable account of Adams’ voyage to and twenty years in Japan, told for the first time from a Japanese perspective, and enriched by detailed observations of Japanese culture and society at this time. New light is shed on Adams’ relations with the Dutch and his countrymen, including the disastrous relationship with Captain John Saris, the key role likely to have been played by the munitions, including cannon, removed from Adams’ ship De Liefde in the great battle of Sekigahara (September 1600). This is the real story that inspired James Clavell’s Shogun.

A s a native of Japan, and a scholar of seventeenth-century Japanese history, the author delves deep into the cultural context facing Adams in what is one of the great examples of assimilation into the highest reaches of a foreign culture. Her access to Japanese sources, including contemporary accounts – some not previously seen by Western scholars researching the subject – offers us a fuller understanding of the life lived by William Adams as a high-ranking samurai and his grandstand view of the collision of cultures that led to Japan’s self-imposed isolation, lasting over two centuries.

The year is 1600. It is April. A battered ship drifts into Usuki Bay in southern Japan. On board, barely able to stand, are twenty-three Dutchmen and one Englishman, the remnants of a fleet of five ships and 500 men that had set out from Rotterdam in 1598. The Englishman was William Adams, later to be known as Anjin Miura by the Japanese…

Despite the widespread operation of war-time censorship and surveillance, publishers in the West and, to a lesser degree in East Asia, put out a range of material that remains of considerable value to later generations. Some of the texts selected are undeniably partisan but the quantity of the published material (and to some extent its quality) left the general public with a vast and varied archive of printed matter that deserves to be consulted and debated by today’s researchers and students. The collection is supported by an in-depth Introduction, greater attention being given to American and British literature rather than Chinese or Japanese simply by virtue of the practical realities.
Wars and Rumours of War, 1918–1945
Japan, the West and Asia Pacific
Selected Contemporary Readings on Crises and Conflict
Series 1: 1918–1937: From Armistice to North China
Roger Buckley (ed.)
978-1-898823-24-7 • Hardback • 6-vol. set • 3665pp. • £795.00
February 2016
[Co-published with Eureka Press, Japan]

Wars and Rumours of War brings together a wide selection of contemporary English-language primary material in order to illustrate how authors from both Asia and the West saw contemporary events. For the first time, this new series makes available books, journal essays and periodical articles, many of which may be absent from standard bibliographies, with a view to widening debate and underlining the diversity of opinion that was available to contemporary audiences in Asia and beyond who were anxious to follow developments as they unfolded.

Roger Buckley, who also edited the successful The Post-War Occupation of Japan (2013) series, argues that no apology should be required for this immediacy and that evidence drawn from the era must remain the bedrock for any retrospective analysis. In a world of rival imperialisms all the powers wished to safeguard their interests on the Asian continent by deploying military force as and when an emergency dictated.

After six decades following developments in Japanese society, economy and culture and as a well-known 'leftie', the author describes the evolution of his cognitive and evaluative/emotional perceptions of Japan, and explains why he can no longer be described as a ‘Japanophile’. To which are added essays on more general issues of the present day, such as events in the Ukraine, Iran and Israel, the ‘Piketty boom’, Japan and China, Japan and North Korea and the ‘new Cold Wars’.

This declared ‘final book’ by the author will be of special interest to all who know or have accessed his vast literary output relating to Japan.

EXTRACTION COMPLETE
Sir Hugh Cortazzi who was to follow in John Pilcher’s footsteps, has compiled the defining reports to Whitehall from Pilcher’s time in Tokyo – resulting in an invaluable record of Japan’s progress at this important point in her post-war history, as well as providing unique insights into the activities, hopes and expectations of the British government in her dealings with Japan. Pilcher was appointed British Ambassador to Japan in 1967 and brought to his role a particular understanding of Japanese civilization together with a critical analysis of Japanese attitudes and way of life.

‘Cortazzi has made another valuable contribution to Japan country studies and, indeed, it is indispensable for any generalist who wants to master the guild of diplomacy… For those of any professional calling, venturing to reside and work in Japan, this book should be mandatory reading. It will challenge your mind and stereotypical perceptions. It achieves its intention to inform and educate.’

Mike Fogarty, Australian Outlook, July 2016

Olunkho
Nurgun Botur the Swift
Platon A. Oyunski
978-1-898823-08-7 • Hardback • 448pp. • Full colour • £95.00
2014

Like Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey, the Finnish Kalevala, the Buryat Geser, and the Kirghiz Manas, the Yakut Olunkho (declared in 2005 by UNESCO to be ‘A Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity’) is in this case an epic dating back to the ninth century – when the ancestors of the present-day Yakut peoples lived on their former homelands and closely communicated with the Turkic and Mongolian peoples of the Altay and Sayan regions. Expert detailed analysis of the epic and its relevance to the wider epos literature is to be found in the introductory pages of this superbly illustrated volume.

Britain & Japan
Biographical Portraits, Vol. IX
Hugh Cortazzi (ed.)
978-1-898823-11-7 • Hardback • 676pp • £60.00
2015
E-book: 978-1-898823-27-8
[Published in association with The Japan Society, London.]

Containing 57 essays, this ninth volume in the Britain & Japan series is structured thematically in four Parts – Japan in Britain, Britain in Japan, Scholars and Writers, Politicians and Officials. Highlights include essays on The Great Japan Exhibition, 1981–82; Japanese Gardens and the Japanese Garden Society in the UK; Cricket in Late Edo and Meiji Japan; Norman Macrae, pioneering journalist of The Economist; Arthur Balfour – managing the emergence of Japan as a Great Power; Michio Morishima, an economist ‘made in Japan’ and Margaret Thatcher – a pragmatist who radically improved Britain’s image in Japan.

My Shanghai, 1942–1946
A Novel
Keiko Itoh
978-1898823-23-0 • Hardback • 400pp. • £19.95
January 2016
E-book: 978-1-898823-41-4

It is 1942. Shanghai after Pearl Harbor. Newly-arrived Eiko Kishimoto, a twenty-year-old, London-educated Japanese housewife, settles into a privileged existence in the French Concession as a member of the community of the Occupying Power. Initially, her days are filled with the rich fare of high society life, amidst an ebullient, cosmopolitan community that makes up Shanghai. But as war progresses, and Japan tightens its control within China, tensions mount, relationships unravel, and allegiances are questioned. It is not long before Eiko awakens to the meaning and implications of occupation for both her international friends and for Japanese civilians. Even her settled domestic life, with a growing family and close proximity to her beloved older sister, is threatened as Japan’s war efforts become more desperate and degenerate. Partly biographical – the author taking inspiration from her mother’s own war experiences in China – My Shanghai, 1942–1946 provides a valuable insight into the Asia Pacific War as never told before, that is through the eyes of a young Japanese woman caught between her Christian values and loyalty to her country.
Rhythms, Rites and Rituals
My Life in Japan in Two-step and Waltz-time
Dorothy Britton
978-1-898823-12-4 • Hardback • 256pp+16pp b/w plates • £16.50
2015
E-book: 978-1-898823-26-1

Including a description of her survival as a small child in Japan’s Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, this book is an enthralling account of the late Dorothy Britton’s life, loves and experiences in an amazingly varied life and career. Amusing episodes and stories of fascinating people and relationships abound in the book, as do valuable insights into topics such as the post-war Occupation and its impact on everyday life, the role of women, learning Japanese, marriage customs, food and many other aspects of Japanese culture and society.

Magnolia
A Novel
Agnita Tennant
978-1-898823-18-6 • Hardback • 358pp, • £18.50
2015

Highly charged and sensitively written, this novel is an absorbing and fascinating read in the context of Korean social history. South Korea 1957. Sukey, an intelligent graduate with much promise, falls in love with a man, Kwon, who confesses to her that he has been a North Korean spy. It is four years since the Korean War ended in a cease-fire. Even though fighting is suspended, hostility and enmity towards the North is the social norm. With anti-spy campaigns, street and hotel searches, and arrests of any suspect, citizens are urged to be vigilant and to report on any suspicious goings-on.

Across the Three Pagodas Pass
The Story of the Thai-Burma Railway
Yoshiihiko Futamatsu
978-1898823-07-0 • Hardback • 240pp, 16pp b/w plates • £20.00
2013
E-book: 978-1-898823-33-9

This is a translation of the only known detailed account of the building of the notorious 262-mile-long Thai-Burma Railway by one of the Japanese professional engineers who was involved in its construction. The author, Yoshiihiko Futamatsu, who was in his early thirties at the time he was supervising the building of the Railway, provides an invaluable new source of historical and technical reference that complements the existing large body of literature in English on this subject. Futamatsu’s memoir also includes wide-ranging reflections on the course and conduct of ‘his’ war as well as general comments on his engineering and army experiences.

My Korea
40 Years Without a Horsehair Hat
Kevin O’Rourke
978-1-898823-09-4 • Hardback • 314pp, • £20.00
2013
E-book: 978-1-898823-34-6

A fascinating and highly personal introduction to Korea. Part memoir, part miscellany, it introduces traditional and contemporary Korean culture through a series of essays, stories, anecdotes and poems. Confucianism, Buddhism, relationships, everyday living, language and literature are comprehensively covered.
THE HISTORY OF MANCHURIA, 1840–1948
A SINO-RUSSO-JAPANESE TRIANGLE
By Ian Nish
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