



Francis Brinkley
Japan: described and illustrated by the Japanese
Boston, 1897

The editor of this set, Francis Brinkley (1841-1912), arrived in Japan as a British military personnel in 1867 and taught at the Naval Gunnery School in Japan. Later, he published the English-language newspaper, *Japan Mail*, and served as a correspondent for the *Times of London*. In such capacities, Brinkley played a significant role in introducing Japanese culture overseas.

The set was published by J.B. Millet Company in Boston, the U.S. in 1897. Ever since the opening of Japan following many years of the seclusion, Japanese culture drew intense interest amongst the Western people. *Japan: described and illustrated by the Japanese* was published in response to this interest. The set was produced with the assistance of the Japanese government at the time, as part of an effort to introduce Japan overseas.

The set consists of 15 chapters. The text regarding Japanese history, society, and life authored at Brinkley's request by Japanese authority figures on the respective fields is illustrated by photographs of Japan's landscapes, lifestyle, and people taken by Japanese people. In addition, the set contains many finely hand-colored photographs. The beginning of each volume features a Japanese flower collotype by Kazumasa Ogawa (1860-1929), a leading photographer during the mid-Meiji Period.

J.B. Millet Company published many versions of the set with different bindings and other variations. On display is Volume 1 of the ten-volume set of the Orient edition (publication limited to 500 copies). The floral pattern on the cloth cover varies by volume.