



J.H. Levyssohn *Bladen over Japan* The Hague, 1852

This book is a record kept by Joseph Henry Levyssohn (1800-1883) during his assignment in Dejima, Nagasaki from 1845 to 1850 as the chief official of the Dutch Trading House. Chapter 3 contains a letter and documents sent from U.S. lawyer Aaron Haight Palmer (1782?-?).

Palmer advocated the need for the reopening of Japan for several reasons including expansion of U.S. trade, and urged Congress and the government to take actions. He was deeply involved in realizing a U.S. fleet's expedition to Japan. A letter and documents dated January 1850 sent to chief official Levyssohn shows the United States had plans to dispatch a fleet to Japan and to request the reopening of the country.

This book was published in The Hague in 1852 after Levyssohn's return to the Netherlands. In the following year, in 1853, a U.S. fleet led by Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry (1794-1858) arrived in Uraga. Chapter 3 regarding the arrival of the fleet has been translated into Japanese under such titles as *Rehison Yappan* [Levyssohn Japan].