



J. Hoffmann
Yo-San-Fi-Rok:
l'art d'élever les vers à soie au Japon
Paris, 1848

The original Japanese edition of this book is a guide on sericulture written during the Edo period. The author, Morikuni Uegaki (1753-1808), was born in Tajima province of Japan (present-day the northern part of Hyogo Prefecture). He dedicated his life to studying and improving sericulture techniques as he travelled in several regions of Japan, as far as Oshu (present-day Tohoku region). In 1803, Uegaki published the fully illustrated guide on sericulture, *Yōsan Hiroku*.

A few decades after its publication, *Yōsan Hiroku* made its way to the Netherlands as one of the vast number of relevant documents on Japan brought back by Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796-1866). It was translated into French as *Yo-San-Fi-Rok*, and published in 1848 as an introduction of Japanese sericulture techniques and culture to the West.

The translator Johann Joseph Hoffmann (1805-1878) is a scholar in Japanese studies, who assisted Siebold in editing his masterpiece *Nippon* and taught Japanology at Leiden University as well as writing several books on Japanese language.

The French edition *Yo-San-Fi-Rok* comes in one volume bound up the three Japanese volumes of *Yōsan Hiroku*. It includes almost 50 of the original illustrations, as well as one page from the original Japanese edition and a map of Japan.