



Stepan Petrovich Krasheninnikov
Histoire de Kamtschatka, des Isles Kurilski,
et des contrées voisines, Lyon, 1767
French edition, originally published in Petersburg, 1755

The author, Stepan Petrovich Krasheninnikov (1713?-1755), was a Russian geographer. Along with many other experts, he took part in the second Kamchatka expedition (1733-1743), which was undertaken by an order from Peter the Great, with Vitus Jonassen Bering (1681-1741) appointed as expedition leader.

Krasheninnikov surveyed Siberia from 1733 to 1736, followed by the Kamchatka Peninsula from 1737 to 1741, and in 1755 he published those findings as *The history of Kamtschatka, and the Kurilski Islands, with the countries adjacent* (original title: Описание земли Камчатки). The book was the first report on the geography of the Kamchatka Peninsula and the manners, customs and language of the indigenous peoples there.

In addition to the Kamchatka Peninsula, the book also reports on Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, the Kuril Islands and Hokkaido, which were the subject of the second expedition's survey. Via a Dutch-Japanese translation, some of that content was also introduced to Japan as *Kamusakkashi* (1790) by Ryotaku Maeno (1723-1803), a Dutch scholar in the Edo period.

The books on display are the French language version, which was translated based on the English language version. It was published in Lyon in 1767, and includes inserted maps of Kamchatka and the Kuril Islands.