



## Basil Hall

### ***Account of a voyage of discovery to the west coast of Corea, and the Great Loo-Choo Island : with an appendix, containing charts, and various hydrographical and scientific notices*** **London, 1818**

The author, Basil Hall (1788-1844), was a British naval officer and captain of HMS Lyra. In 1816, after escorting the mission led by William Pitt Amherst, first Earl Amherst of Arracan (1773- 1857) to the court of China's Qing Dynasty, Hall made port calls first in Korea and then in the Ryukyu Islands.

His party spent approximately 40 days on the Ryukyu Islands. This book contains records of their friendly interactions with the Ryukyu people, as well as descriptions of the local nature, religion, folklore, and lifestyle habits. The inclusion of the vocabulary of Ryukyuan words collected by Lieutenant Herbert J. Clifford (1789?- 1855) is an interesting feature of the book, and it is organized into comparison tables of the equivalent Ryukyuan, English and Japanese words.

The book was first published in 1818 in London, and was later translated into Dutch, French, German, and Italian. Thus, it contributed to popularizing the Ryukyu Islands across the Western European countries. The Japanese translation of the book was published in 1986 by Iwanami Shoten under the title *Chosen Ryukyu kokaiki: 1816nen Amasuto shisetsudan to tomoni*. The exhibit presents a first edition of the English original. It includes illustrations (colored and monochromatic), maps, and nautical charts.

Basil Hall Chamberlain (1850- 1935), a professor at former Tokyo Imperial University and one of the British scholars of Japanese language and culture, was the grandson of Basil Hall. He also authored publications on the Ryukyu Islands.