



Christopher Dresser ***Japan: its architecture, art, and art manufactures*** **London, 1882**

The author Christopher Dresser (1834-1904) was a designer active in the United Kingdom in the latter half of the 19th century. He was a lecturer on botany at the South Kensington Museum from 1859-1868.

Dresser was deeply moved by the Japanese crafts collected and displayed by Rutherford Alcock (1809-1897), the first British minister to reside in Japan, at the London International Exhibition of Industry and Art in 1862. He purchased some of the works and made sketches of them. In 1876, he visited Japan with artworks for the collection of the Ueno Museum (now the Tokyo National Museum). He received an audience with the Emperor of Japan, and visited arts and crafts production areas, shrines, temples, and other locations throughout Japan. After three months in Japan, he returned to the United Kingdom.

This book was published in 1882 in London as Dresser's exploration of Japanese arts. It is a magnificent work that combines many illustrations of splendid designs, including Japanese architectural designs and ornamental arts, with explanations. It is also a valuable resource that conveys the Japanese domestic situation at the time, with writings on manners and customs, geography, social landscapes and other topics. It introduced Japanese architecture and art to Europe, and played a very important role in the development of the Japonisme movement.