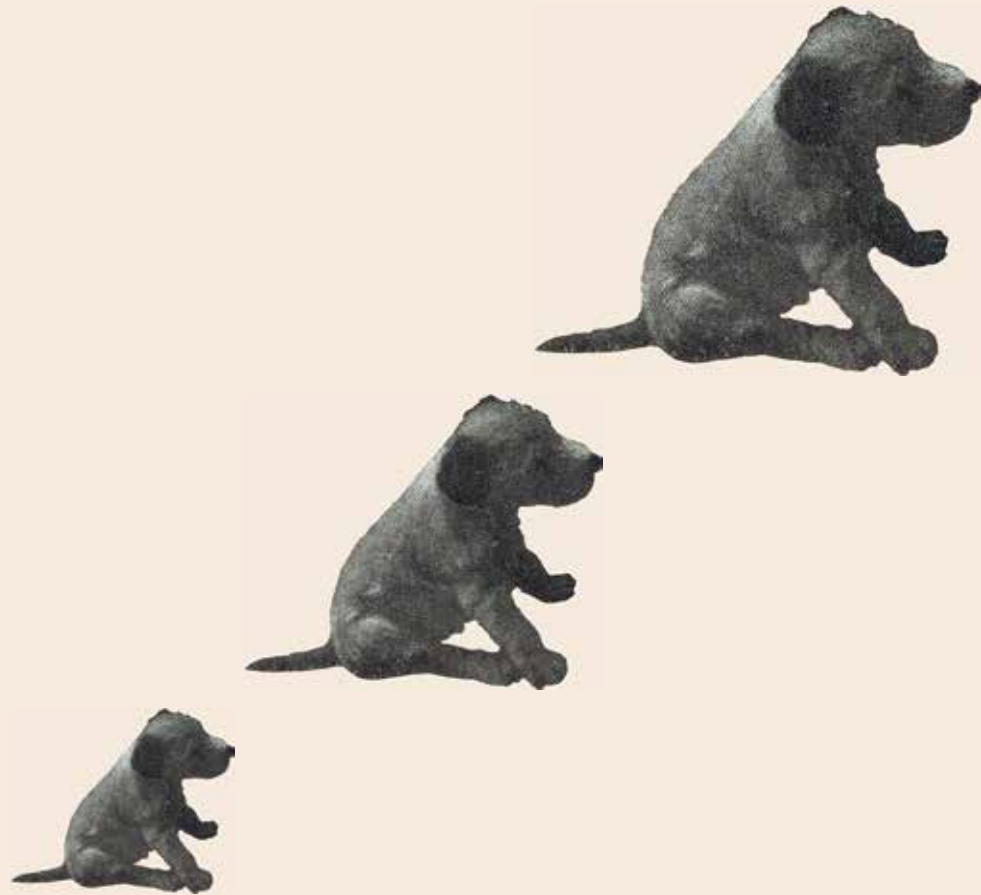


# Kagerou Bunko



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# London 2025



*Legendary book on ikebana by a British architect*

**01.**  
CONDER, Josiah  
“The Flowers of Japan and the Art of Floral Arrangement”

Tokio, Yokohama, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Singapore: Hakubunsha (Nagao Keisuke), Kelly and Walsh. Meiji 24 (1891), First edition.

The book opens the way to sacred knowledge of ikebana, a Japanese art of flower arrangement, for Westerners. It explains the seasonal symbolism of plants, history, theory, and etiquette, and it gives practical examples of the compositions. The author Josiah Conder (1852-1920) was a legendary British architect, who found a way to integrate into the Japanese art community. His mentor Kyōsai Kawanabe (1831-1889) and another famous artist Yoshitoshi Tsukioka (1839-1892) gave their works to illustrate the opus magnum. Text in Japanese.

1 volume complete. Original woodblock printed paper wrappers with silk brocade spine and decorative silk threads. Golden flecked endpapers. 36x26,7cm, XII+136pp. 14 colour woodblocks with protection, 40 b&w outline plates, multiple b&w illustrations in text. Two ex-libris on the front endpaper: Exlibris Alvarobalazza, MM. Froth et Cie libraries Lausanne. In fine condition. **US\$ 5,500 / £ 4,200**



*Illustrated album of exotic flowers*

**02.**  
YAMANA, Yūseki [author, illustrator]  
“Chinka zufu” (珍花図譜)

Kyōto: Unsodō. Meiji 36 (1903), second edition.

At the end of the 19th century, there was a worldwide craze for collecting rare and wild flowers and plants. This is a beautiful collection of exotic flowers from around the world, which includes blooming orchids, anthurium, caladium, nepenthes, and Venus flytraps. This set features more than 50 species of rare and beautiful plants printed using woodblock techniques with a very complicated color system. The printer uses a juxtaposition of clean and mixed colours, color graduations, and tone variations to emphasize the volume of the flowers and leaves. Text in Japanese.

2 volumes complete. Original wrappers and title slips. 25.4x18.4cm, 27 & 25 leaves. Woodblock printed in colour, 100 plates. Chipping on the wrappers of the first volume. Occasional foxing on the contents; overall in near fine condition. **US\$ 1,350 / £ 1,050**



*The first Western style “useful” botanical encyclopedia*

**03.**  
TANAKA, Yoshio / ONO, Motoyoshi [selected by]; MANASE, Ai / KOMORI, Yorinobu [corrected by]  
“Yūyō shokubutsu zuzetsu” (有用植物図説)

Tōkyō: Dai Nihon Nōkai. Meiji 24 (1891), first edition.

This is a remarkable botanical illustrated book planned by the Ministry of Education's Museum Bureau and created by agricultural scientist Yoshio Tanaka (1838-1916) and botanist Motoyoshi Ono (1838-1890). The illustrations were done by Hattori Sessai, a painter who specialized in natural history paintings. It was originally scheduled to be published in the early Meiji period, but it was postponed almost 20 years due to the need to correct errors and include over 1,000 botanical illustrations. Divided into three volumes of illustrations, three volumes of commentary, and a one volume catalogue, it classifies 1015 useful species of plants into 25 categories, and includes coloured woodblock prints with Japanese, English, and Latin names attached, meaning this can be considered the pinnacle of botanical natural history in the Meiji period. Text in Japanese.

7 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with original title slip. 22.6x15.3cm, 75, 68, 55, 42, 43, 45 and 80 leaves. Ex-owner's stamps on the flyleaf at each volume. Faint stains on the margins. Overall in fine condition.

**US\$ 2,750 / £ 2,080**



*A hundred shapes of Japanese paper*

**04.**  
NARITA, Kiyofusa  
“Koshi hyakutai” (古紙百態)

Tōkyō: privately printed. Shōwa 24 (1949), limited 24 copies.

An extremely rare book created by the museum of the Oji Paper Company, the oldest and largest modern paper manufacturer in Japan. This is a precious collection of 70 large samples of representative Japanese paper from the Edo period to the early 20th century. A valuable book that shows the different types of traditional Japanese paper at a glance. Only the Tenri University Library has a copy; there are none in institutions outside Japan. Text in Japanese.

1 volume complete. Original wrappers and title slips. 26.3x22cm, 18 leaves plus 70 paper samples folded in. Fine condition; comes with an original slip case. Signed by author.

**US\$ 3,300 / £ 2,500**





05. *Historical collection of paper from the 8th century to modern times*

SEKI, Yoshikuni  
**“Koshi no kagami” (古紙之鑑)**

Tōkyō: Koshi no kagami, Showa 52 [1977]. 261/300, limited edition. First edition.

Gorgeous, unique edition of the Yoshikuni Seki paper collection. Sometimes seen as an extended version of the “Kokon kamisuki kamiya,” this is a famous publication with handmade paper samples. Unlike the 1965 Seki masterpiece, the present edition was made with an academic level of perfection. The oldest paper is dated 740 AD. The samples are pasted down on the reproductions of the original editions. The first volume samples are taken from precious historical books, like sagabon; the second volume starts from the 1860s and extends to the 1960s. Extremely rare and useful for paper studies, as well as the history of printing. Text in Japanese.

2 volumes complete. Original cardboard mustard cloth binding. Vol. 1: 189 pp., 116 paper samples, Vol. 2: 345 pages, 247 paper samples. 36,5x25,5 cm each. Title page on the craft paper. Comes with the original slip case. Only the shipping box has a few chippings and scratches. Otherwise in fine condition. **US\$ 9,350 / £ 7,050**



*On Japanese Handmade Paper, by Gotō Seikichirō*

07.  
 GOTŌ, Seikichirō  
**“Nihon no Kami: Higashi Nihon-hen, Nishi Nihon-hen” (日本の紙 東日本篇・西日本篇)**  
 Tōkyō: Bijutsu Shuppansha, Showa 33-35 (1958-1960), First edition.

A complete set of this classic text on the handmade papers of Japan, by famous washi craftsman, artist and the foremost scholar Seikichirō Gotō (1898-1989). In volume one Gotō describes the washi papermaking techniques and paper production villages of northeastern Japan, while in the second volume he describes those of western Japan. Alongside Gotō's descriptions, in English and Japanese, the books contain 172 tipped-in stencil-dyed prints on washi by the author himself and a total of 62 real samples of handmade paper from the papermaking villages described. One of a limited edition of 200 sets, with each volume signed and numbered by the author in brush and ink. Text in Japanese and English.

2 volumes complete. Original colour stencil-dyed paper wrappers. 42.5 x 26 cm, 98, 78 leaves. Faint stains on the wrappers and contents, overall clean copy. In fine condition. Comes with original paper board slipcase and cardboard case.

**US\$2,750 / £ 2,080**



*Beauties of Japanese paper*

06.  
 SUGAKU, Bunshō  
**“Washi no bi” (和紙の美)**

Tōkyō: Kawai Katsuo (Kōgei henshū sitsu). Shōwa 18 (1943), limited 200 copies.

Bunshō Sugaku (1900-1992) was a scholar of English literature and was deeply involved in the Mingei (folk art) movement. He was also known as a researcher of Japanese washi paper, and this book is one of the masterpieces of prewar Japanese paper research. Some of the paper is decorated with stencil-dyed prints by a prominent textile designer Keisuke Serizawa (1895-1984). The book includes actual representative washi paper and a detailed explanation. Text in Japanese.

1 volume complete. Original paper board and title slips. 19x27.6cm, 36pp including 22 actual paper samples. Fine condition, comes with an original washi paper dust jacket. Signed by author. **US\$1,980 / £1,495**



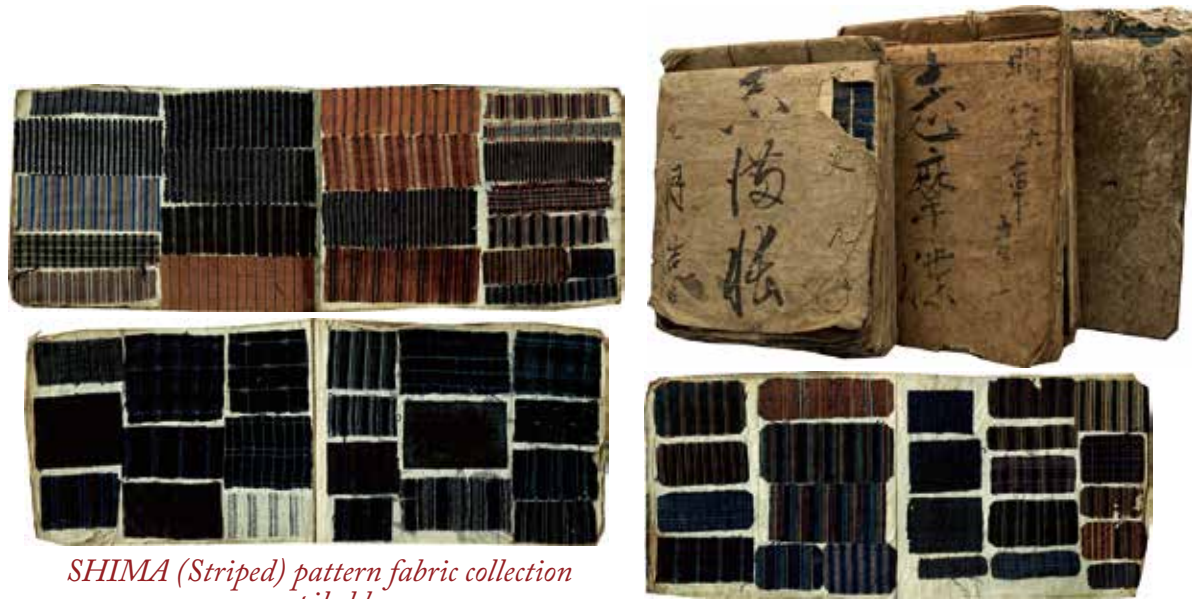
*A finely selected sample book of handsome cotton and linen fabrics*

08.  
 FUJIMOTO, Hitoshi [collected by]  
**“Azabu chō” (麻布帖)**

Publication place unknown, privately published by author. Shōwa 49 (1974). One of limited 20 copies.

A remarkable collection of dyed Linen and Cotton fabric samples. This collection Kasuri (紵) and Sarasa (更紗, Chintz) were the most precious textile in Japan and Asia for the middle class. Author Hitoshi Fujimoto is a famous collector and researcher of this kind of fabric; from his collection, only the most beautiful and valuable pieces from the 19th century are pasted in this book. Only 20 copies were created. No copies recorded in any of the databases.

1 volume complete. Original paper wrapper. 29.5x 25cm, 14 leaves. 119 actual fabric samples pasted on Japanese washi paper. Occasional foxing on the contents but not affecting the samples. In fine condition. **US\$ 1,650 / £ 1,350**



*SHIMA (Striped) pattern fabric collection compiled by a woman*

09.  
**“Shima chō” (縞帳)**  
 Handmade album created by Matsuzawa, Manen 1-Meiji 5 (1860-1872).  
 Albums of over 1,200 pieces of Edo period fabric samples. While we know that this album was made a woman named Yoshi Matsuzawa (松澤芳), no other details are known about her.  
 The collected pieces are called "shima," which is striped patterned fabric. Striped patterns, popular in Japan since ancient times, were not included in the sumptuary laws placed by the Bakufu in the mid-Edo period, leading to their popularity with the lower, middle, and higher classes. Collecting striped fabrics was a popular hobby among middle and lower class women. This is quite a beautiful and valuable large collection which is dated and named on the wrappers. Text in Japanese.  
 Three album sets. Original paper wrappers. Roughly 18x14cm. Original fabric samples 451, 473 and 361 pieces pasted in. Each fabric size is roughly 2x5cm. Chipping and rubbing on the wrappers. The fabrics are in nice condition.

US\$ 3,850 / £ 2,950



*A finely selected compendium of handsome cotton and linen fabrics*

10.  
 Kaiko kire kenkyū kai [edited by]  
**“Mukashimomen Shima chō” (むかしもめん 縞帳)**  
 Publication place unknown, privately published at Ca. 1970s. One of limited 30 copies.  
 This volume collects 64 Shima (striped pattern) fabrics from the late Edo (early 19th century) to Taishō (early 20th century) period. Shima design was generally made for the lower and middle classes; eventually in the 19th century they came to be used even by the upper classes. The shima samples were typically assembled and pasted down in a notebook from the late 18th century, and this book lavishly produced like an old one. Each sample has place and period stamps. Text in Japanese.  
 1 volume. Original paper wrapper. 32x21.5cm, 30 leaves. 64 actual fabric samples paste on the Japanese washi paper. Faint foxing on the wrappers. Otherwise in nice condition.

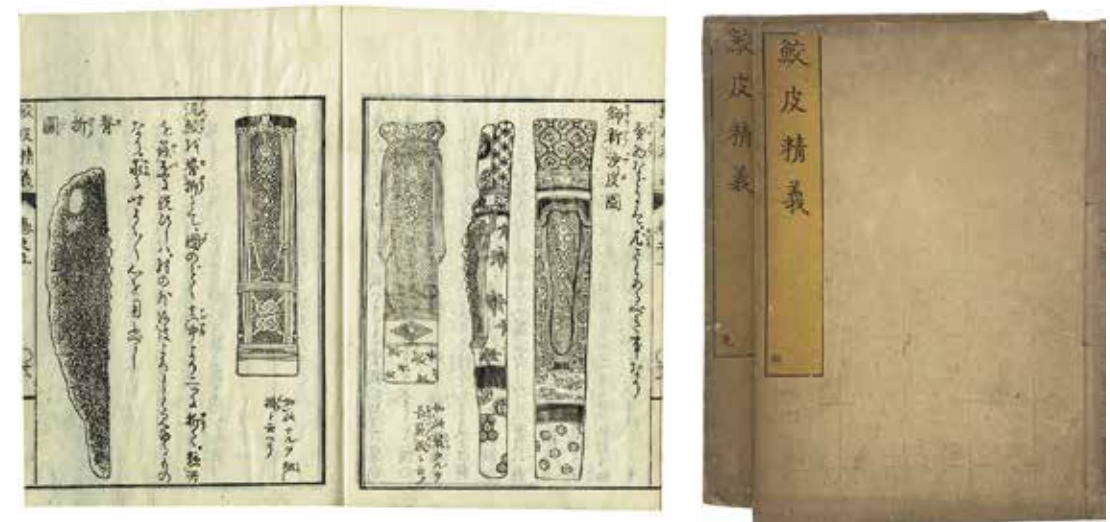
US\$1,100 / £830



*Precious banana-fibre cloth from Okinawa*

11.  
 TSUJIAI, Kiyotarō  
**“Ryūkyū bashōfu” (琉球芭蕉布)**  
 Tōkyō: Hakuou sha. Shōwa 47 (1972), one of a limited 150 copies.  
 A study of traditional kimonos made from banana fiber in the Ryukyu Islands (Okinawa Islands). Banana-fiber cloth has a history of several centuries and has been prized in the hot Okinawa region for its extremely thin and light properties. However, since it is made entirely by hand, the number of manufacturers has drastically decreased today. The first volume explains the history and manufacturing process, and the second volume includes actual samples. No copies recorded outside Japan at OCLC. Text in Japanese.  
 2 volumes, complete. Original paper board covers. 28.9x22cm, 80pp & 40 leaves. 54 actual fabric samples and 4 thread samples pasted on the Japanese washi paper. Signed by the author.  
 Clean set, comes with an original paper board slip case and cardboard box.

US\$ 1,650 / £ 1,350



*Shark skins for sword fittings*

12.  
 INABA, Tsūryū  
**“Kōhi seigi” (鯨皮精義)**  
 Edo; Yamazaki Kinbē, Kyōto: Nishimura Seihachi, Ōsaka: Inaba Shinemon. Tenmei 5 (1785).  
 A rare book published as a supplement to the 1781 publication "Soken Kisho (装剣奇賞)." "Souken Kisho" is the first full-scale directory of Japanese artists of detailed sword decoration and craftsmanship, and it continues to have a major influence on research into sword fittings and netsuke. This supplementary volume provides a detailed explanation of sword handles made from shark skin with numerous illustrations. A unique book detailing the main types of sharks used and their manufacturing methods. Outside of Japan, only the US Library of Congress has a copy. Text in Japanese.  
 2 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with title slip. 22.8x16cm, 32 & 19 leaves. Stains and browning on the wrapper. Chipping on the back wrapper of the second volume. Tiny worm holes repaired. In near fine condition.

US\$2,200 / £1,680



*Utamaro's insect album*

13.  
KITAGAWA, Utamaro [author, illustrator]  
"Chinka zufu" (珍花図譜)  
Tōkyō: Ōkura shoten. Meiji 25 (1892).

A picture book by the legendary ukiyo-e artist, Utamaro (1753?-1806). This book is a high quality woodblock reproduction of the illustrated part of a Kyōka (comical and satirical poem) book originally published in 1788 under the title "Ehon Mushi Erami (画本虫撰)." A masterpiece of the collection of fifteen works depicting familiar Japanese insects, flowers, and plants, with Utamaro's delicate and elegant brushwork. Text in Japanese.

1 volume complete. Original paper board with title slips. Oblong accordion style album. 24.3x17.4cm, 18 leaves.  
Colour woodblock printing, fifteen plates. Stains and rubbing on the board. Cracking on the hinges repaired.  
Plates are clean, in very good condition.

US\$ 1,350 / £ 1,050



*A Hundred Insects*

14.  
YAMAMOTO, Matakazu [author, illustrator]  
"Hyakuchū shiga: ichimei zenzenshū" (百蟲詩畫 一名蠕蠕集)  
Kyōto: Yamada Mosuke. Meiji 39 (1906), first edition.

Author Matakazu Yamamoto was born into a family of pharmacologists and herbalists who had been prominent for three generations in Kyoto. This work contains 66 carefully selected species of insects (including snakes, frogs, and snails etc) delicately depicted. Volume one features illustrations printed by coloured woodblock, and volume two is a poem with text printed with movable type.

A lovely book showing insects beloved by the Japanese.  
Text in Japanized Chinese; includes a list of insect names in Latin.

2 volumes complete. Original paper wrapper with title slips. 25.3x 14.4cm, 35 and 19 leaves.  
Woodblock printing. Chipping on the back wrapper of the second volume, otherwise clean copy, in fine condition.  
Comes with the original envelope.

US\$990 / £750



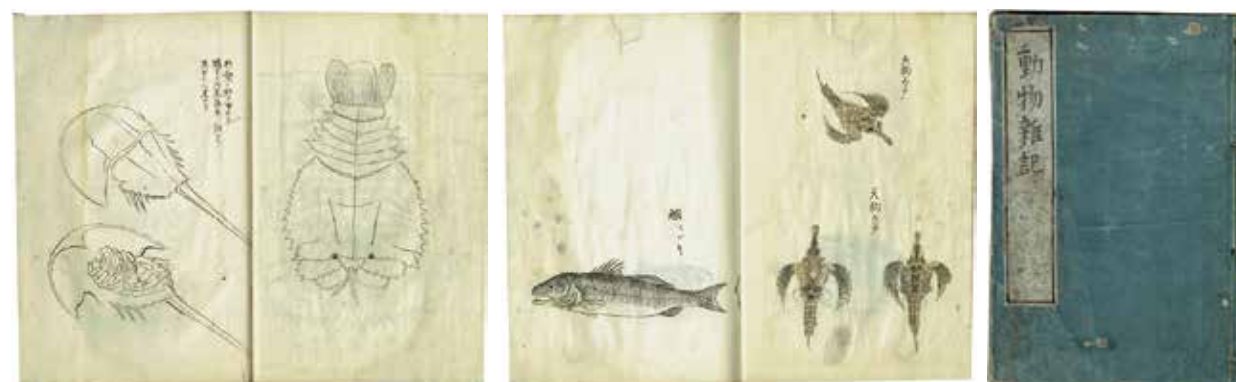
*Musk deer, its history and usages*

15.  
ŌBUCHI, Tsunenori (Tōan)  
"Shōja kō" (麝麝考)  
Unknown publisher, Ansei 7 (1860, preface by).

A quite unique text about deer musk. Musk has been highly valued in China and Japan since ancient times, and it was used not only as a fragrance but also as a medicine. The origin and history of musk, its manufacturing process and therapeutic uses are explained with numerous illustrations. The book is divided into seven volumes, the last of which is about the Musk Cat (Viverridae). Toan Obuchi was a naturalist and an important author of both natural history and pharmacology. Text in Japanese.

2 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with title slip. 26.5x18.4cm, 41 & 36 leaves.  
Woodblock printing. Slight rubbing on the wrappers. Ex-owner's stamps on the margins scratched and erased.  
Occasional worm holes repaired. In near fine condition.

US\$2,200 / £1,680



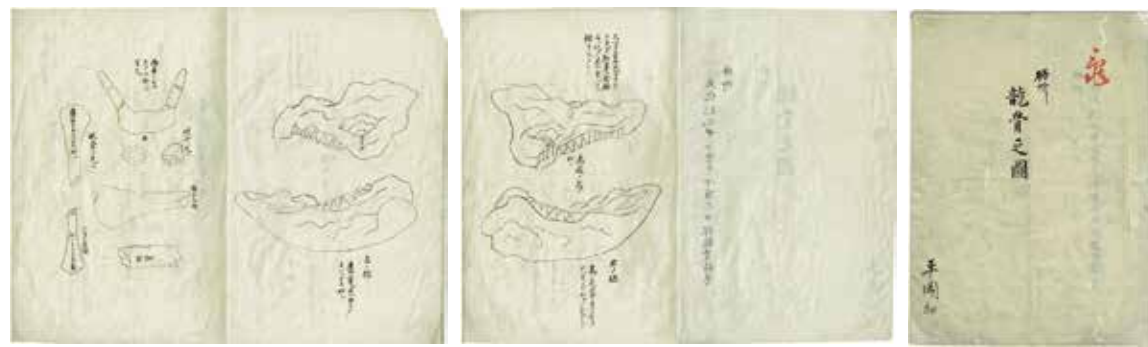
*Miscellaneous notes on natural history.*

16.  
Author unknown.  
"Dōbutsu zakki" (動物雜記)  
Manuscript, after Meiji 14 (1881), Ca. 1880s-1890s.

The original title can be translated as "Notes on the animals." The author is unknown, but the book carefully describes the fish, shellfish, and crustaceans that are common in Japan. It contains over 30 sketches, including rare species such as Little dragonfish, Amenouo (Biwa trout), Argonauta hians, Ibacus ciliatus, Tachypleus tridentatus etc. Also included at the end of the book are descriptions of musk deer and wildcats. Text in Japanese.

1 volume. Original paper wrappers with the title slip. 23.2x16.3cm, 39 leaves.  
Hand writing with black ink on Japanese washi paper. Stains and tiny worm holes on the contents, otherwise still in good conditions.

US\$ 1,350 / £ 1,050



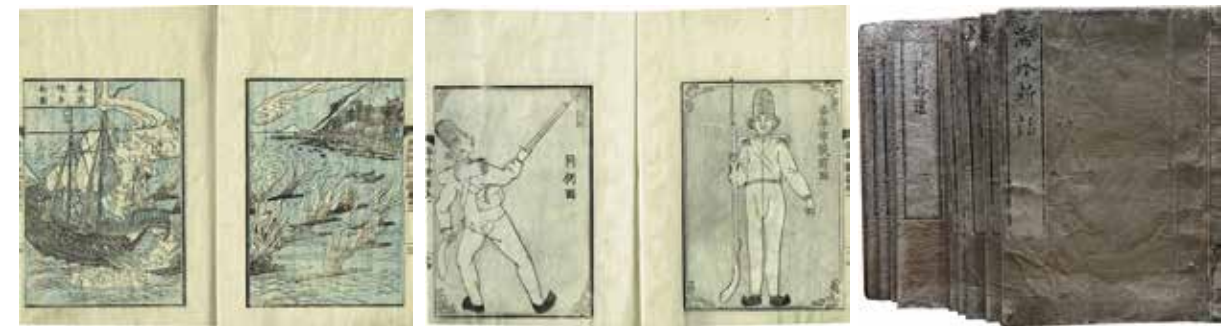
*The Dragon's bone, or precious records of research regarding a valuable fossil from the 19th century*

**17.** “Zeze, Ryūkotsu no zu” (膳所、龍骨之図)

A manuscript, written in the early 19th century.

In the year of Bunka 1 (1804), in the Zeze domain (now Shiga prefecture, Ōtsu) large fossils were unearthed. The fossils were investigated by the Confucian scholar Kien Minagawa (1734-1807) and sketched by the painter Kōfū Ueda (1760-1832). As a result, it was determined that what was unearthed was a dragon bone, and a dragon bone diagram was created as a record of the excavation. This document is a copy of that precious record. In fact, this fossil was that of an Asian elephant (*Stegodon orientalis* Owen, 1870) and some type of ancient giraffe. Although it was not possible to determine that the bones were from an elephant and giraffe, the shape and condition of the excavated bone were carefully recorded, and by combining these, it was assumed that it was a dragon's head. The series of dragon bone drawings that accompany this diagram can be said to be pictorial materials that reflect the culture of realistic recording and research based on observations at the time. Text in Japanese.

Two leaves of Japanese washi paper, bound as a book, written in black ink. 28.5x20.5cm, small worm holes repaired, otherwise in fine condition. **US\$ 1,980 / £ 1,490**



*Reports from Abroad (Opium War)*

**19.**

Uyusei (p.1) / Shusai (p.2); MINETA, Fuko [preface]; UTAGAWA, Sadahide [illustrator].

“Kaigai shinwa” (海外新話)

Place of publication not identified, Kaei 2 (1849). First edition.

An extremely rare first edition ten volume set of books on the First Opium War between China and Britain in 1839-42. ‘Kaigai Shinwa’ was filled with information on the Opium War and was so popular that a second volume, also in five parts, was released later the same year. Published in two volumes, with 5 parts to each volume. Illustrated, with woodblock prints of maps, weaponry, sea battles, and more, occasionally coloured. The text switches between Japanese and Japanized Chinese

2 parts, 10 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with the title slips. 25.5x17.6cm. 19, 22, 28, 27, 21, 11, 23, 23, 22, 17 leaves. Woodblock printing, some plates were coloured. Rubbings on the wrappers. One plate is damaged. Occasional foxing on the contents. Still in near fine condition otherwise.

**US\$ 1,650 / £ 1,350**



**18.**

*Learning spear fighting with Yokai “Tengu”.*

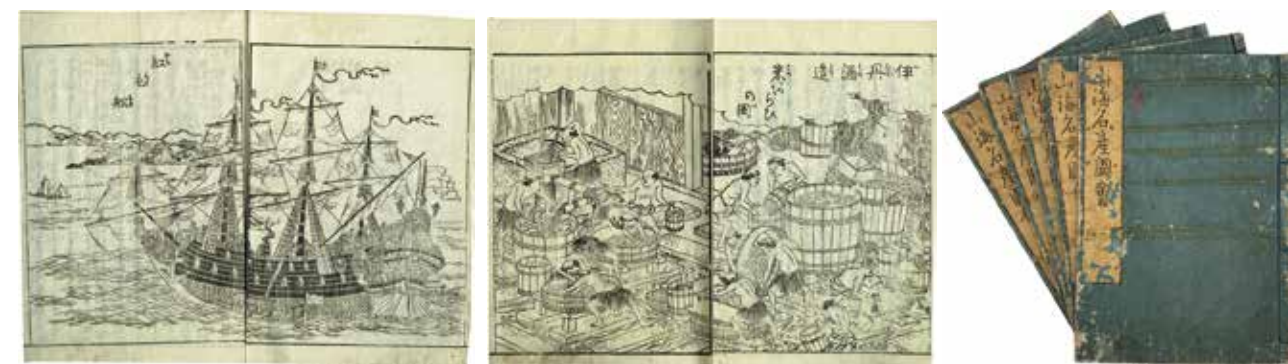
SABURI, Yoshitatsu

“Kagi yari den no maki” (鍵槍伝之巻)

Manuscript, written in Bunsei 1 (1818).

A rare manuscript of the Saburi School (佐分利流), a school of early modern spearmanship (spear fighting), the Saburi School was founded in the 16th century based on the spear techniques of the Chujō-ryū (中条流), which was founded in the 14th century. A valuable document depicting a warrior training against a Tengu, just as the founder of the Nakajo School trained at Mount Kurama, the home of Tengu. Five pictures representing five secret principles plus one picture of the god of war “Marici” depicted. Text in Japanese.

1 scroll. 18.6x355cm. Painted with colour inks on traditional Japanese paper. Rubbing and stains on the binding; contents are clean. In fine condition. **US\$2,200 / £1,680**



*An illustrated guide to the fines products available in Japan*

**20.**

SHITOMI, Kangetsu [illustrator]

“Nihon sankai meisan zue” (日本山海名産図会)

Naniwa (Ōsaka): Yoshida Shōrindō, Harimaya Kōbē, Shioya Chōbē, and Shioya Uhē. Kansei 11 (1799).

A masterpiece depicting the specialties of 18th century Japan. Although there is no indication of the author, it is said to have been Kenkadō Kimura (1736-1802), who was well versed in natural history. It starts with sake brewing, stone cutting, honey, bear hunting and other mountain products, and then covers many fishery items (Tuna, Oyster, Clam, Eel, Octopus etc.), including Ainu products and foreign materials at Nagasaki, with numerous illustrations. Text in Japanese.

5 volumes, complete. Original paper wrapper with title slips. 25x17.4cm, 16, 41, 28, 36, 31 leaves. B&W woodblock printing. Rubbing and chipping on the wrappers. Occasional foxing and faint stains on the contents, otherwise in near fine condition. Comes with a custom made slip case.

**US\$ 2,750 / £ 2,080**



*The first Japanese translation of "Noble deeds of women"*

21. STARLING, Elizabeth [original author]; MIYAZAKI, Yoshikuni [translator]; KATAYAMA, Junkichi [corrected by]  
**"Seiyo retsujoden" (西洋列女伝)**  
 Tōkyō: Ishikawa Jihē (Kinshindō). Meiji 12 (1879), first edition.

The first Japanese translation of "Noble Deeds of Women: or, Examples of Female Courage and Virtue" (London: Hookham, 1835) by Elizabeth Starling. Starling was probably an Englishwoman. This work depicts the ideal woman from ancient Rome to modern times. This is the earliest translation of a Western book on morality for women in Japan, the book introduces 40 women divided into the four sections: filial piety, friendship, chastity, and motherly love. Contents printed in B&W woodblock; the frontispiece is a copperplate engraving. Reasonably rare, only two libraries have complete sets, no copies outside in Japan. Text in Japanese.

Two volumes complete. Original paper wrappers, lacking title slip. 14.9x22.5cm, 51 & 50 leaves. Occasional rubbing on the wrappers, contents clean, in fine condition. **US\$ 1,980 / £ 1,490**



*Instruction to the democratic movement*

23. KIDA, Seizaburō [author]; KAWANABE, Kyōsai [illustrator]  
**"Minken hizakurige" (民権膝栗毛)**  
 Tōkyō: Kaida Kinpē. Meiji 15 (1882), first edition.

A comical and satirical book about the "Freedom and People's Rights Movement" (Jiyū Minken Undō) in the early Meiji period. This movement was Japan's first modern political movement, but it was not deeply understood by the general public. A scarce book that tells the story of the civil rights movement with illustrations by Kyosai Kawanabe (1831-1889), a master of caricature painting. Only two libraries have a complete set in Japan; one outside Japan. Text in Japanese.

2 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with title slip. 18x12cm, 23 & 24 leaves. Woodblock printing, including six illustrations. Occasional stains and scratching on the wrappers. Faint foxing on the contents; overall in fine condition. **US\$990 / £750**



*Earliest book introducing Alfred the Great's mother Osburh, Queen of Assyria Semiramis, Charles II, etc.*

22. HIRAI, Tadashi / MATSUI Masafusa [edited by]; KAWANABE, Kyōsai [illustrated by]  
**"Sekai mōkyū" (世界蒙求)**  
 Tōkyō: Kitazawa Ihachi and Toriya Gisaburō (Seireikaku and Suedō). Meiji 7 (1874), first edition.

A book that compiles for educational purposes the words and deeds of famous historical figures from the West, China, and Japan. A total of 64 people are featured, including not only great people from China and Japan, but also many Western figures, such as Napoleon, Joan of Arc, Benjamin Franklin, Muhammad, George Washington, Alfred the Great's mother Osburh, Queen of Assyria Semiramis, Charles II, David (and Goliath), and the chief of the Narragansett Tribe of Native Americans. Includes three portrait illustrations by the legendary painter Kawanabe Kyōsai (Kusunoki Masashige, Zhuge Liang, and Joan of Arc). One of the earliest publications to provide a comprehensive profile of Western figures. Extremely rare; only the NDL in Japan has a copy. Woodblock printing. Text in Japanese.

Two volumes complete. Original paper wrappers, lacking title slip. 22.5x15.2cm, 38 & 45 leaves. Chipping on the wrappers, faint stains on the margins. Overall in nice condition. **US\$ 1,650 / £ 1,350**



*Kyōsai's delightful paintings*

24. KAWANABE, Kyōsai [illustrator]  
**"Kyōsai rakuga" (暁齋楽画)**  
 Tōkyō: Morita Tetsugorō. Meiji 14 (1881), first edition.

Kyosai Kawanabe (1831-1889) was a prominent artist in the mid 19th century. Several foreigners, such as Mortimer Menpes (1855-1938) and Josiah Conder (architect, 1852-1920), also learned painting from him. A collection of his mature works from his later years delicately printed by beautiful colour woodblocks. Text in Japanese.

2 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with title slip. 21.4x 13.9cm, 19 & 18 leaves. Colour woodblock printing, including 34 illustrations. Foxing on the wrappers, ex-owner's inscriptions on the back wrappers. Occasional stains and worm hole repairs on the margins of some pages. Overall in very good condition. **US\$1,100 / £830**





25. *The Last Work of Master Rinpa Artist Kamisaka Sekka: "Poems and Pictures".*

KAMISAKA, Sekka  
 "Uta-e" (うた絵)

Kyōto: Unsōdō, Shōwa 9 (1934). First edition.

Nihon-ga (Japanese-style) painter and designer Kamisaka Sekka (1866-1942) was a master of Neo-Rinpa, a style in which paintings and illustrations boldly incorporated the designs of the Rinpa School. Uta-e, Sekka's last book, created by him as a tribute to Rinpa School founder Hon'ami Kōetsu (1558-1637), contains 25 colour woodblock-printed illustrations. Each illustration is accompanied by a classical poem from the Kokin Wakashū, an anthology of medieval waka poetry dating from the 12th century (Heian period). The word uta-e used in the title refers to a genre popular from around the Heian period onwards in which stories and poems were symbolised in motifs. Text in Japanese.

1 volume complete. Gray cloth covers decorated with flowers, with original title slip. 30.9x21.8cm, 28 leaves. Tiny scratching on the cover. Faint stains on the text, otherwise in fine condition. Comes with an original green cloth slip case.

US\$2,750 / £2,080



*Compendium of Japanese traditional toys*  
 27.

KAWASAKI, Kyosen  
 "Omocho gafu" (おもちゃ画譜)

Ōsaka: Kawasaki Suekichi  
 (privately printed by author).  
 Showa 7-10 (1932-1935), first edition.

A representative book by Kyosen Kawasaki (1877-1942), a highly regarded collector and researcher of traditional Japanese toys.

More than 600 folk toys are introduced with illustrations. This book can be called an encyclopedia of traditional Japanese toys. Text in Japanese.

10 volumes complete. Original paper wrappers with the title slips. 23.6x16.4cm, each 50pp. 50 colour woodblock printing plates plus more than 500 b&w illustrations included. In fine condition. Comes with an original cloth slip case and paper envelopes.

US\$1,980 / £1,495



*Master works by Ogata Korin*

26.  
 TANIGUCHI, Kōkyō [edited by]  
 "Kōrin gafu" (光琳画譜)

Kyōto: Tanaka Jihē. Meiji 24 (1891), First edition.

A collection of 12 carefully selected works (mostly fan paintings) by Ogata Korin (1658-1716), a great painter active from the late 17th century to the early 18th century, reproduced by Kyoto painter and designer Kōkyō Taniguchi (1864-1915).

Kōkyō Taniguchi is one of the artists who created the renaissance of the Kōrin school movement (Neo-Rimpa). Plates are all lavishly coloured wood block printing with gold and silver inks.

Including a preface by Tessai Tomioka and Kōrin's stamp collection. Text in Japanese.



1 volume complete. Original paper wrappers with the title slips. 28.4x39.3cm, 14 leaves. Twelve colour woodblock printing plates included. Waving on the edge of the wrapper and foxing on the wrappers. The contents are clean, in a nice condition. Comes with an original paper board slip case. US\$ 1,650 / £ 1,350



*Dashenka, or the Life of a Puppy*

28.  
 ČAPEK, Karel [original author]; HATA, Ichiro [translator]  
 "Dāshenka koinu no oitachi" (だあしえんか 仔犬の生ひ立ち)

Tōkyō: Shōwa shobo. Shōwa 9 (1934), first edition.

Very first translation of "Dášeňka čili Život štěněte" (1933) by legendary Czech author Karel Čapek (1890-1938). The contents are the same as the original, with illustrations by Karel and his brother Josef Čapek (1887-1945) in the main text, and photo pages with layouts by Karel Teige (1900-1951), one of the leading pre-war Czech designers. It was rare for Eastern European picture books for children of this era to be introduced in Japan, but this was published the year after the original book was released, showing the high level of interest in Capek's work. However this first edition is quite scarce, only 6 library possessions confirmed by any of the databases. Text in Japanese.

1 volume complete. Original paper board cover with embossed decorations. 26.2x 18.9cm, 55pp + 21 leaves of b&w photographic plates. Rubbing and chipping on the cover. Minor foxing on the contents. Still in very good condition.

US\$2,200 / £1,680