

East meets West

Original Records of Western Traders, Travellers, Missionaries
& Diplomats to 1852

"Friday 21st June 1700 This morning at six the land made thus, just before we weighed anchor, the Northern most land in sight. . . . We steered along the Shoare now you will see another Small Island lyeth close into the Shoare, and about midway between the headland and the point going into Malacca, it being about 5206 leagues from Malacca at half past three wee anchored in Malacca road in 7 and a quarter fathom water finding six sail of ships under English colours and 2 Moor ships of Suratt, the French from us NE all the Ships saluted us. Capt Mathers is one come last from Massalapotan. . . ."



Part 1: The Log Book of William Adams (1564-1620) and other Manuscript and Rare Printed Materials from the Bodleian Library, Oxford

Part 2: The Papers of Englebert Kaempfer (1651-1716) and related sources from the British Library, London

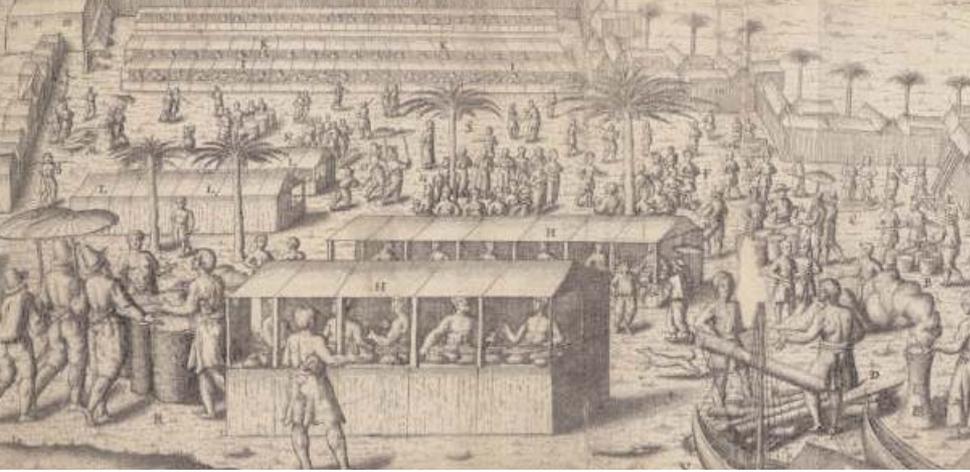
Part 3: Papers of John Scattergood (1681-1723), Isaac Titsingh (1740?-1812), Heinrich Julius Klapproth (1783-1835) and other early materials from the British Library, London

Part 4: East India Company: Ship's logs, ledgers and receipt books, 1605-1701, from the British Library, London

New



Adam Matthew Publications



"After more than thirty years of Kaempfer studies on an international scale one thing that has become clearer than ever... It has become indispensable to return to the source - and that means to The British Library, where the traveller's unpublished papers, acquired in 1723 and 1725 by Sir Hans Sloane, are preserved."

Detlef Haberland writing in Englebert Kaempfer, 1651-1716: A Biography (English translation, The British Library, 1996)

Part 1 offers a selection of sources from the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the Bodleian Japanese Library at the Nissan Institute and related libraries in Oxford. Many of these were shown in the 'Japan Encountered' exhibition at the Bodleian Library in 1991, which made many scholars aware for the first time of the richness of manuscript and rare printed sources in Oxford libraries. All items included have been selected by Izumi K Tytler who is the Bodleian Japanese Librarian at the Nissan Institute on the basis of their rarity and intrinsic value for scholars.

They are arranged broadly under six separate themes: The Christian Century in Japan, Jesuit Editions, Early Travels to Japan, The English and Dutch East India Companies, Images of Japan and Expeditions to Japan in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries.

Part 2 covers the vitally important records of Englebert Kaempfer, the German physician who worked for the Dutch East India Company in Nagasaki between 1690 and 1692, and who has been described as the 'First Interpreter of Japan'.

In addition to the material on Japan there is also much on his prolonged excursion to Russia, meeting Tsars Ivan and Peter; the journey down the Volga; his lengthy sojourn in Isfahan and travels around the Middle East;

and his time in India, Batavia (Java) and Thailand.

Part 3 brings together a further 33 manuscripts from the British Library describing early contacts between western explorers, missionaries and businessmen and the Asian societies that they sought to visit, convert, exploit or trade with. Japan and China are the subject of the majority of these manuscripts.

Part 4: The history of the East India Company is an exceptional instance of the initiation of trade on a global scale. A high risk and haphazard commercial enterprise was transformed into an integrated and successful trade network linking the East with the West. The ships' logs are an important part of the substantial East India Company archive which documents this process. This microfilm project focuses on the early voyages between 1605 and 1701.

The Company's first fleet of four ships and a victualler sailed from Woolwich in February 1601. From 1609 the Company built its own ships and in the December of that year two new ships were launched with great ceremony by the King. Between then and 1614 a further eleven fleets, each operating as a "separate stock voyage", keeping its own accounts and paying its own dividends, were sent to Asia. In 1614 the separate voyages were replaced by

single joint stock. In 1614 the Company opened its dockyard for building and repairing ships at Blackwall and the average sailings over the next forty years were five ships a year. In 1656 the Company sold the Blackwall yard as they decided to freight ships from private owners rather than rely on their own fleet and ships were built to agreed specifications by groups of managing owners. By the early 1800s at the Company's peak forty to fifty sailings a year was the norm.

From the mid-Seventeenth century it was practice for each ship's commander to hand in to the Company a copy of his ship's log, together with associated ledgers and receipt books.

The logs contain basic ship records together with added details on the events of the voyages:

- Ports of call and encounters at each port
- Routine tasks carried out on-board
- Details of the cargo carried
- Information on contact with trading communities
- Living conditions on-board
- Notes on the loss of seamen due to sickness or accidents
- Details on punishments handed out to seamen for misdemeanours on-board
- Routes taken, course settings, latitude and longitude, and weather conditions

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