

# Japan Through Western Eyes

*Manuscript Records of Traders, Travellers,  
Missionaries and Diplomats, 1853-1941*



Part 1: Sources from the William R Perkins Library, Duke University

Parts 2-5: The William Elliot Griffis Collection from Rutgers University Library

Part 6: Correspondence and Papers of Sir Ernest Satow (1843-1929)

*New!* Parts 7 & 8: The Papers of Harold S Williams (1898-1987)  
from the National Library of Australia



Adam Matthew Publications

"My purpose has been to gather together as much information as possible bearing upon the contributions made by foreigners to Japanese life and culture, the manner in which they have impinged upon Japanese history, and all matters relating to the Foreign Settlements."

Harold Williams, 1969

*Japan Through Western Eyes* makes available, for the first time, the original manuscript diaries, journals and letters of Western businessmen, tourists, teachers, missionaries, government officials, industrialists and diplomats active in Japan from its 'opening up' in 1853 to the onset of the Second World War.

Witness Japan's development into a major industrial power, the growth of militarism and the proliferation of political and religious ideologies. This collection is a rich source for social history and offers insights into the interaction between Western and Japanese culture, as well as attempts by both sides to accommodate different viewpoints.

**Part 1 brings together 11 of the best individual collections from the William R Perkins Library at Duke University.** These range from a collection of letters written by Sir Edwin Arnold (British poet and journalist), to the diary of Rachael Ferver, who was married to an American businessman and lived in Tokyo and Yokohama. There is substantial material for the missionary John Caldwell Calhoun Newton, who lived in Japan between 1870 and 1931. He kept lecture notes, sermons and financial records, as well as extremely detailed letters describing all aspects of his everyday life.

**Parts 2-5 contain the William Griffis Collection from Rutgers University Library.** Griffis led a prestigious career in Japan. He started as a science teacher in Fukui and was one of the first *oyatoi gaikokujin* (foreign employees of the Japanese government). After just a year he was invited to Tokyo to help establish Western-style schools. He spent two years helping to found the Kaisei Gekko – now Tokyo University – and travelled widely in his freelance, consultative role.

Griffis returned to the US in 1974, where he became regarded as the foremost Japanese expert. His book *The Mikado's Empire* was widely seen as the authoritative Western chronicle on Japan.



Taken from Harold Williams' papers

Throughout his experiences, Griffis maintained a series of detailed journals. He was an assiduous collector of materials relating to US-Japanese relations. Parts 2-5 are organised by type of material, and divided into *Journals & Student Essays*, *Correspondence & Scrapbooks*, *Papers of Brown, Perry and others*, and *Writings by Griffis*.

**Part 6, from the Public Record Office,** focuses on another significant figure, British diplomat Sir Ernest Satow. He arrived in Japan in 1862 and soon became an indispensable member of the British Legation.

Satow built up an enviable list of contacts in Japan. In 1895 he was appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at Tokyo, and in 1900 he was transferred to China, but maintained strong links with contacts in Japan. This collection brings together Satow's private correspondence, depicting his views and experiences of Japan.

**Parts 7 and 8 of Japan Through Western Eyes come from the National Library of Australia.** They contain Harold Williams' subject files (1949-1987) on the foreign settlements of nineteenth-century Japan and their influence on Japanese culture and society.

Harold Williams was a passionate collector, researcher and writer who spent 60 years in Japan. Topics covered in his extensive subject files include early Dutch and German settlers; missionary work and schools; the Dutch East India Company; baseball, horse racing and other sports; historical landmarks including the Pacific War and the Sorge Spy scandal; foreign businesses and economic conditions; local

history, education and politics; and key figures including William Lackie, Lafcadio Hearn, Ewell Slade, Harry Solomon and Carl Boehringer.

These files were the source material for many of Williams' published works – including *Tales of the Foreign Settlements in Japan* (1958), *Shades of the Past, or Indiscreet Tales of Japan* (1959) and *Foreigners in Mikadoland* (1963).

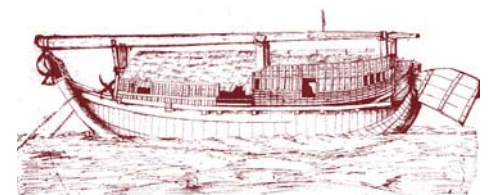
Harold Williams' files are an essential resource for any library of Japanese culture and society. They cover a period from the first entrants in the 1860s through to the challenges and social developments in post-occupation Japan during the 1960s and 70s.

## Japan Through Western Eyes

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