



Japan: Culture and Tourism

Glasgow University Archive Services hold diaries and photographs of visits to Japan by travellers from the West. These provide interesting and valuable historical snapshots of Japan and its culture at this time.

Diary 1 - From Brown McFarlane Collection; 1872; UGD 172/7/1/1

May 18

Started at 6.00 am in a Japanese boat for Kingkasan, had a very rough walk out to the point proposed for erecting a lighthouse on. Saw a very large quantity of deer running about quite tame, Kingkasan being a sacred island the deer have been preserved, I also saw a very large orangutan, on our way back we stopped at the temple, and were treated by the Priest to a very sumptuous Japanese repast. I got permission from the Priest and went out and shot a large Buck Deer, returned to the ship about 10.00pm, the priest coming with us to see a ship, which he had never done before, treated him to European wines VC, he left the ship about midnight.

May 19

Left Aikawa at 6.00am and came to Ichinomaki and anchored off the mouth of the River.

The weather being very fine, Fisher went on shore with Satoia to choose a spot for a light house. In the afternoon returned to Aikawa and remained the night.

Diary 2 – From Napier Collection; 1884; DC 90/3/4/8

Jan 26

Pilgrims with red and green blankets trudging along. These pilgrims start from home with a list of temples to be visited... A long list helps them to Heaven or Nirvana! These being Buddhists The Shinto religion requires an annual visit to the grave of your fathers. "Ancestor worship" only. Though called the Ways of the Gods.

Entry between Jan 26 and Feb 7

Met Mr Shida lately in Glasgow and went to see a wrestling match. 'Smaw'. One Sunday visited the Shiba temples, shrines of the Shoguns. Shoes taken off 4 times on account of the polished floors. Torii, dragons, wood carving, bronze and stone lanterns. Everywhere.

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Himeji Castle also known as Shirasagi (white heron) Castle, Hyogo, 1950s.



Jinrikisha, c1880



Kameido Shrine in Tokyo, c1880



Buddhist temple at Kyoto, c1880



The Daibutsu of Todaiji, 1950s

