

# ANCIENT PRINTED BOOKS RELATED TO

Fare clic per modificare lo stile del sottotitolo Schema  
Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia

# HOW THE PRINTED BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS RELATED TO JAPAN REACHED BIBLIOTECA NAZIONALE

MANUSCRIPTS

The books do not consist in a single collection. They were acquired by the Library, since its foundation in 1468, under different circumstances:

- Through DONATIONS (i. e. the “Fondo Teza”, donated in 1911).
- Through INCORPORATIONS:
  - Of private libraries sited on the territory of the Republic.
  - Of part of the collections of the religious orders suppressed during the Napoleonic Era.
- By means of the LAW ABOUT PRINTING RIGHTS, promulgated in 1603.

# **AIMS OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT PROMOTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES OF CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY AT**

The research project, supported by the European Social Fund (ESF), aims at

- Locating, in the old card catalogues of the Library, all the titles of interest, thus obtaining an overall view of the material related to Japan that is scattered throughout the archives of the Library.
- Creating, on the basis of such work, an online catalogue including all the books related to Japan located at Biblioteca Marciana.

# STRUCTURE OF THE CATALOGUE

The catalogue will include, for each book:

- A bibliographic description, both in ISBD format and in extended format, presenting
  - A transcription of the title of the book in its complete form (maintaining, as far as ancient books are concerned, the order of words and any chronological datum)
  - Information about the author, the edition, the format and dimensions of the book
  - A set of notes (that may concern the author, the edition, the binding, engravings, and so on...).
- A photographic reproduction of the title page (if extant).
- An abstract of the content of the book, consisting in a brief summary of the contents or a transcription of the index page.

# AIMS OF THIS PAPER

This paper aims at illustrating the results obtained to date, presenting the ancient printed books related to Japan hosted at Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana: i. e. the books related to Japan dated before 1851 (in accord to the criteria applied by Biblioteca Marciana in discriminating between its ancient books section and its modern books section).

It will:

- Illustrate, with the aid of examples, the different typologies of books hosted at the Library.
- Reflect on the meaning of the presence of such books in Biblioteca Marciana.

# BOOKS DATED UP TO THE FIRST HALF OF XVII CENTURY

The richest group of books. It is mostly connected with the activities of Christians operating in Japan. It includes:

1. Early books containing indirect accounts of Japan
2. Missionaries' reports
3. Books focused on the first Japanese Embassy sent to Europe
4. One rare example of *Kirishitanban*
5. Some examples of books centered on Japanese language
6. Historical works

# 1. EARLY BOOKS CONTAINING INDIRECT ACCOUNTS ON JAPAN

With the exception of a number of copies of Marco Polo's *Il Milione*, they mainly include travel reports, geography books and "Historie" dated from the first half of XVI century. In particular, the

*Isolario*, by Francesco Bordone (1534)

# ISOLARIO

DI BENEDETTO BORDONE

Nel qual si ragiona di tutte l'Isole del mondo, con li lor nomi antichi & moderni, historie, fauole, & modi del loro vi uere, & in qual parte del mare stanno, & in qual parallelo & clima giaciono.

Con la giunta del Monte del Oro nouamente ritrouato.

CON IL BREVE DEL PAPA

Et gratia & priuilegio della Illustrissima Signoria di Venetia come in quelli appare.



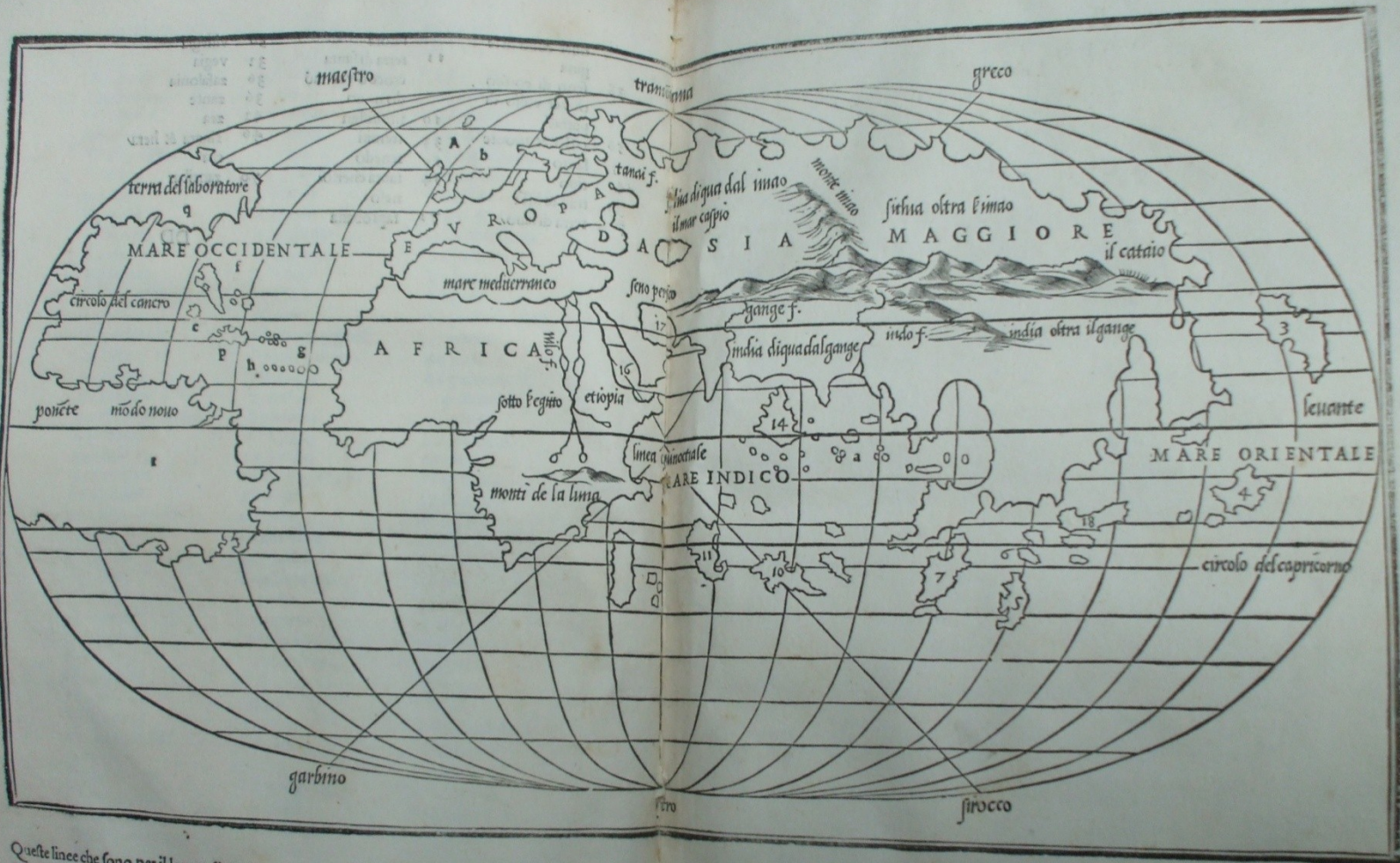
M D XXXIII.

Isolario, di Benedetto Bordone Nel qual si ragiona di tutte l'Isole del mondo, con li lor nomi antichi et moderni, historie, fauole, et modi del lor viuere, et in qual parallelo et clima giaciono. Con la giunta del monte del Oro nouamente ritrouato.

Venice, 1534







Queste linee che sono per il longo di questo vniuersale da gli sapienti furono appellate li-  
 nee parallele, & quelle che tengono forma curua in modo di arco, sono nomi nate meridia-  
 ni, & il clima tiene da leuante fino in ponente, si come fanno la linea, de lo equinoctio, &  
 quella del tropico del cancro, & del capricorno.

## 2. MISSIONARIES' REPORTS

A total of more than 70 of such works is hosted at Biblioteca Marciana.

They mostly include letters addressed by missionaries to superiors in Europe or to missionaries and lay Christians stationed in other parts of East Asia.

The letters are printed singularly or collected in "Avvisi"

## REPORTS DATED UP TO 1579

They include:

- Some letters by Francis Xavier
- Some letters by Cosme de Torres, Balthasar Gago, Gaspar Vilela, Luis Frois, Luis Almeida, Francisco Cabral, Organtino Gnecchi-Soldo and Francesco Stefanoni
- One letter by Brother Lourenço, the first Japanese layman to be received in the Society of Jesus

4  
NVOVI AVISI  
DELLE INDIE  
DI PORTOGALLO,

Venuti nuouamente dalli R. padri della  
compagnia di GIESV, & tradotti dal  
la lingua Spagnola nella Italiana.

Quarta parte.

E' IL MIO FOGLIO,



Co' l'privilegio del sommo Pont. Pio IIII. & del-  
l'Illustriss. Senato Veneto per anni XX.



NOTIZIA D'UNA DEL FRATEL  
lo Lorenzo del Giappon, al padre Prouin-  
ciale, & à gl'altri padri dell'India.

La gratia de lo Spirito santo sia  
sempre in noi. Amen.

**C**arissimi in Iesu Christo fratelli. Io rice-  
cui le vostre, da le quali presi grandissimo  
contento nel signore, & perche so quanto deside-  
riate intendere di noi, con breuità in questa vi  
accertarò di cio che ci è accaduto doppo la uenuta  
nostra in queste parti.

Primieramente adunque arriuammo à casa di  
Iacomo, il quale habita in una uilla detta Sacamoto  
situata su le radici di quel monte, oue sono  
molti monasterij, & insieme il capo de le sette, &  
persone letterate di tutto il Giappon, chiamata  
Fionoiama. Subito che giongemmo qua, il padre  
m' inuidò al Bonzo nominato Daiembò, al quale  
presentai la lettera, & ebe portammo per Fionoiama:  
esso ueduta la lettera, & uedita la cagione  
di nostra uenuta mi rispose, che il suo maestro  
(quale era il principale Bonzo fra costoro, &  
che haueua scritto à Bungo che desideraua ritro-  
uarsi con alcuni de nostri padri, & intendere che  
legge predicassero) era già morto l'anno passa-  
to, & che esso s'era rimasto pouero in un piccolo  
monasterio senza potere niuno in quelle bande,

Nvovi Avisi delle Indie di Portogallo , Venuti  
nuouamente dalli R. Padri della compagnia di  
Giesv, et tradotti dalla lingua Spagnola nella  
Italiana. Quarta parte.

15/06/10

Venice, 1565

## REPORTS DATED FROM 1579 ONWARDS

They include:

- Many of the Reports written in the years in which the Japanese Mission was under the direction of Alessandro Valignano (1579-1603).
- The Annual Letters of the years 1621, 1622, 1625, 1626 and 1627.

## Books from this period:

- Testify the rising of the fortunes of the Jesuit's Mission in Japan and their progressive decline
- Reflect the more organized nature of the Mission and the changes in the way it was conducted caused by the influence of Valignano's approach in directing it. They dwell also on matters aside missionaries' activities, thus offering richer sources of information on Japan.

They include also many "Lettere Annali" (Annual Letters), presenting detailed accounts on all the different Jesuit seminaries and residences

15/06/16 established in Japan.

# THE VARIOUS EDITIONS OF MISSIONARIES' REPORTS

As inferred by most bibliographies focusing on Japan-related texts, the reports hosted at Biblioteca Marciana are often works first published in Rome and then reprinted in Venice.

Such reports, originally written in Spanish or Portuguese were:

- Collected in Rome, submitted to censorship and translated into Italian
- Printed, with the exclusive for the first distribution granted to Jesuits
- Reprinted freely in Rome or in other Italian States and translated into other languages

When printed and distributed, reports lost their original epistolary character and acquired a more “journalistic” nature, becoming instruments of popularization.

### 3. BOOKS FOCUSED ON THE FIRST JAPANESE EMBASSY SENT TO EUROPE

#### THE EMBASSY

- It was planned by Alessandro Valignano and sent in the name of three *daimyō* from Kyūshū (Otomo Yoshishige, Arima Harunobu and Ōmura Sumitada).
- It was received by the Pope (in a public hearing) and by the King of Spain in 1585.
- It stirred much curiosity in Europe and prompted the publication of at least 80 works in a time-span of a few years.



## **BOOKS DATED 1585**

They consist mainly in pamphlets and gazettes aimed at divulging news about the Embassy:

- Some focus exclusively on the public hearing granted by the Pope to the Ambassadors
- Some focus more generally on the voyage of the Ambassadors and include also short descriptions of Japan



**Avisi venuti novamente da Roma delli XXIII di marzo MDLXXXV. Dell'entrata nel publico Concistoro de due Ambasciatori mandati da tre Rè Potenti del Giappone, conueritit nouamente alla santa fede Christiana, à dare vbidienza à sua santità**

15/06/10

Bologna, 1585

# THE *RELATIONI DELLA VENUTA DEGLI AMBASCIATORI GIAPONESI A ROMA, BY GUIDO GUALTIERI (1586)*

It is the most complete extant work about the Embassy, that collects and reorganizes all the information scattered in previous publications.

**Relationi della venuta de gli ambasciatori giaponesi à Roma, fino alla partita di Lisbona. Con vna descrizione del lor paese, e costumi, e con le accoglienze fatte loro da tutti i Prencipi Christiani, per doue sono passati. Raccolte da Guido Gualtieri.**



## LATER WORKS ABOUT THE EMBASSY

They consist in:

- “Avvisi”, containing copies of the letters brought to Europe by the Ambassadors.
- Missionaries’ reports including accounts about the return trip of the Ambassadors.

LETTERA  
ANNALE  
DEL GIAPONE

SCRITTA,  
AL PADRE GENERALE  
DELLA COMPAGNIA  
DI GIESV

*Alli 20. di Febraio M D LXXXVIII.*

Con l'auiso ancora dell'arriuo delli Signori Giaponesi,  
all'Isola del Macao, del Regno  
della China.



IN BRESCIA,  
Appresso Vincenzo Sabbio. 1590.

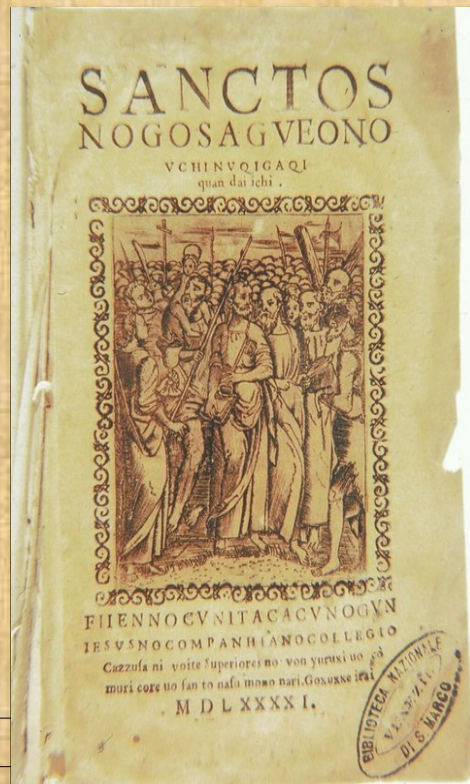
*Con Licenza de Superiori.*

**Lettera annale del Giappone scritta, al Padre Generale della Compagnia di Giesv, alli 20 di Febraio M D LXXXVIII. Con l'auiso ancora dell'arriuo delli Signori Giaponesi all'Isola del Macao, del Regno della China. Brescia, 1590**

# 4. THE *SANCTOS NO GOSAGVEO VCHI NUQIGAQI*

Printed in Kazusa in 1591.

It is one of the rare extant examples of *Kirishitanban*.



**Sanctos nogosagveono  
vchinuqigaqi quan dai ichi.  
Kazusa, 1591**

15/06/10

# 5. THE WORKS BY DIEGO COLLADO

## THE NIFFON NO COTŌBANI YŌ CONFESION

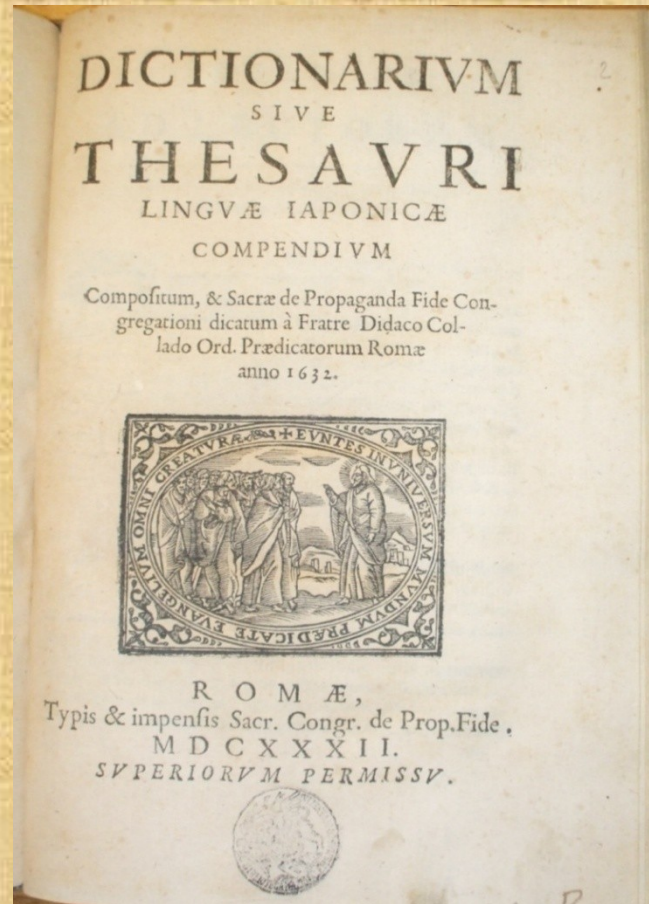


Niffon no cotōbani yō  
confesion, vo mòfu yōdai to  
màta confesor yori gòxensà cu  
mefarùru tàme no canyōnàru  
giô giô nocòto dānguixà no  
monpa no Fr. Diego Collado to  
yu xucqe

(Modvs confitendi et  
examinandi poenitentem  
Iaponensem, formula suamet  
lingua Iaponica. Auctore Fr.  
Didaco Collado Ord. Praed.)

Rome, 1632

# THE *DICTIONARIVM SIVE THESAVRI LINGVAE IAPONICAE COMPENDIVM*



**Dictionarivm sive thesauri linguae iaponicae compendivm, compositum, et Sacrae de Propaganda Fide Congregationi dicatum à Fratre Didaco Collado Ord. Praedicatorum Rome, 1632**



## 6. THE HISTORICAL WORKS

They include:

- General histories of the monastic orders, with passing references to Japan.
- Historical works focused on the experiences of the Christian orders in Japan, or East Asia in general. In particular, the

*Historia del Regno di Voxu del Giapone* by Scipione Amati

**HISTORIA**  
**DEL REGNO DI VOXV**  
**DEL GIAPONE,**  
**DELL' ANTICHITA, NOBILTA,**  
**E VALORE DEL SVO RE**  
**IDATE MASAMVNE,**  
**DELLI FAVORI, C' HA FATTI**  
 alla Christianità, e desiderio che tiene d'esser Christiano,  
 e dell'aumento di nostra santa Fede in quelle parti.  
*E dell' Ambasciata che hà inuiata alla S.<sup>ta</sup> di N. S. Papa PAOLO V.*  
*e delli suoi successi, con altre varie cose di edificatione,*  
*e gusto spirituale de i Lettori.*  
 Dedicata alla S.<sup>ta</sup> di N. S. Papa PAOLO V.  
 Fatta per il Dottor Scipione Amati Romano, Interprete,  
 & Historico dell' Ambasciata.

*Ex Libris Marc' Amati*



IN ROMA, Appresso Giacomo Mascardi. MDCXV.  
 Con licenza de' Superiori.

Historia del Regno di Voxv del Giappone, dell'antichita, nobilta, e valore del suo re Idate Masamvne, delli favori c'ha fatti alla Christianità, e desiderio che tiene d'essere Christiano, e dell'aumento di nostra santa Fede in quelle parti. E dell'Ambasciata che hà inviata alla S.tà di N. S. Paolo V e delli suoi successi, con altre varie cose di edificatione, e gusto spirituale dei Lettori. Dedicata alla S.tà di N. S. Papa Paolo V. Fatta per il Dottor Scipione Amati Romano, Interprete et Historico dell'Ambasciata

15/06/10

# BOOKS DATED FROM THE SECOND HALF OF XVII CENTURY TO THE

This period is characterized by a decline in the number of books related to Japan hosted at Biblioteca Marciana. This decline reflects the change in political circumstances brought about by the final decree of expulsion in 1639, and the consequent cessation of missionaries' activities in Japan. Books from this period include:

1. Some reprinted editions or translations of earlier works (i. e.: the 1749 edition of the *Le Istorie delle Indie Orientali*, translated in 1589 by Francesco Serdonati and originally written in Latin by Giovanni Pietro Maffei)
2. Some late examples of historical works related to the Jesuit Mission in Japan
3. Some works connected with the Dutch presence in Deshima

## 2. HISTORICAL WORKS RELATED TO THE JESUIT MISSION IN JAPAN

They include copies of:

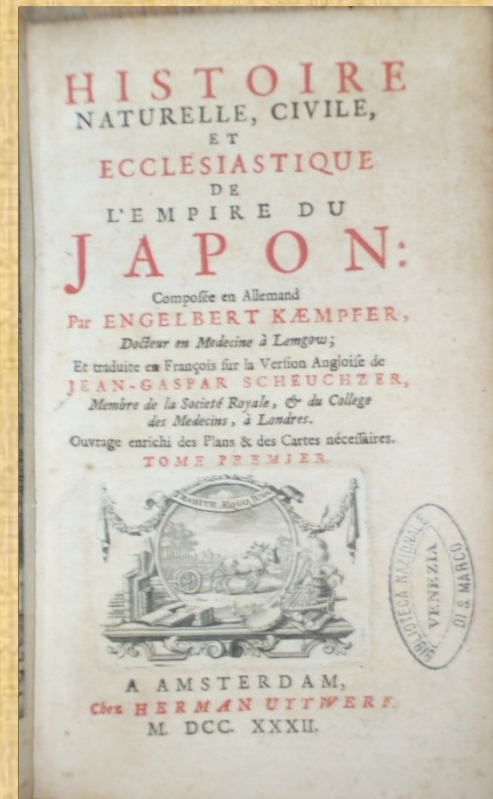
- The *Dell'istoria della Compagnia di Giesu. L'Asia descritta.* by the Jesuit Father Daniello Bartoli (Rome, 1653)
- The *Delle missioni de' padri della Compagnia di Giesu nella Prouincia del Giappone* by the Jesuit Father Giovanni Filippo de Marini (Venice, 1665. First printed in 1657)
- The *Soc. Jesu China monumentis* by the Jesuit Father Athanasius Kircher. (Amsterdam, 1667)

# 3. WORKS CONNECTED WITH THE DUTCH PRESENCE IN DESHIMA

## WORKS BY ENGELBERT KAEMPFER

They include copies of:

- The *Amoenitatum exoticarum politico-physico-mediciarum* (Lemgo, 1712)
- The *Histoire naturelle, civile et ecclesiastique de l'Empire du Japon* (La Haye, 1729 and Amsterdam. 1732)



Kaempfer has long been considered the only authentic and reliable source about Japan from this period.

Several scholars have however underlain how:

- His work is the expression of a more general surge of japanological studies
- Other authorities as well can be considered reliable sources of information about Japan, even though their works appear less complete or scholar oriented than that of Kaempfer.

Biblioteca Marciana too provides some examples of such authorities.

# THE *DESCRIPTIO REGNI IAPONIAE* BY BERNHARDUS VARENIUS



**Descriptio regni Iaponiæ Cum quibusdam affinis materiæ, Ex variis auctoribus collecta et in ordinem redacta per Bernhardum Varenum Med. D.**

**Amsterdam, 1649**

TRACTATUS

*In quo agitur.*

De Iaponiorum religione.

De Christianæ religionis intro-  
ductione in ea loca.

De ejusdem extirpatione.

*Adjuncta est de diversa diversarum  
gentium totius telluris Religio-  
ne brevis informatio.*

Auctore

BERNHARDO VARENIO,  
Med. D.



*Amstelodami,*

Apud Ludovicum Elzevirium,

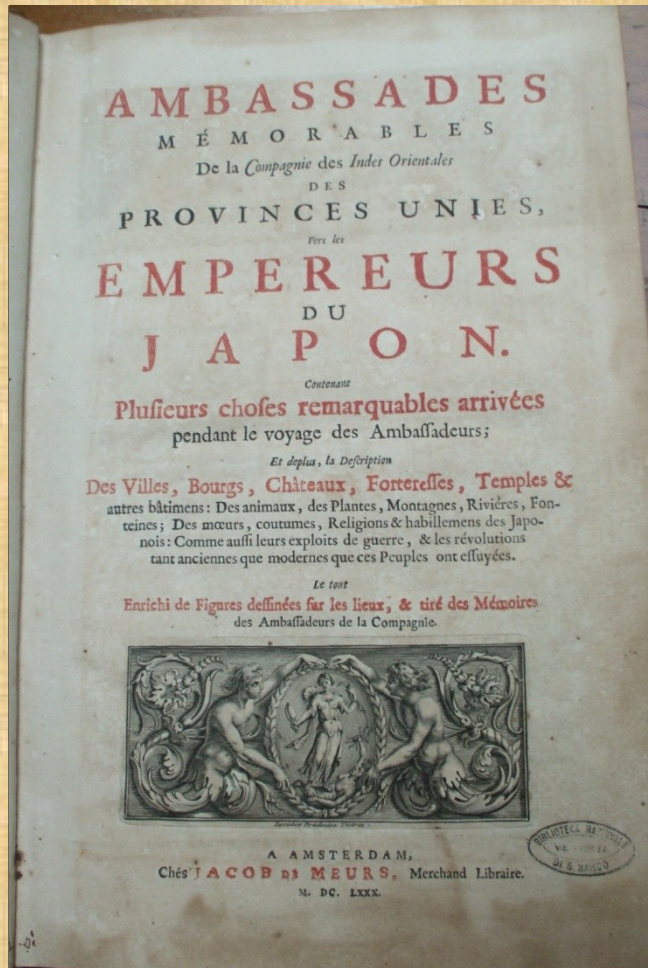
MDCXLIX.

**Tractatus In quo agitur. De Iaponorum religione. De Christianae religionis introductione in ea loca. De ejusdem extirpatione. Adjuncta est de diversa diversarum gentium totius telluris Religione brevis informatio. Auctore Bernhardo Varenio. Med. D.**

Amsterdam, 1649



# THE AMBASSADES MÉMORABLES DE LA COMPAGNIE DES INDES ORIENTALES



Ambassades mémorables de la Compagnie des Indes Orientales des Provinces Unies vers les Empereurs du Japon Contenant Plusieurs choses remarquables arrivées pendant le voyage des Ambassadeurs; Et deplus, la description Des Villes, Bourgs, Châteaux, Forteresses, Temples et autres bâtimens: Des animaux, des Plantes, Montagnes, Rivières, Fontaines; Des mœurs, coutumes, Religions et habillemens des Japonois; Comme aussi leurs exploits de guerre, et les révolutions tant anciennes que modernes que ces Peuples ont essayées

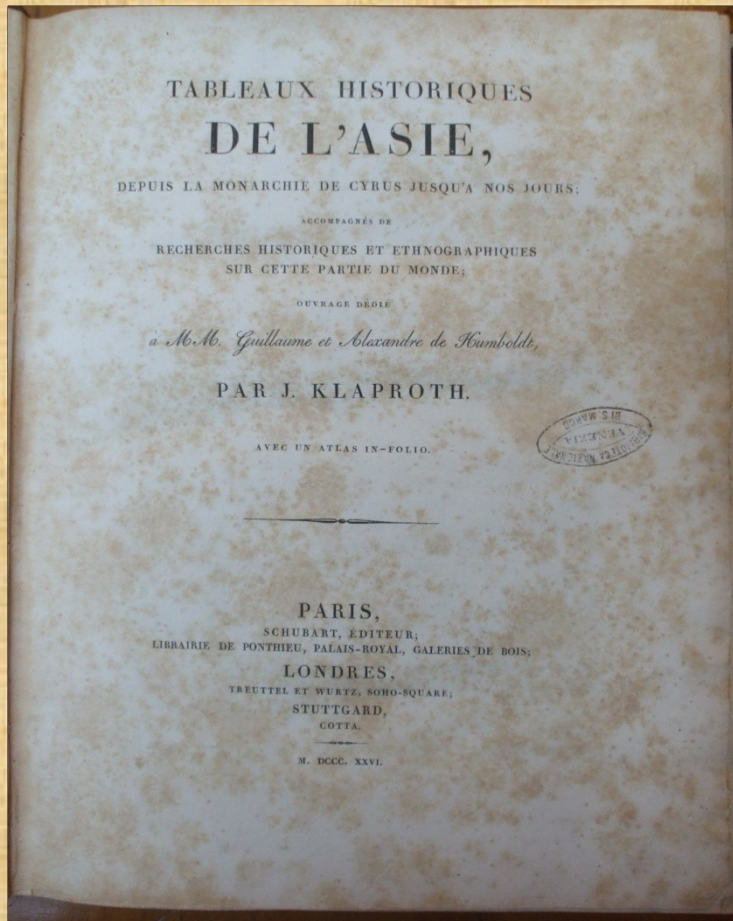
15/06/10

# BOOKS DATED FROM THE FIRST HALF OF XIX CENTURY

They include:

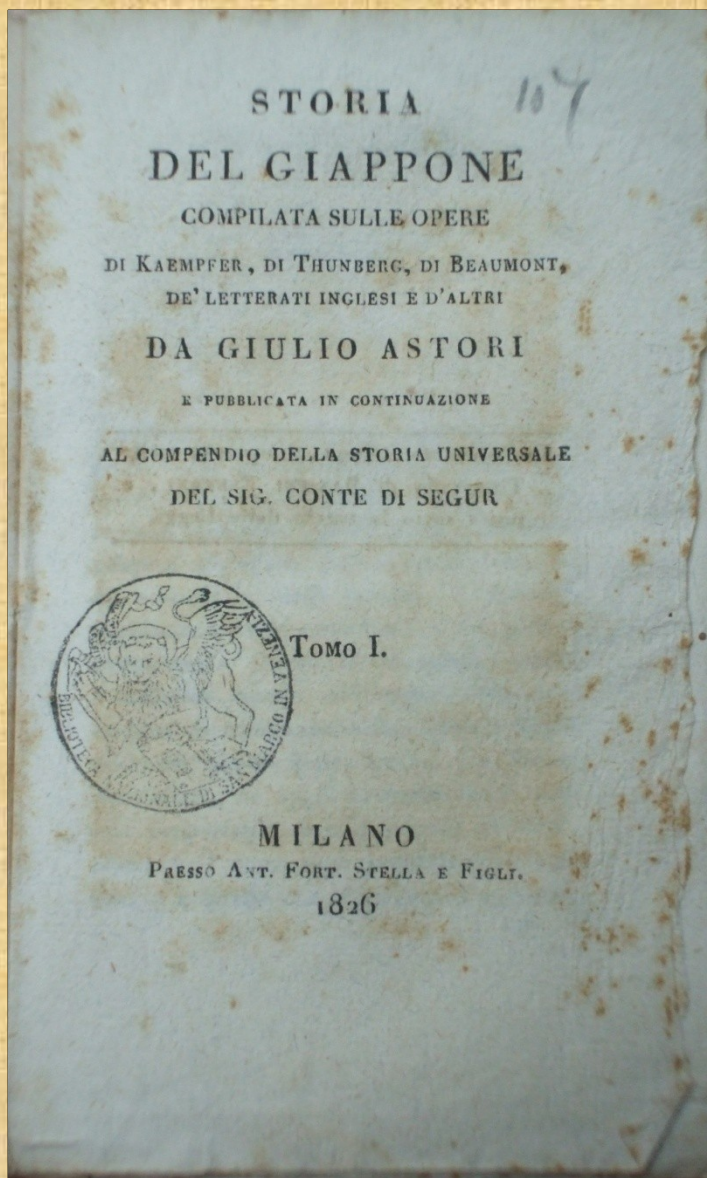
1. Historical, geographical and ethnographical works
1. Travel accounts (i. e. those by the Captains William Broughton, Adam Johann Von Krusenstern and Basil Hall)
1. Books centered on Linguistics

# 1. HISTORICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHICAL WORKS



**Tableaux historiques de L'Asie, depuis la monarchie de Cyrus jusqu'a nos jours Accompagnés de recherches historiques et ethnographiques sur cette partie du monde. [...] Par Julius Klaproth. Avec un atlas in-folio.**

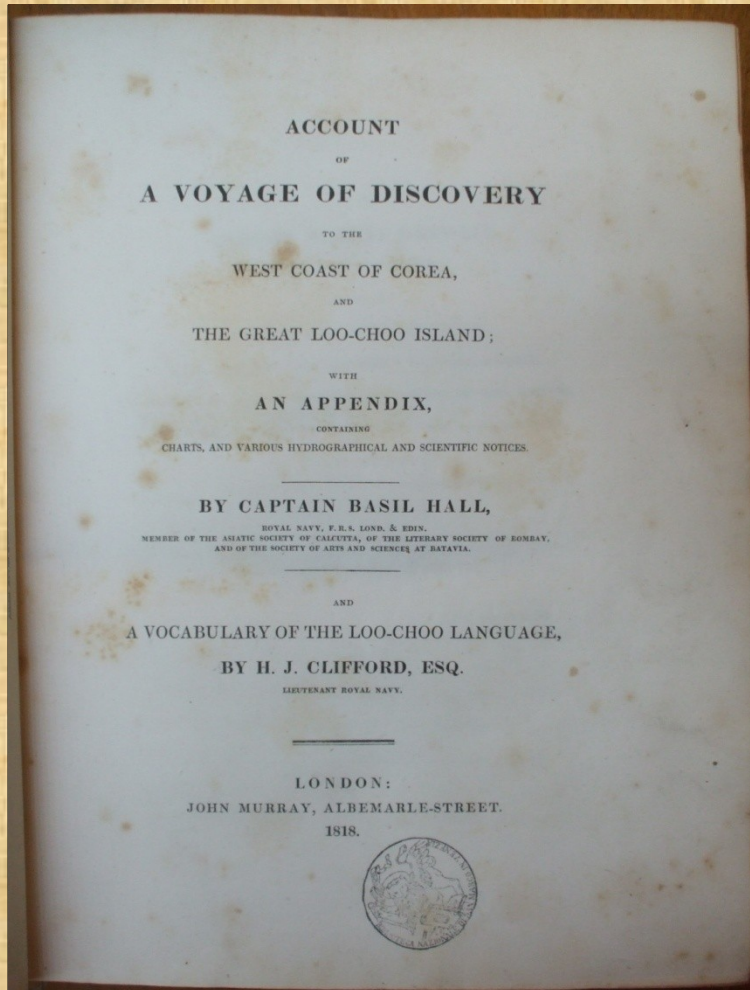
Paris, 1826



**Storia del Giappone  
compilata sulle opere di  
Kempfer, di Thunberg, di  
Beaumont, de' letterati  
inglesi e d'altri da Giulio  
Astori e pubblicata in  
continuazione al compendio  
della Storia Universale del  
Sig. Conte di Segur.  
Milan, 1826**

15/06/10

## 2. TRAVEL ACCOUNTS



Account of a voyage of discovery to the West Coast of Corea, and the Great Loo-choo Island, with an appendiz, containing charts and various hydrographical and scientific notices. By Captain Basil Hall, Royal Navy, F. R. S. Lond & Edin. Member of the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, of the Literary Society of Bombay, and of the Society of Arts and Sciences at Batavia. And a vocabulary of the Loo-choo language, by H. J. Clifford, Esq.

15/06/10

VOCABULARY OF THE LANGUAGE

SPOKEN AT

THE GREAT LOO-CHOO ISLAND, IN THE  
JAPAN SEA.

COMPILED BY

HERBERT JOHN CLIFFORD, ESQ.  
LIEUTENANT, ROYAL NAVY.

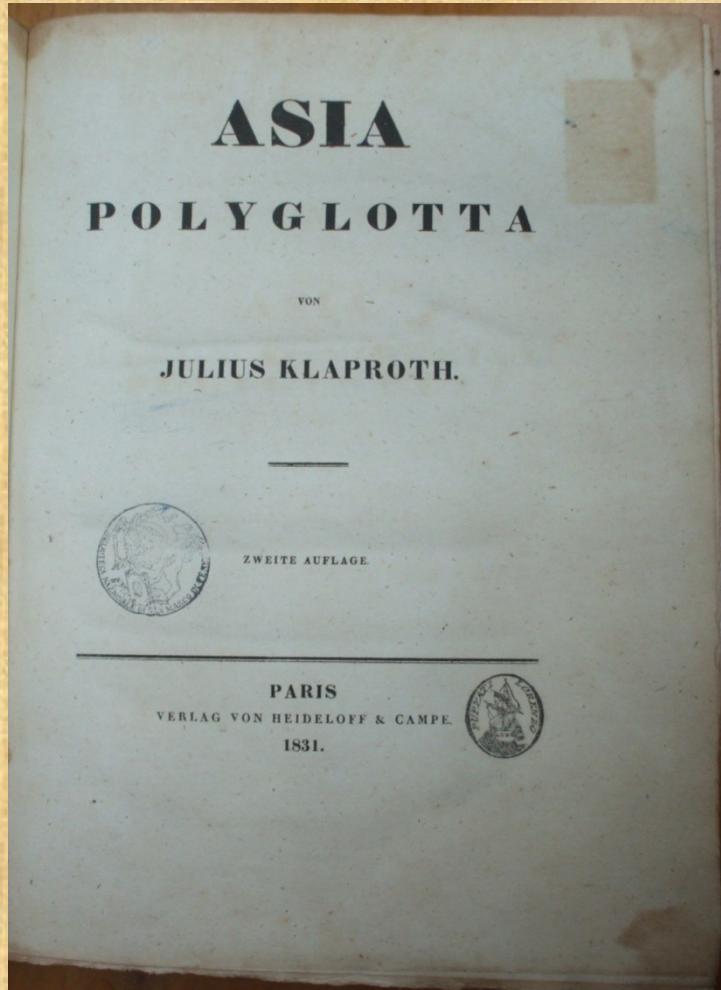
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IN TWO PARTS.

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15/06/10

### 3. WORKS ABOUT LINGUISTICS



**Asia polyglotta Von  
Julius Klaproth Zweite  
Auflage.**

Paris, 1831

15/06/10

# CONCLUSIONS

The ancient printed material hosted at Biblioteca Marciana is an important source of information about Japan in two respects:

- It provides useful insights on a wide variety of subjects and may therefore attract the interest of specialists from many disciplines
- It sheds much light on the nature of the cultural intercourse between Japan, Italy and Europe throughout the centuries

In the months to come, the research project will focus on modern printed books and on manuscripts