



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Archives*

## **Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Collection - Official Duties, Visit to Pacific Stars and Stripes**

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 12:27:22

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RICKSHAWS propelled by a Japanese runner are fast trotting into a thing of the past. A few of the footmen can still be seen in quaint and shrine-studded towns like Kamakura, but most of them have run right out of the oriental scene. The rickshaw men have relaxed a *sukoshi* (little). They've hopped onto the seat of a bicycle and now pedal their fares. Some of the rickshaw bikes are even slung with a motor now, and this undoubtedly marks the beginning of a new and fabulous era.

The drivers huff and puff when the road tips upward and they smile contentedly when coasting downhill. And while rickshaw-san keeps the wheels whirling, the passenger sits back, soaks in the sunshine, and enjoys the scenery. Train and taxi travel are faster, but for an *ichiban* ride the GI goes by rickshaw. 100 yen, about two bits, takes him a long way.

For the rainy weather - and there is *takusan* rainy weather in Japan - the rickshaw driver tosses a canopy over the buggy. And there the passenger sits, in a kind of rectangular tent, as cozy as *baby-san* bundled onto *mama-san's* back.

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