



Smithsonian Institution

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan

Extracted on Oct-22-2021 03:01:30

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery or transcribe@si.edu

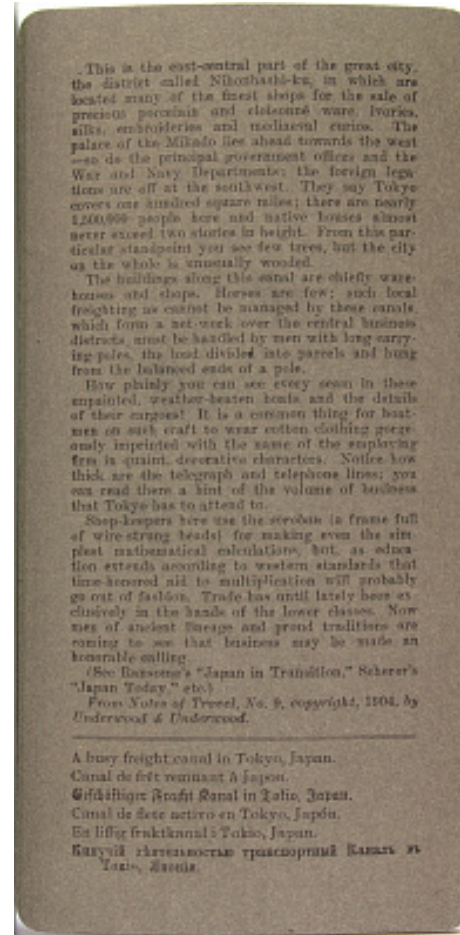
For more information on this project and related material, contact the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

This is the east-central part of the great city, the district called Nihobashi-ku, in which are located many of the finest shops for the sale of precious porcelain and cloisonné ware, ivories, silks, embroideries and mediaeval curios. The palace of the Mikado lies ahead towards the west—so do the principal government offices and the War and Navy Departments; the foreign legations are off at the southwest. They say Tokyo covers one hundred square miles; there are nearly 1,500,000 people here and native houses almost never exceed two stories in height. From this particular standpoint you see few trees, but the city on the whole is unusually wooded.

The buildings along this canal are chiefly warehouses and shops. Horses are few; such local freighting as cannot be managed by these canals, which form a net-work over the central business districts, must be handled by men with long carrying-poles, the load divided into parcels and hung from the balanced ends of a pole. How plainly you can see every seam in these unpainted, weather-beaten boats and the details of their cargoes! It is a common thing for boatmen on such craft to wear cotton clothing gorgeously imprinted with the name of the employing firm in quaint, decorative characters. Notice how thick are the telegraph and telephone lines; you can read there a hint of the volume of business that Tokyo has to attend to. Shop-keepers here use the soroban (a frame full of wire-strung beads) for making even the simplest mathematical calculations, but, as education extends according to western standards that time-honored aid to multiplication will probably go out of fashion. Trade has until lately been exclusively in the hands of the lower classes. Now men of ancient lineage and proud traditions are coming to see that business may be made an honorable calling.

(See Ransome's "Japan in Transition," Scherer's "Japan Today," etc.)
From Notes of Travel, No. 9, copyright, 1904, by Underwood & Underwood.

A busy freight canal in Tokyo, Japan.
Canal de fret remaunt à Japon.
Geschäftsteger Fracht Kanal in Tokio, Japan.
Canal de flete activo en Tokyo, Japón.
En liflig fraktkanal i Tokio, Japan.
Kyri eoc pacop Kaa Toio, oi.



Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Oct-22-2021 03:01:30



Smithsonian Institution

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)