



Smithsonian Institution

Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery

Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan

Extracted on Oct-18-2021 11:23:17

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.

You are a short day's journey north of Tokio, not far from the Nikko Mountains. The height you see ahead is Mt. Haruna; ages ago it used to be a volcano, but a blue lake now occupies the ancient crater near the summit and away up in a glen near the lake is a Shinto shrine to the Goddesses of Earth and Fire. This is a place where you are inevitably reminded of fire, for all up and down this very hillside there are hot springs (113° F.), their water charged with iron and sulphate of soda. Nearly everyone of these close-packed houses is a bath-house containing large tanks into which the steaming, sulphurous waters are drawn, ready to soak rheumatism or almost any ill out of Japanese bodies. The people you see at this moment are chiefly villagers.

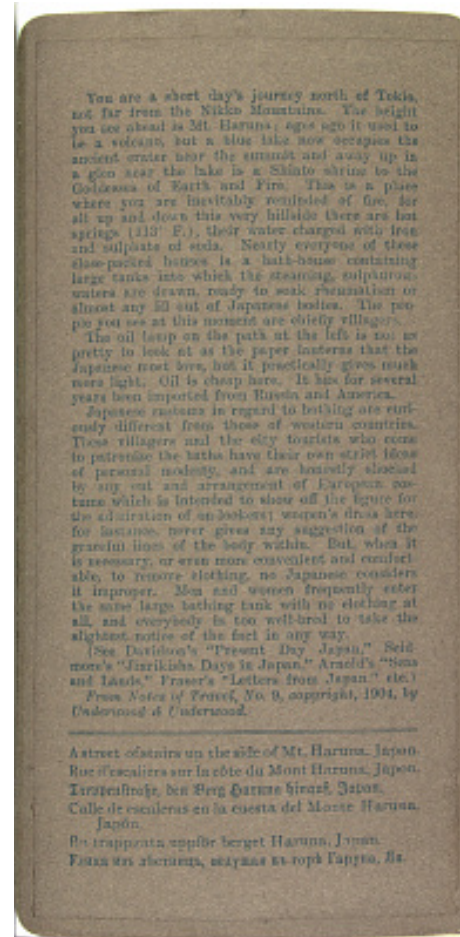
The oil lamp on the path at the left is not as pretty to look at as the paper lanterns that the Japanese most love, but it practically gives much more light. Oil is cheap here. It has for several years been imported from Russia and America.

Japanese customs in regard to bathing are curiously different from those of western countries. These villagers and the city tourists who come to patronize the baths have their own strict ideas of personal modesty, and are honestly shocked by any cut and arrangement of European costume which is intended to show off the figure for the admiration of on-lookers; women's dress here, for instance, never gives any suggestion of the graceful lines of the body within. But, when it is necessary, or even more convenient and comfortable, to remove clothing, no Japanese considers it improper. Men and women frequently enter the same large bathing tank with no clothing at all, and everyone is too well-bred to take the slightest notice of the fact in any way.

(See Davidson's "Present Day Japan," Scidmore's "Jinrikisha Days in Japan," Arnold's "Seas and Lands," Fraser's "Letters from Japan" etc.)

From Notes of Travel, No 9, copyright, 1904, by Underwood & Underwood.

A street of stairs up the side of Mt. Haruna. Japan.
 Rue d'escaliers sur la côte du Mont Haruna, Japon.
 Treppenstraße, den Berg Haruna hinaus, Japan.
 Calle de escaleras en la cuesta del Monte Haruna. Japón.
 En trappgata uppför berget Haruna, Japan.



Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
 Extracted Oct-18-2021 11:23:17



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)