



## Smithsonian Institution

*Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

### Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan

Extracted on Dec-05-2021 08:54:06

**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](https://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](mailto: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.

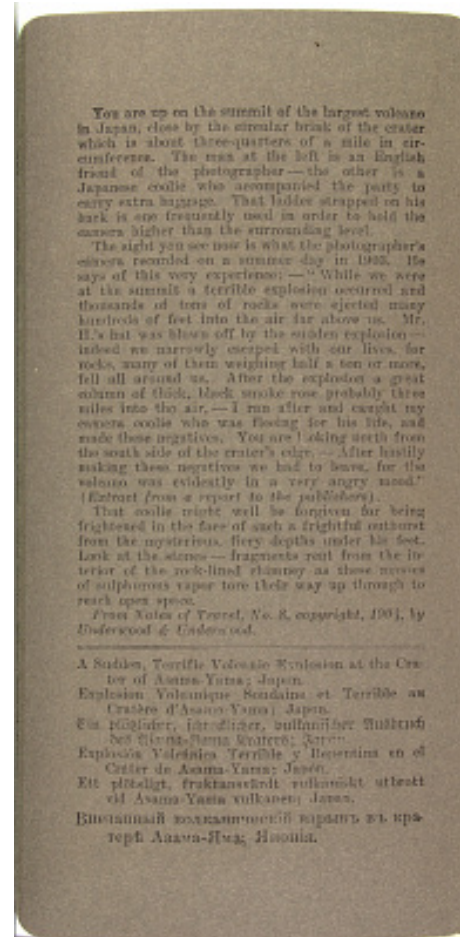
You are up on the summit of the largest volcano in Japan, close by the circular brink of the crater which is about three-quarters of a mile in circumference. The man at the left is an English friend of the photographer — the other is a Japanese coolie who accompanied the party to carry extra baggage. That ladder strapped on his back is one frequently used in order to hold the camera higher than the surrounding level.

The sight you see now is what the photographer's camera recorded on a summer day in 1903. He says of this very experience: — "While we were at the summit a terrible explosion occurred and thousands of tons of rocks were ejected many hundreds of feet into the air far above us. Mr. H.'s hat was blown off by the sudden explosion — indeed we narrowly escaped with our lives, for rocks, many of them weighing half a ton or more, fell all around us. After the explosion a great column of thick, black smoke rose probably three miles into the air, — I ran after and caught my camera coolie who was fleeing for his life, and made these negatives. You are looking north from the south side of the crater's edge, — After hastily making these negatives we had to leave, for the volcano was evidently in a very angry mood." (extract from a report to the publishers).

That coolie might well be forgiven for being frightened in the face of such a frightful outburst from the mysterious, fiery depths under his feet. Look at the stones — fragments rent from the interior of the rock-lined chimney as these masses of sulphurous vapor tore their way up through to reach open space.

From Notes of Travel, No. 8, copyright, 1904, by Underwood & Underwood.

A Sudden, Terrific Volcanic Explosion at the Crater of Asama-Yama; Japan.  
 Explosion Volcanique Soudaine et Terrible au Cratère d'Asama-Yama; Japon.  
 Ein plötzlicher, schrodllicher, vulkanischer Ausbruch des Asama-Yama Kraters; Japan.  
 Explosion Volcanica Terrible y Repentina en el Crater de Asama-Yama; Japon.  
 Ett plotsligt, fruktansvardt vulkaniskt utbrott vid Asama-Yama vulkanen; Japan.



Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan  
 Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers  
 Extracted Dec-05-2021 08:54:06



## 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](http://www.si.edu)

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

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