



**Smithsonian Institution**

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

## **Set of Underwood & Underwood stereographs of Japan**

Extracted on Apr-18-2024 07:09:12

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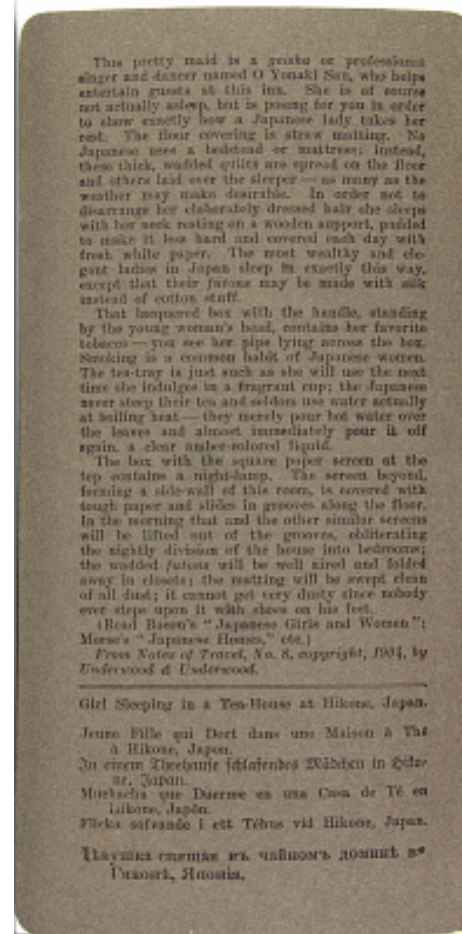
This pretty maid is a geisha or professional singer and dancer name O Yonaki San, who helps entertain guests at this inn. She is of course not actually asleep, but is posing for you in order to show exactly how a Japanese lady takes her rest. The floor covering is straw matting. No Japanese uses a bedstead or mattress; instead, these thick, wadded quilts are spread on the floor and others laid over the sleeper - as many as the weather may make desirable. In order not to disarrange her elaborately dressed hair she sleeps with her neck resting on a wooden support, padded to make it less hard and covered each day with fresh white paper. The most wealthy and elegant ladies in Japan sleep in exactly this way, except that their futons may be made with silk instead of cotton stuff.

That lacquered box with the handle, standing by the young woman's head, contains her favorite tobacco - you see her pipe lying across the box. Smoking is a common habit of Japanese women. The tea-tray is just such as she will use the next time she indulges in a fragrant cup; the Japanese never steep their tea and seldom use water actually at boiling heat - they merely pour hot water over the leaves and almost immediately pour it off again, a clear amber-colored liquid.

The box with the square paper screen at the top contains a night-lamp. The screen beyond, forming a side-wall of this room, is covered with tough paper and slides in grooves along the floor. In the morning that and the other similar screens will be lifted out of the grooves, obliterating the nightly divisions of the house into bedrooms; the wadded futons will be well aired and folded away in closets; the matting will be swept clean of all dust; it cannot get very dusty since nobody ever steps upon it with shoes on his feet.

(Read Bacon's "Japanese Girls and Women"; Morse's "Japanese Homes," etc.)  
From Notes of Travel, No. 8, copyright, 1904, by Underwood & Underwood.

Girl Sleeping in a Tea-House at Hikone, Japan.  
Jeune Fille qui Dort dans une Maison à Thé à Hikone, Japon.  
In einem Theehause schlafendes Mädchen in Hikone, Japan.  
Muchacha que Duerme en una Casa de Té en Hikone, Japón.  
Flicka sofvande i ett Têhus vid Hikone, Japan.



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