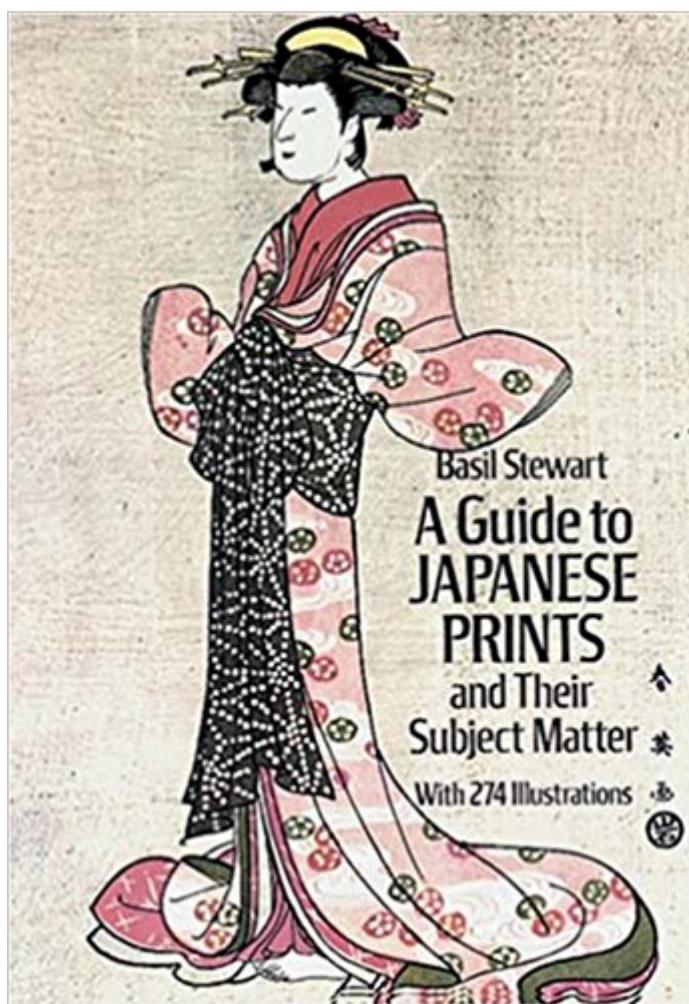


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A Guide To Japanese Prints And Their Subject Matter (English And Japanese Edition)



Synopsis

British connoisseur describes in detail the subject of famous Japanese color prints using 274 reproductions of works by Hokusai, Hiroshige, Utamaro, Shunyei, and other masters. Bibliography. Index.

Book Information

Paperback: 556 pages

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Customer Reviews

If you are looking for a sourcebook to the facts about ukiyo-e and the artists who made them, I would recommend something a little more modern. But Stewart's discussion of Japanese prints has much to recommend it. First and most importantly, he concentrates on nineteenth century prints, and describes series and works within series in great detail. As these are the works that dominate the print market these days, this information is of much help to the collector. Moreover, Stewart describes artists and their work with highly personal but entertaining aesthetic judgements, taking the risks of saying "the first Chushingura series of Eisen is superior to the second" as few works after him have done so boldly. Wonderful for the print collector to curl up with on a late night and dream of the days when Hiroshiges still went for shillings! The guide to artists and dating in the rear is also helpful, though it must take a second place to Richard Lane's guide in Images from the Floating World and other, more recent sources. Still, this work has a flavor all of its own, and is recommended to the novice (who shouldn't always accept everything Stewart says as fact) and the expert (who can read between the lines and sometimes get a good laugh.)

This is a great source of information for anyone wanting to know more about the subjects in Japanese prints. If you don't want to just admire the beauty of the prints but want to know more about their subjects and then this is a must read. There's a lot of information and it's divided into sections so it's easy to navigate. There's information on how the prints were produced, how to put your collection together and look after it, and about forgeries. It focuses a lot on Hiroshige though, leaving the other artists out, so it's best to keep that in mind before buying. No Japanese print enthusiast should be without this one.

This book was first printed in the early 1920s and reprinted in 1979. Some information is outdated, such as the prices for a good print in an auction room -- the values for 1920 have nothing to do with what we see now -- but it has its charm. The rest is a reference of top quality on the Japanese prints. I wish I had had the opportunity of reading it before. Top quality content and strongly recommended for whoever is interested in the Japanese colour prints. Mathew W. Murray

Purchased as a gift for a friend who collects Japanese art. I was surprised she didn't already own it. As described.

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