

The First
Commercial
Photographs
of Japan
1859-1861

ロシエ 日本の風景

Slideshow in 3D
Travelling Video Installation

60 Stereoviews
by the Swiss
Photographer
Pierre Rossier

Edo
Kanagawa
Yokohama
Nagasaki



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150



Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations
between Switzerland and Japan
日本・スイス国交樹立記念



Pierre Joseph Rossier

Pierre Joseph Rossier, born in 1829 in Grandsivaz, Canton of Fribourg, Switzerland, was a professional photographer who photographed between 1858 and 1861 in China, Japan, Thailand and the Philippines. His China work was made available to the public in 1859, and the following year his Japan work appeared. These represent the first published commercial photographs of those countries.

Rossier left Switzerland for England in 1855. At some stage, he joined the prestigious London firm Negretti & Zambra, who sent him to China in 1858, then to Japan in 1859 where he witnessed and photographed the opening of the land of the Rising Sun. Until its recent re-discovery by photo-historian Terry Bennett, Rossier's work had been all but forgotten; its importance in the history of photo-

graphy in East Asia is now being recognised.

His 66 stereoscopic photographs of Japan are exceptionally rare, and no complete set has so far been traced. This slideshow aims to share 60 of these views, gathered from collections around the world. They form two series: the first offering 26 Views of Edo, Kanagawa and Yokohama, the second has 40 views solely devoted to Nagasaki. Rossier also introduced the collodion process to a number of Japanese, and in so doing contributed to the rise of photography in a country that cherished visual culture. He returned to Switzerland in 1862 and opened a studio in Fribourg, then in Einsiedeln, but none of his images of the Far East has yet been found in Switzerland.

3D Slideshow Traveling Installation

Available is a 3D slideshow with music (shamisen and shinobue) to show on a large flat-screen TV equipped with the 3D function. It comes with a small pamphlet and a catalog. The slideshow magnifies the small size (8.4 x 17.5 cm) stereoscopic images. We can appreciate their three-dimensional effect in an entirely new way.

Length

18 minutes

Format

Video file

Legends

Bilingual (English-Japanese or English-French).

Technical equipment required (not included)

3D TV, screen size between 140 cm (55") and 190 cm (75").
3D glasses (passive or active).

Equipment provided

Pamphlet to print yourself. Poster and flyer (on request).

Audience

From 7 years old. Possible activities: conference, workshop on Japan and/or stereoscopy.

Space required and display

Appropriate location for the screen. Setback distance for the viewer selected depending on the TV size. Exhibition of prints possible.

Re-visualizing Rossier

Slideshow in 3D and Project in collaboration with the Nagasaki University Library, the Tokyo National Museum, DNP Art Communications, the JCII Camera Museum (Japan Camera Industry Institute), the Meiji University Library, Tom Burnett, Ken & Jenny Jacobson, Tim Merritte, Christian Polak, Joan & Clark Worswick, Terry Bennett, Kaori Tahara, the Musée d'ethnographie de Neuchâtel, Pascal Granger from the Swiss Stereoscopic Society and the International Stereoscopic Union, Shunsuke Kimura & Etsuro Ono.

Direction and production

Philippe Dallais
Anthropologist, exhibition curator, Japan specialist and researcher in Visual Anthropology, University of Zurich.

Slideshow

Pascal Granger
Expert in the field of stereoscopy, member of the Swiss Society of Stereoscopy and the International Stereoscopic Union.

Soundtrack

Shunsuke Kimura & Etsuro Ono (mu:arts).

Information/order

Philippe Dallais
Grand Rue 55
CH-2035 Corcelles
phidkat@bluewin.ch

Terms

Contract hire, purchase under license; rates on request.

Available from January 2016.

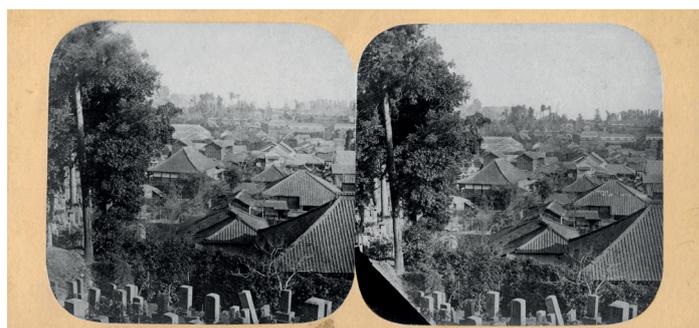
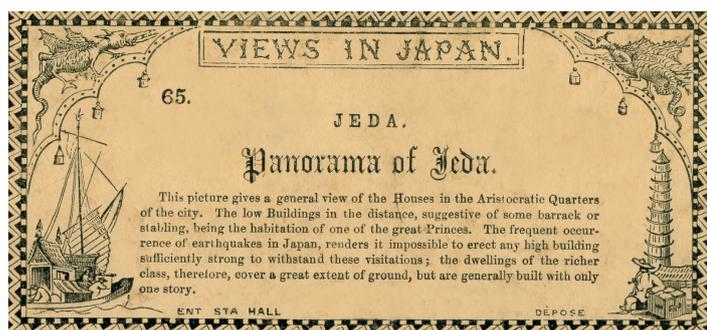
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Jeda. Panorama of Jeda. This picture gives a general view of the Houses in the Aristocratic Quarters of the city. The low Buildings in the distance, suggestive of some barrack or stabling, being the habitation of one of the great Princes. The frequent occurrence of earthquakes in Japan, renders it impossible to erect any high building sufficiently strong to withstand these visitations; the dwellings of the richer class, therefore, cover a great extent of ground, but are generally built with only one story.

Coll. Tom Burnett



江戸 江戸のパノラマ写真
この写真が、都市部の貴族街にある邸宅の外観を示している。遠くに見える低い建物は、いくつかの兵舎や馬屋を示唆し、偉大な王孫の一人の住居である。日本における地震の頻繁な発生は、これらの災難に耐えうる十分に強いあらゆる高層物を建てることを不可能にしている。より豊かな階級の住居は、したがって、広大な敷地を使って建てられているが、一般的に一階建てで構築されている。

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