

Japan: Courts and Culture

Edited by Rachel Peat

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- The first publication devoted to Japanese works of art in the Royal Collection
 - Includes Forewords by HRH The Prince of Wales and HH Princess Akiko of Mikasa
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The Royal Collection contains one of the finest holdings of Japanese works of art in the western world, significant for both the unique provenance and the exceptional quality of the objects.

For the first time, highlights from across the collection are brought together in the publication ***Japan: Courts and Culture***, which tells the story of three centuries of diplomatic, artistic and cultural exchange between Britain and Japan.

Featuring new research on previously unpublished works, the book showcases the unparalleled craftsmanship behind rare examples of porcelain, lacquer, armour, embroidery, metalwork and works on paper, and explores the local materials, techniques and traditions involved in their creation.



Stunning photography illustrates a royal narrative never before documented in a publication, as the relationship between the two 'island nations' develops from first encounters and early trade to diplomatic engagement and modern partnership. Highlights include one of the first two samurai armours to arrive on British soil, sent by Shōgun Tokugawa Hidetada to James I in 1613, and the future King George V's first-hand account of having his arms tattooed with a dragon and a tiger on a visit to Japan as a teenager in 1881.

Exquisite imperial gifts depicted in the book range from an embroidered folding screen sent to Queen Victoria by the Emperor Meiji to mark her Diamond Jubilee in 1897, to a cosmetic box by the great lacquer artist Shirayama Shōsai, presented to Queen Elizabeth II by the Emperor Shōwa (Hirohito) on the occasion of her Coronation in 1953.

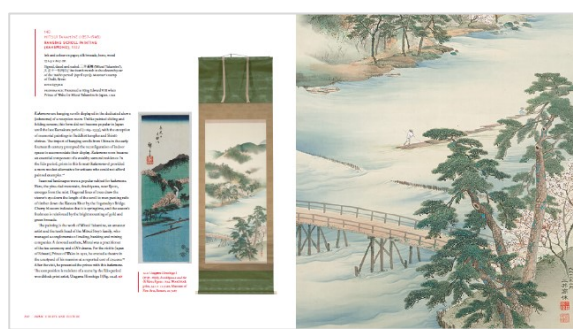
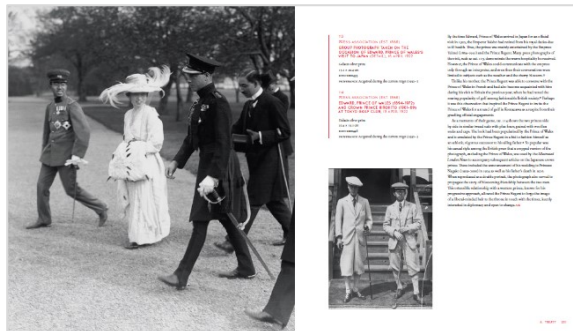
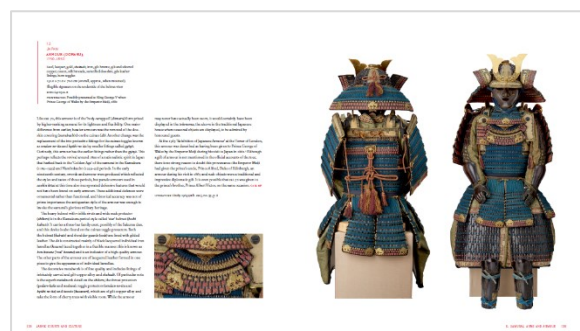
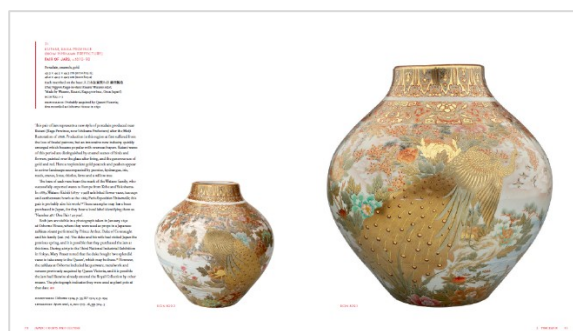
Japan: Courts and Culture accompanies the exhibition of the same name, which will open at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, at a date to be confirmed.

Japan: Courts and Culture is published by Royal Collection Trust on 16 May 2020. Rachel Peat is Assistant Curator of Non-European Works of Art, Royal Collection Trust.

Hardback: ISBN 978 1 909741 68 3. 270 x 235 mm, 320 pages, approx. 340 colour illustrations. Available at £35.00 from Royal Collection Trust shops and www.rct.uk/shop, and at £49.95 from all good bookshops.

For further information, imagery and to request a review copy, please contact the Royal Collection Trust Press Office, press@rct.uk, +44 (0)20 7839 1377.

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Notes to Editors

Royal Collection Trust, a department of the Royal Household, is responsible for the care of the Royal Collection and manages the public opening of the official residences of The Queen. Income generated from admissions and from associated commercial activities contributes directly to The Royal Collection Trust, a registered charity. The aims of The Trust are the care and conservation of the Royal Collection, and the promotion of access and enjoyment through exhibitions, publications, loans and educational programmes. Royal Collection Trust's work is undertaken without public funding of any kind.

The Royal Collection is among the largest and most important art collections in the world, and one of the last great European royal collections to remain intact. It comprises almost all aspects of the fine and decorative arts, and is spread among some 15 royal residences and former residences across the UK, most of which are regularly open to the public. The Royal Collection is held in trust by the Sovereign for her successors and the nation, and is not owned by The Queen as a private individual.