

Kawamura Yoichirō of Kyoto was a famous Japanese author and his war atlas appeared in several editions, printed in different sizes. A small one was published in 1878, 170 x 120 mm., and then in 1881 another version was issued which was half this size. Japanese miniature atlases seem to have a standard size of 120 x 85 mm.

About this time another historical atlas was published in both these formats, but with the small one appearing in November, one month after the miniature version (see 1879).



The 1881 edition of the war atlas contains fifty-two double-page maps of historic battlefields in Japan by Kawamura after Shohei Matsuda of Osaka. As usual, the book has soft covers and is side sewn with a title-slip on the cover. From a European perspective everything is back to front, with the reader starting at the rear.

The maps were printed from woodblocks in two halves, on pages of washi [Japanese paper] folded in concertina fashion and each half measures about 65 x 100 mm. They are numbered 2/53 in the lower left margin, with the title-page (above) being page number one and the colophon was printed on the reverse of the last map.

This edition was published in Tokyo by Matsuzaki Hanzō, who later issued another miniature atlas (see 1889a).

日本外史古戦場概図 ... 河村與一郎. 東京, 松崎半造, October Meiji 14.

*Nihon gaishi kosenjō gaizu* [Overview of historic battlefields in Japan] ... Kawamura Yoichirō. Tokyo, Matsuzaki Hanzō, October 1881.

