

In the Japanese Meiji Period [1868-1912] there were many and diverse cultural changes as the country succumbed to western influences and entered the modern age. The capital was transferred from Kyoto to Tokyo and the feudal road system of controlled travel (see 1851) was abolished. The Meiji government decided that railroad construction should go ahead immediately to assist with modernization and the centralization of power. The Tokaido Railway, which eventually ran almost parallel to the route of the famous Tokaido Highway (see 1851), was finally completed in 1889.


In the same year a handy little atlas was published in Tokyo by Matsuzaki Hanzō, which was for travellers over land and sea throughout the country. It was in the standard size for Japanese miniature atlases and as usual the book had soft covers and was side sewn with a title-slip on the cover. This volume was in an oblong/landscape format of 85 x 120 mm . and printed from woodblocks onto pages then folded concertina fashion.


From a European perspective everything is back to front, with the reader starting at the rear. At the beginning of the atlas there is a ticket calculator, followed by twentyseven numbered leaves of maps, with a colophon inside the rear cover. The fifty-four pages of highly detailed maps, $110 \times 75 \mathrm{~mm}$., show Japan's most important highways, railways and sea lanes. The seventeen routes, commencing with those from Tokyo and Yokohama, include the Tokaido, Oshukaido [to Hokkaido] and Koshukaido [to Nagasaki] highways. Four sailing ships are shown in Yokohama Harbour and Mount Asano, an active volcano, belches flames.


改正道中記 ．．．井上勝五郎．東京，松崎半造，January Meiji 22.
Kaisei dōchūki［Revised route map］．．．Inoue Shōgorō．Tokyo，Matsuzaki Hanzō， January 1889.


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