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## Geisha: A Photographic History, 1872-1912

*Stanley B. Burns, Elizabeth A. Burns*  
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**Stanley B. Burns, Elizabeth A. Burns : Geisha: A Photographic History, 1872-1912** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Geisha: A Photographic History, 1872-1912:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful - Exeptional!By Professor PicklepantsThe beautiful, large photos in this volume give a special insight into the old world of geisha. A Burns archive book, it lives up to the reputation for excellence that Stanley Burns established.It is enjoyable simply for the sheer loveliness of the photos. It is an oversized book, and most photographs take up at least half, and often, the full page. There are even a couple of two full page spreads. The photographs are expertly hand tinted.The text is also fascinating. However, the print is tiny! How strange, for such a large book!I learned many little interesting things about geisha here. Like, who are Number 9 girls? How can you tell a geisha from a prostitute? What do differences in clothing and shoes signify? Why don't they smile for photos?There are studio photos, photos taken for tourist consumption, postcards and a few stereoscope photos.Sections include:1. Preface (2 half-pages)2. Introduction (4 half-pages)3. The Opening and Closing of Japan to

Asian Western Influence (4 pages)4. Ukiyo-e: Pictures of the Floating World (1 page)5. History of Tourist Trade Photography (4 pages)6. Japanese Postcard Culture (2 pages)7. Geisha Chronology (6 pages, covering the years 680 C.E. -present)8. \*photograph section\* (about 80 pages, a few were blank or just had a little text)9. Glossary (1 page - very helpful!)10. References and Bibliography / Acknowledgements (2 pages)1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. One of My Favorite ThingsBy Ms.JonesWould pay for new, but with Good Used... Why would I? So I ordered one for my friend too :) Beautiful and Artful. I like the mix of No 9 Girls Geisha. Lover of the Arts Feminine beauty? This is for us4 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Geisha: A Photographic History.By Arthur V. RoweThis is a wonderful book filled with great old photographs and text. A book that anyone interested in other cultures would really enjoy!!!!

Japanese geisha and courtesans intrigue and fascinate Westerners. During the mid-nineteenth century, Japan opened its doors to the world and became an essential destination for travelers. Tourists desired images of landscapes and traditional Japanese culture, which Japanese photographers provided. They created souvenir albums consisting of hand-colored photographs individually chosen by the tourist. Many are so beautifully painted that they challenge modern sensibilities familiar with color photography. The photographic conventions were inspired by the aesthetics of the noted colored woodblock print medium of ukiyo-e and the privately published surimono. These works depicted the "floating world" courtesans, geisha, and entertainments which also were intriguing subject matter for tourists. In the seventeenth century, the social category of entertainer, or more exactly hostess and companion for men, was established the geisha, Japanese for "artist." Geisha are professional hostesses who train in the art of pleasing men, by performing traditional dance, playing instruments and singing, and intelligent conversation and humor. They were experts in tea ceremony and all aspects of dining. Their aim was to simulate the ambience and impression of Feudal Japan. It took years for an apprentice geisha (maiko) to learn the art, but the result was wealth, renown, and celebrity. This book, *Geisha: A Photographic History, 1880-1910*, documents the intimate life and culture of the nineteenth-century geisha. It portrays these artists in a cultural reality created by staged studio photography, private scenes, and rare outdoor images. The geisha is pictured performing her daily rituals and various arts: bathing, dressing, hair styling, dining, dancing, and playing instruments. Images of courtesans and other working women are presented alongside the geisha to show all sides of this enchanting aspect of Japanese culture. Completing the story are insightful essays on the history of nineteenth-century Japanese photography, the social history of the geisha, and the history of the opening of Japan.

From Publishers Weekly Hand-tinted images of geishas, courtesans and other 19th-century Japanese entertainers illustrate not only their history and culture, but also the development of commercial photography in this intriguing compilation assembled by [father-and-daughter] curators and collectors Stanley and Elizabeth Burns. Made by Japanese photographers for tourists who flooded the country after it opened to foreigners, these slightly faded images show geishas performing grooming, bathing and mealtime rituals on studio sets that conjure the luxurious interiors of feudal Japan. Printed in sepia tones and delicately washed in pastel colors, some were made by artists, who labored for hours on a single frame. An essay on the social history of the geisha analyzes the nuances of the clothing, postures and settings of these women, who were recognized in their own culture as artists, quite distinct from the prostitutes and courtesans sometimes accompanying the geishas' clients. Three essays and captions detailing Japanese history represent the key to understanding the symbolism in every image. But even as the authors seek to demystify the geisha and Japanese culture, the serene, tender and sometimes cryptic masks of the geishas retain an inexplicable allure. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Dr. Stanley B. Burns, MD, a practicing New York City ophthalmic surgeon, is also an internationally distinguished photo-historian, author, lecturer, curator, and collector. For the last three decades he has concentrated on collecting photographs relating to unexplored areas of history and photography. The collection now contains over 800,000 images, including a comprehensive compilation of early hand-colored photography. Photographs from his collection have been featured in numerous publications, films, and museum exhibitions. The Burns Archive and Press, his stock photography and publishing entity, is a valuable photographic resource for both researchers and the media. Burns is also a consultant for Hollywood feature filmmakers and a contributing editor for seven medical specialty journals. Utilizing his unique collection, Burns has written seventeen award-winning photo-history books and hundreds of articles, and curated dozens of exhibitions. Frances Channel Plus created a documentary on his work as part of their series *Great Collectors of the World*. Elizabeth A. Burns is the Creative Director of The Burns Archive and Press. She has curated and organized numerous exhibitions and books of photography, including *Sleeping Beauty II*. Among the exhibition topics she has prepared are early flight, spirit photography, criminology, Lewis Hine and the playground, African American history, and a special exhibition on respiratory disease entitled *Breath Taking Photographs*.