JAPAN CLASSICA

Classics of Japanese thought and history in Classical Chinese, with facing English translations

CATALOGUE 2026 · VOLUMES 1–10



Translated and annotated by
the East Asian Textual Heritage Association

WELIT BOOKS

About the Series

Japan Classica presents classics of Japanese literature and thought in facing-page bilingual editions, with the original text, a new English translation, and notes for readers of English.

For more than a thousand years the educated men and women of Japan, like those of Korea and Vietnam, wrote in Classical Chinese. Japan's Confucian scholars of the Edo period (1603–1868) produced histories, essays, poetry, and accounts of their neighbours in that shared written language, yet very little of it has ever been put into English. Japan Classica presents these works complete, with the original text on each left-hand page and an English translation facing it, so that readers can follow both.

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三韓紀略	*Sankan kiryaku*, A Japanese Scholar's Account of Korea Itō Tōgai 伊藤東涯 · History	Vol. 1–2
橘窓茶話	*Kissō chawa*, Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window Amenomori Hōshū 雨森芳洲 · Thought	Vol. 3–5
童子問	*Dōjimon*, Questions from a Youth Itō Jinsai 伊藤仁齋 · Thought	Vol. 6–7
言志錄	*Genshiroku*, Record of Aspirations Satō Issai 佐藤一齋 · Thought	Vol. 8
古今學變	*Kokon gakuhen*, Changes in Learning, Past and Present Itō Tōgai 伊藤東涯 · Thought	Vol. 9–10

EVERY VOLUME

Text	Classical Chinese, newly transcribed from the manuscript or early printed edition
Translation	New English translation on the facing page, with notes on persons, places, and books
Hardcover	5.5 × 8.5 in, case laminate, matte US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Kindle eBook	US $9.99 · £7.99 · €9.99
Publisher	Welit Books Publishing, New Jersey, USA

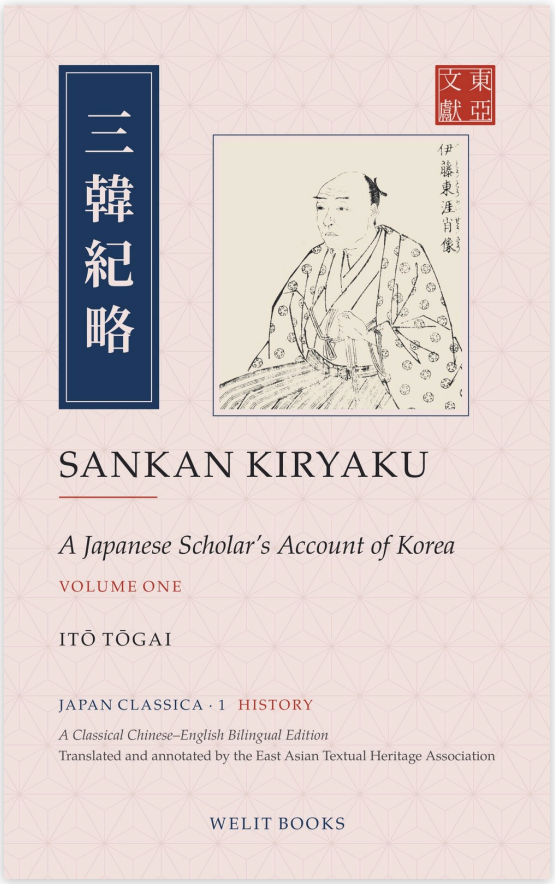
ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The East Asian Textual Heritage Association (EATHA) prepares facing-page English editions of classical texts from Korea, Japan, and China, published in the Korea Classica and Japan Classica series. Its president is Youn, Dae Shik, Professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. Its members are among the foremost specialists in their fields, including professors of East Asian philosophy who have completed the training program of the Institute for the Translation of Korean Classics and professors who serve as editors of A&HCI journals.

1

三韓紀略
SANKAN KIRYAKU

A Japanese Scholar's Account of Korea VOLUME ONE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-096-2**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 182 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Compiled 1704; manuscript, National Archives of Japan

ITŌ TŌGAI 伊藤東涯 (1670–1736)

Kings, reign titles, and the provinces of Korea, with the nine maps of the manuscript: the first Japanese handbook devoted to Korea (1704).

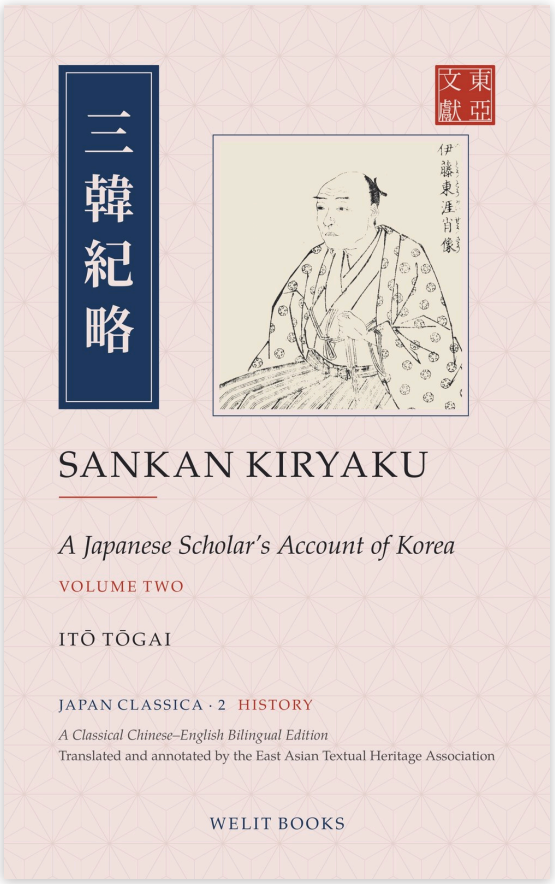
In 1704 Itō Tōgai, son of the great Confucian teacher Itō Jinsai and himself the most learned scholar of Kyoto, set out to tell his countrymen what was known of their nearest neighbor. Drawing on Korean, Chinese, and Japanese histories, he compiled the first Japanese handbook devoted to Korea.

This first volume gives the kings of Silla, Baekje, Goguryeo, Balhae, Goryeo, and Joseon, their reign titles, and the provinces and cities of the peninsula, with the nine hand-drawn maps of the manuscript in color. Along the way Tōgai weighs the Korean chronicles against the Japanese ones, and wonders aloud where each has gone astray.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the manuscript in the National Archives of Japan, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, the first in English, with notes on the persons, places, and sources.

2 三韓紀略 SANKAN KIRYAKU

A Japanese Scholar's Account of Korea VOLUME TWO



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-098-6**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 164 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Compiled 1704; manuscript, National Archives of Japan

ITŌ TŌGAI 伊藤東涯 (1670–1736)

Ranks and stipends, great clans, two hundred Korean books, and the Korean alphabet: what a Japanese scholar of 1704 could learn of Korea without ever setting foot there.

In 1704 Itō Tōgai, the most learned scholar of Kyoto, compiled the first Japanese handbook devoted to Korea. This second volume turns from kings and provinces to the people who ran the kingdom and the books they read.

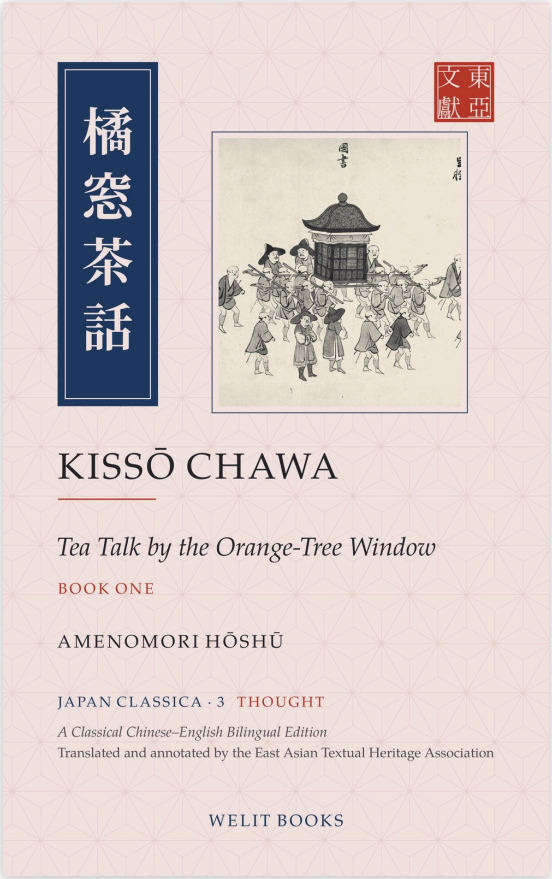
Tōgai sets out the ranks of Silla, Baekje, Goguryeo, and Balhae, and the offices, ranks, and stipends of Joseon down to the county magistrate; the clans of the peninsula and their ancestral seats; some two hundred Korean books, from the histories to the poets, with his own remarks on those he had seen; and, last of all, the Korean alphabet, copied letter by letter from Choe Sejin's primer of 1527, one of the earliest descriptions of the Korean script in Japan.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the manuscript in the National Archives of Japan, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on the persons, offices, and books.

3

橘窓茶話 巻上
KISSŌ CHAWA

Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window BOOK ONE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-100-6**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 204 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Printed 1786; woodblock edition, National Diet Library

AMENOMORI HŌSHŪ 雨森芳洲 (1668–1755)

Learning, the Three Teachings, and the hard work of reading Chinese: the table talk of the Tsushima scholar Amenomori Hōshū, Book One.

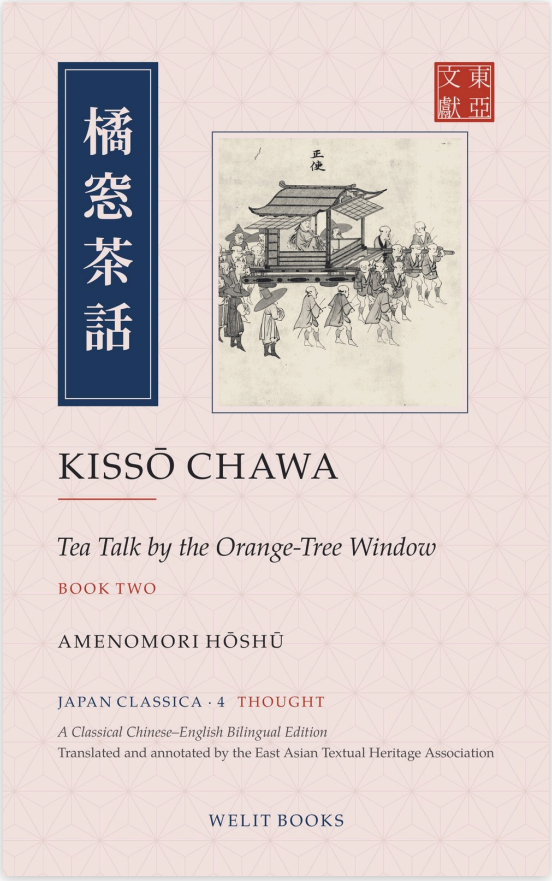
Amenomori Hōshū (1668–1755) served the lords of Tsushima for more than sixty years as their scholar and their officer for Korean affairs. He spoke Chinese and Korean, accompanied the Korean embassies to Edo, and taught that relations between neighbors must rest on sincerity and good faith. *Kissō chawa*, "Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window," gathers some six hundred short pieces of what he said to his pupils in his last years, published in three books in 1786.

This first volume presents the publisher's note and Preface of the 1786 edition and the two hundred and fifteen entries of Book One. Here Hōshū asks what learning is for, why the Buddha and Zhuangzi agree with Confucius on what lies above form, and how one should read the classics, and he recalls his teachers and fellow students in Kyoto and Edo.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the 1786 woodblock edition in the National Diet Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, places, books, and quotations.

4 橘窓茶話 卷中
KISSŌ CHAWA

Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window BOOK TWO



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-102-0**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 196 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Printed 1786; woodblock edition, National Diet Library

AMENOMORI HŌSHŪ 雨森芳洲 (1668–1755)

Buddhism and government, Korea and Japan, poetry and calligraphy: the table talk of the Tsushima scholar Amenomori Hōshū, Book Two.

Amenomori Hōshū (1668–1755) served the lords of Tsushima for more than sixty years as their scholar and their officer for Korean affairs. He spoke Chinese and Korean, accompanied the Korean embassies to Edo, and taught that relations between neighbors must rest on sincerity and good faith. *Kissō chawa*, "Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window," gathers some six hundred short pieces of what he said to his pupils in his last years, published in three books in 1786.

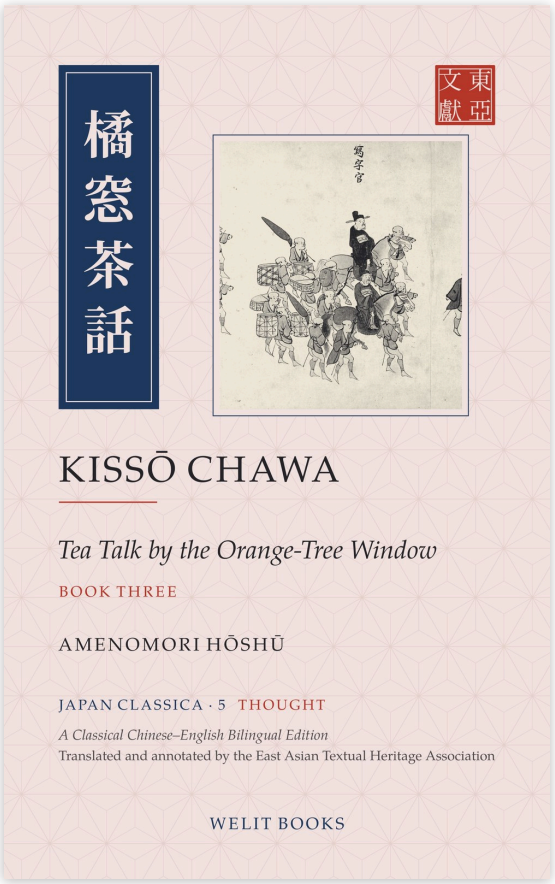
This second volume presents the one hundred and eighty-nine entries of Book Two. Hōshū weighs what Buddhism does for the common people, compares the customs and learning of Korea, China, and Japan, discusses poetry, brushwork, and the reading of history, and tells stories of the scholars and interpreters he knew.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the 1786 woodblock edition in the National Diet Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, places, books, and quotations.

5

橘窓茶話 巻下
KISSŌ CHAWA

Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window BOOK THREE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-104-4**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 174 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Printed 1786; woodblock edition, National Diet Library

AMENOMORI HŌSHŪ 雨森芳洲 (1668–1755)

Reading Chinese straight through, Shinto and Confucian learning, and the pleasures of old age: the table talk of the Tsushima scholar Amenomori Hōshū, Book Three.

Amenomori Hōshū (1668–1755) served the lords of Tsushima for more than sixty years as their scholar and their officer for Korean affairs. He spoke Chinese and Korean, accompanied the Korean embassies to Edo, and taught that relations between neighbors must rest on sincerity and good faith. *Kissō chawa*, "Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window," gathers some six hundred short pieces of what he said to his pupils in his last years, published in three books in 1786.

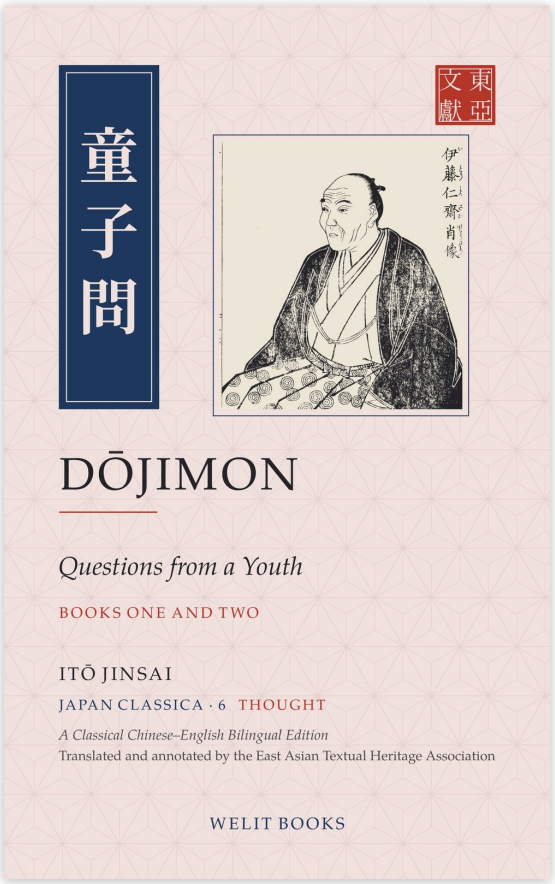
This third and last volume presents the one hundred and ninety-six entries of Book Three and the colophon of the 1786 edition. Hōshū argues that Japanese should learn to read Chinese aloud in its own order, as the Koreans do, judges the Shinto scholars of his day, discusses law, rank, and the selection of officials, and, at eighty, writes of his grandchildren and of the end he hopes for.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the 1786 woodblock edition in the National Diet Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, places, books, and quotations.

6

童子問 序・卷上・卷中
DŌJIMON

Questions from a Youth PREFACES, BOOKS ONE AND TWO



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-106-8**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 336 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Printed 1707; woodblock edition, Kyushu University Library

ITŌ JINSAI 伊藤仁齋 (1627–1705)

Why the Analects is the first book in the universe, and why the Way is near and plain: Itō Jinsai's dialogue with a young student, Books One and Two.

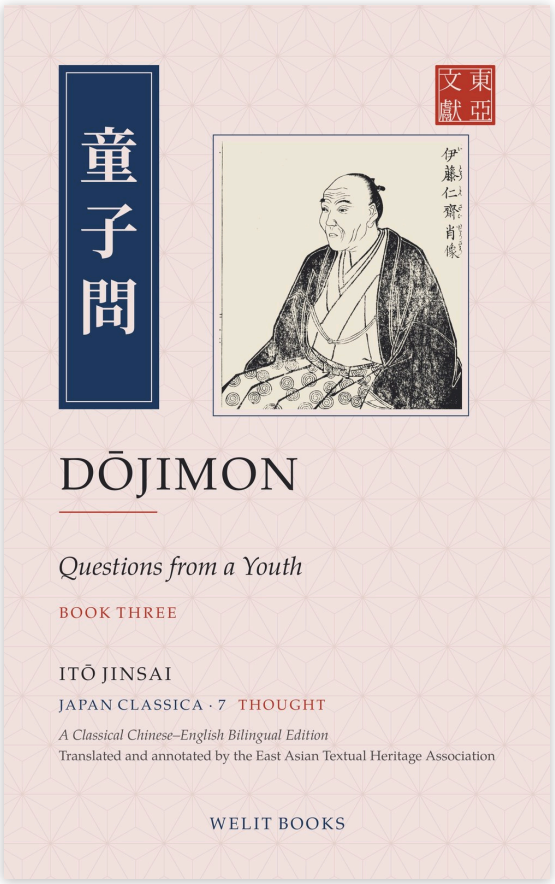
Itō Jinsai (1627–1705), a Kyoto townsman who never held office, began as a devoted follower of Zhu Xi and ended as his most searching critic. Setting the Song commentaries aside, he read the *Analects* and the *Mencius* for themselves and founded the school of "ancient meaning" (*kogigaku*) at his house in Horikawa. *Dōjimon*, "Questions from a Youth," is his answer, in 189 chapters, to a young student who believes the highest truth must be lofty and hard; it was printed by his son Itō Tōgai in 1707.

This first volume presents Itō Tōgai's preface to the printed edition of 1707, Jinsai's own note, and Books One and Two, one hundred and thirty-six chapters in all. Jinsai argues that the Way lies in the everyday relations of people and not in a principle hidden behind them, defines humaneness as love, describes the kingly Way as sharing likes and dislikes with the people, and explains why principle cannot be the root of heaven and earth.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the 1707 woodblock edition in the Kyushu University Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, books, and quotations.

7

童子問 卷下・跋
DŌJIMON
Questions from a Youth BOOK THREE AND POSTFACE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-108-2**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 172 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Printed 1707; woodblock edition, Kyushu University Library

ITŌ JINSAI 伊藤仁齋 (1627–1705)

Human nature, the reading of the classics and the histories, poetry and prose, and the worth of Confucius: Itō Jinsai's dialogue with a young student, Book Three.

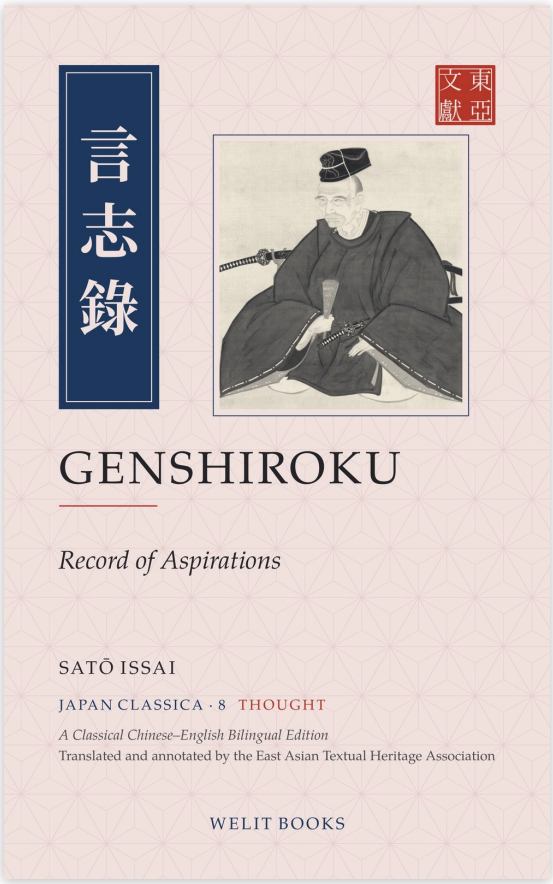
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This second and last volume presents Book Three, fifty-three chapters, and the postface of Hayashi Keihan to the edition of 1707. Jinsai defends Mencius's teaching that human nature is good, explains how the Six Classics, the Spring and Autumn Annals, and the histories should be read, judges poetry and prose, Laozi, Zhuangzi, Chan Buddhism, and the Song and Ming masters, and ends with why Confucius was worthier than Yao and Shun.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the 1707 woodblock edition in the Kyushu University Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, books, and quotations.

8 言志錄 GENSHIROKU

Record of Aspirations THE FIRST RECORD, COMPLETE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-110-5**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 176 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Printed 1824; first edition, Kyushu University Library

SATŌ ISSAI 佐藤一齋 (1772–1859)

Setting one's aim, facing death without fear, and reading the classics with one's own heart: the first of Satō Issai's four records of aspiration, complete.

Satō Issai (1772–1859) headed the school of the shogunate's hereditary Confucian scholars and, in his seventies, taught at its academy in Edo. Officially a follower of Zhu Xi and privately drawn to Wang Yangming, he trained many of the men who led Japan at the end of the Edo period. *Genshiroku*, "Record of Aspirations," is the first of the four notebooks of short sayings in Classical Chinese that he kept for forty years, and it was widely read through the nineteenth century.

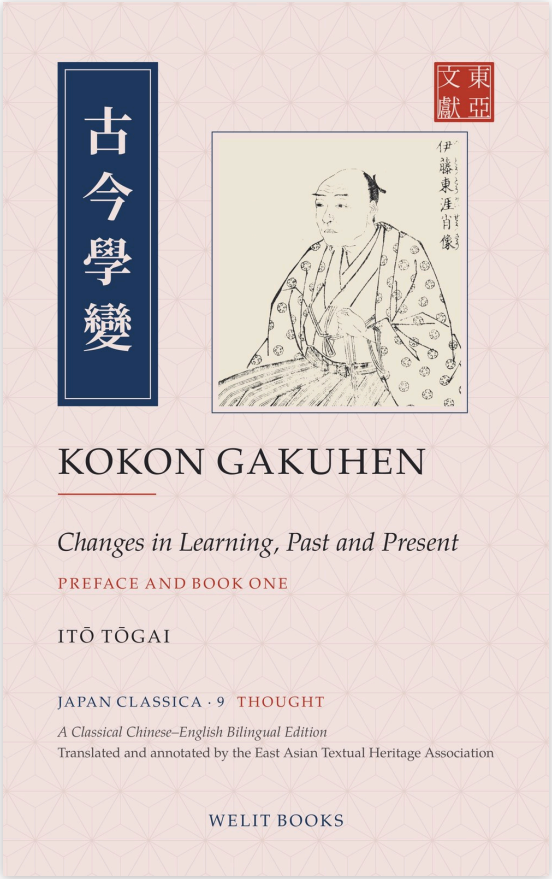
This volume presents the whole of the first record, 242 entries written between 1813 and 1824, with the postface of the lord who had it printed. Issai writes of setting one's aim as the root of learning, of the charge each life receives from Heaven, of desire and the body, of reverence and sincerity, of how one may be at peace in death, of reading the classics and the histories with one's own heart, of governing a realm in a long peace, and of the new learning from the West.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the first printed edition of 1824 in the Kyushu University Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, books, and quotations.

9

古今學變 序・卷上
KOKON GAKUHEN

Changes in Learning, Past and Present PREFACE AND BOOK ONE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-112-9**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 224 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Preface 1722; woodblock edition, Kyushu University Library

ITŌ TŌGAI 伊藤東涯 (1670–1736)

How the Way of the sage kings became the learning of later ages: Itō Tōgai's history of Confucian thought, from Yao and Shun to Confucius and Mencius.

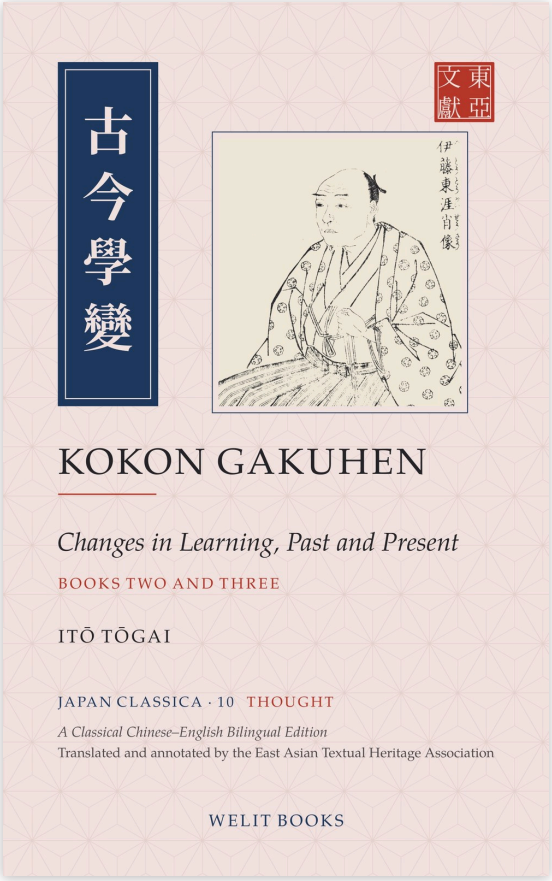
Itō Tōgai (1670–1736), son and successor of the Kyoto scholar Itō Jinsai, headed his father's school, the Kogidō, for more than thirty years and was one of the most learned men of his age. *Kokon gakuhen*, "Changes in Learning, Past and Present," tells how the Way of the sage kings, once one with government and the daily human relations, was changed by the Han into a system of five constants and five phases, and by the Song into a doctrine of the nature as principle.

This volume presents Tōgai's preface of 1722 and the whole of Book One, on the Way of Yao and Shun and of the Three Dynasties and on the teaching of Confucius, Zisi, and Mencius. Going through the Analects theme by theme, learning, the Odes, the Changes, the Spring and Autumn, humaneness, the rites, the decree, the nature, and the heart, Tōgai shows when each key word first appears and how little the oldest texts say of the mind and the nature.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the woodblock edition in the Kyushu University Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, books, and quotations.

10 古今學變 卷中・卷下・後序
KOKON GAKUHEN

Changes in Learning, Past and Present BOOKS TWO AND THREE



Hardcover ISBN	**979-8-90900-114-3**
Format	Hardcover, 5.5 × 8.5 in, 236 pp.
Price	US $49.99 · £39.99 · €46.99
Also	Kindle eBook, US $9.99
Original	Postface 1744; woodblock edition, Kyushu University Library

ITŌ TŌGAI 伊藤東涯 (1670–1736)

How the Han and the Song changed the learning of Confucius: Itō Tōgai's history of Confucian thought from Dong Zhongshu to Zhu Xi and Wang Yangming.

Itō Tōgai (1670–1736), son and successor of the Kyoto scholar Itō Jinsai, headed his father's school, the Kogidō, for more than thirty years and was one of the most learned men of his age. *Kokon gakuhen*, "Changes in Learning, Past and Present," tells how the Way of the sage kings, once one with government and the daily human relations, was changed by the Han into a system of five constants and five phases, and by the Song into a doctrine of the nature as principle.

This volume presents Books Two and Three and the postface of 1744. Book Two shows how the ancients named the virtues freely in pairs, threes, and fives, and how Dong Zhongshu, Yang Xiong, Zheng Xuan, and Ban Gu fixed them as the Five Constants and matched them with the Five Phases. Book Three examines Zhou Dunyi, Zhang Zai, the Cheng brothers, Li Tong, Zhu Xi, Lu Jiuyuan, and Wang Yangming, arguing that the Song masters, for all their seriousness, turned a learning of conduct into a learning of the mind.

This edition sets the Classical Chinese text, newly transcribed from the woodblock edition in the Kyushu University Library, beside a new English translation by the East Asian Textual Heritage Association, with notes on persons, books, and quotations.

Titles at a Glance

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2	三韓紀略 *Sankan kiryaku* A Japanese Scholar's Account of Korea, Volume Two	Itō Tōgai	979-8-90900-098-6	164
3	橘窓茶話 *Kissō chawa* Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window, Book One	Amenomori Hōshū	979-8-90900-100-6	204
4	橘窓茶話 *Kissō chawa* Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window, Book Two	Amenomori Hōshū	979-8-90900-102-0	196
5	橘窓茶話 *Kissō chawa* Tea Talk by the Orange-Tree Window, Book Three	Amenomori Hōshū	979-8-90900-104-4	174
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10	古今學變 *Kokon gakuhen* Changes in Learning, Past and Present, Books Two and Three	Itō Tōgai	979-8-90900-114-3	236

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