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**"Chinese as a Major Negotiating Language in the Opening of Japan:
Luo Sen's Journal of Perry's 1854 Expedition"**

Abstract

In the negotiations between the United States and Japan that resulted in the treaty marking the end of Japan's policy of seclusion (1854), not only were Japanese and English recognized as official languages, but Chinese and Dutch were as well. The chief U.S. interpreter, S. Wells Williams, had long experience in China and expertise in the Chinese language, but not in Japanese. For preparation of written documents and participation in "brush conversations," he required the assistance of an educated Chinese assistant, and for Perry's second voyage to Japan in 1854, he engaged the service of Luo Sen. Luo kept a journal of his visit to Japan and the Ryukyus that was published soon after his return to Hong Kong was in both Chinese and English. The English version was included in the official record of Perry's mission, published in 1856-57. Since then almost forgotten in the West, Luo's journal merits rediscovery for the insight it affords into cultural relations between Japan and China in the bakumatsu period; mutual understanding and misunderstanding among Japanese, Americans, and Chinese; and the status of Chinese as a negotiating language in the communications of two non-Chinese speaking nations.

(For more information, see <http://shinku.nichibun.ac.jp/jpub/pdf/jr/IJ1703.pdf>)