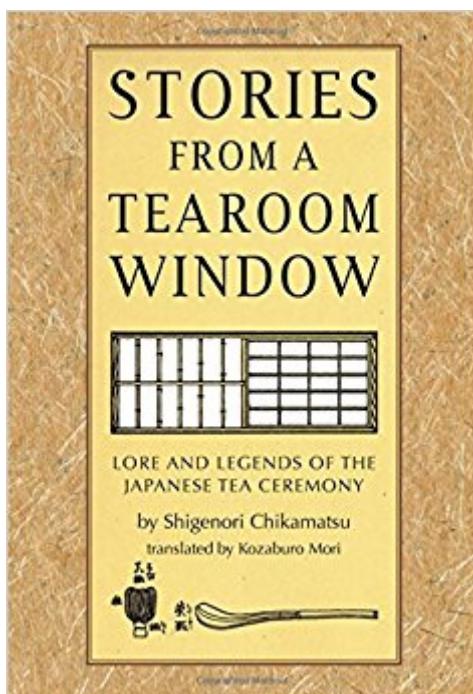


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Stories From A Tearoom Window: Lore And Legends Of The Japanese Tea Ceremony



Synopsis

The Japanese tea ceremony blends art with nature and has for centuries brought harmony to the daily life of its practitioners. Stories From a Tearoom Window is a timeless collection of tales of the ancient tea sages, compiled in the eighteenth century. Both longtime adherents and newcomers to the tea ceremony will be fascinated by these legends, anecdotes, bits of lore and history that so aptly express the essence of tea. Many of these stories center around the lives of the great tea masters. First among them is Sen no Rikyu, who perfected the tea ceremony and embodies its poise, modesty and refinement. Among the famous tales recounted here are those of Rikyu's morning glory tea ceremony and of his tragic death. Darker presences of the great warlords Nobunaga and Hideyoshi, who sponsored and also abused Rikyu, are manifest as well. Holding to the tea ceremony's core ideal of natural simplicity, author Shigenori Chikamatsu brings to the page stories which touch on the related arts of ceramics, poetry, Zen, calligraphy, and the origins of everyday items of Japanese life such as the cotton tabi split-toed socks and the bento lunchbox. Chapters include: Tearooms in the Old Days, Flowers in the Tea Garden, The Origins of Tea, Tealori's Tea Scoop, Famous Lacquerers, The Legacy of Rikyu's House, The Tea Ceremony for Warriors.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chikamatsu Shigenori was born in 1695 into a family of retainers to the Tokugawa clan in Owari province (Aichi prefecture). He was not a professional tea master, but rather a warrior who studied and deeply enjoyed the tea ceremony. In 1739, he compiled a manuscript on the tea ceremony that remained unpublished at his death in 1778. The manuscript lay neglected until someone

anonymously selected one hundred and twenty-nine of the original three hundred and five stories and published them in 1804 in the present collection. Kozaburo Mori and Toshiko Mori, who are husband and wife, collaborated in producing this book. Mrs. Mori learned the tea ceremony at a Sen school, taking the "tea name" of Soen. After many years of studying the classics of tea ceremony, she came upon an old manuscript of these stories in 1973, and a few years later brought out the first modern Japanese edition, on which this volume is based. Mr. Mori was Professor of English at Shikoku Women's University and Lecturer at Tokushima University. In 1980 he received the Order of the Sacred Treasure from the Emperor of Japan for his long service in education.

A pleasant, casual read for those tea breaks at work. As a student of the Urasenke school of chanoyu, I find this to be an appropriate addition to my texts on the ceremony.

Excellent trade. Thanks.

A perfect gift for a Japanese friend and any Japanese students of the language and culture. As good as a book on the subject can be.

Very interesting, I recommend it for all Tea Ceremony Students.

Loved it.

This book contains a collection of stories about the tea ceremony first published in 1804. It's fascinating for a modern Western reader to study its history in Japan and the high regard in which the tea utensils themselves were held. Individual implements were famous and even given names. Interesting anecdotes include the tea guest who stole a coveted tea caddy right out from under the host and a warrior who smashed his tea kettle before his death rather than let the enemy have it. Or how about the retainer who wanted his master's tea kettle really bad, but was told he'd have to score a big military victory before obtaining it? (He did.) Then there's the sharing of incense among tea guests by passing it from your left sleeve through your right one and on to the next person. These and numerous other tidbits will hold your attention as you peruse this slim volume. It has caused me to view my own tea belongings a bit differently - I've purchased several special handmade tea bowls and some fine teas as well!

A wonderful translation of the 1739 compilation of Tea stories by Shigenori Chikamatsu, are presented here in an inexpensive yet well constructed hardback that is sure to please connoisseurs of the Japanese Tea ceremony, historians and readers interested in Japanese culture. This edition is based on the work of Kozaburo and Toshiko Mori who brought out the first modern Japanese version of this book in the 1970's, providing us with insights into the lives of the Tea Masters, anecdotes, history and bits of lore concerning chanoyu. Whether you call it Chado, Chanoyu or The Japanese Tea Ceremony, this is one of my top ten books (in English) on the subject matter. You may also be interested in my top two: "The Tea Ceremony" by Sen'O Tanaka and Sendo Tanaka, and Dennis Hirota's "Wind in The Pines: Classic Writings of the Way of tea as a Buddhist Path."

Guys, this book was written by a ninja. Chikamatsu was a ninja. He also wrote a ninja manual.

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