

## Japanese Pharmacology

### Early Dutch Medicines in Japan

1. **DUTCH MEDICINE IN JAPAN.** Manuscript on paper, entitled in manuscript on label on upper cover “*Oranda kowa bassui*” [“*Excerpts of Translations of Dutch Medicine*”]. 13; 14; 23 folding leaves. Three parts in one vol. 8vo (237 x 170 mm.), orig. gray wrappers (discolored, some unimportant worming), new stitching. [Japan]: on final leaf, in trans.: “given to Itakura on 9 February 1675.”

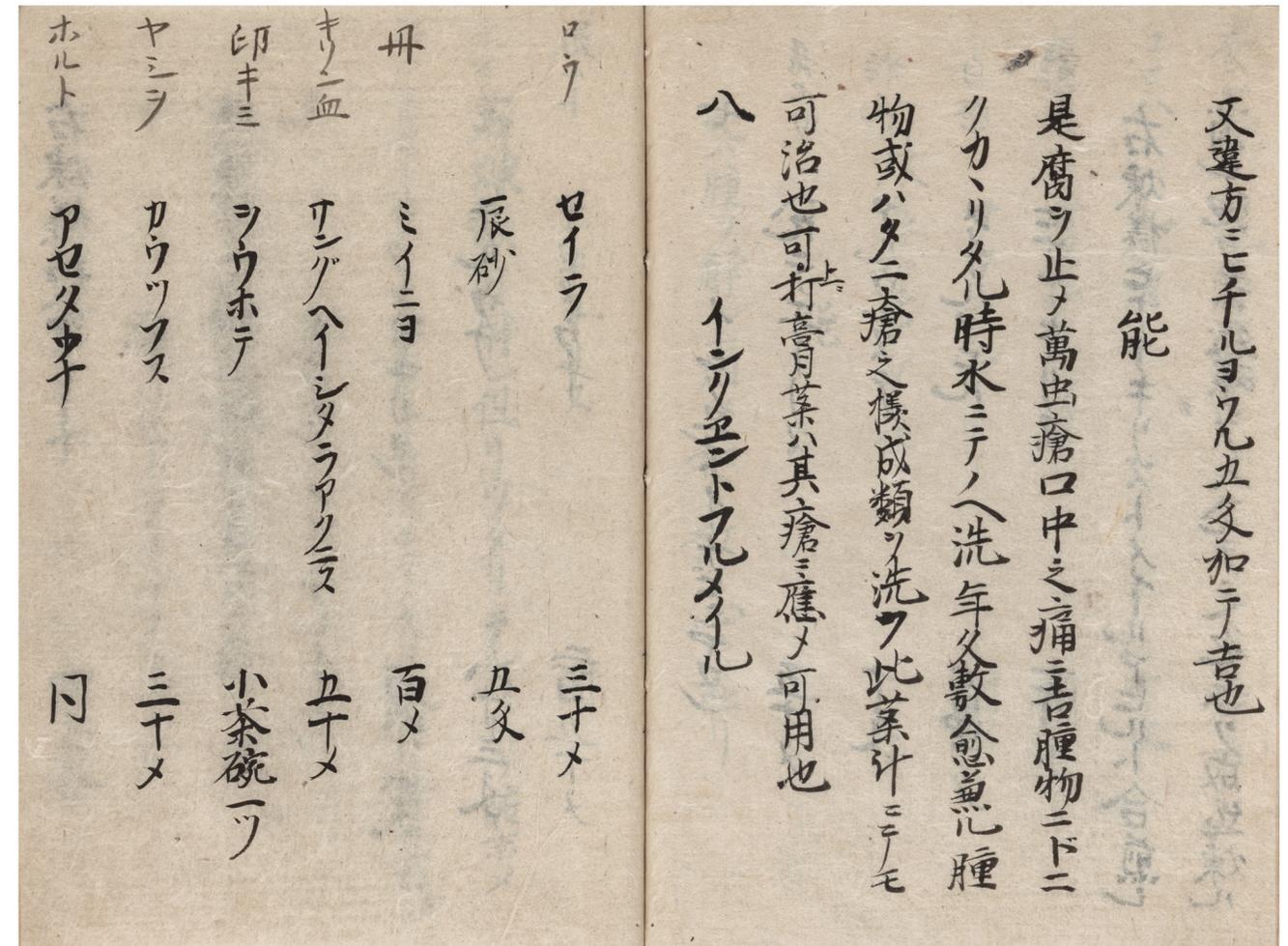
\$6500.00

A very early manuscript concerning the **transmission of Western medical knowledge to Japanese doctors.** We learn from the end of each part that the information on Dutch medicines presented here was given by Dutch doctors to Sosetsu Yamamura, who, in turn, gave it to Un’an (or Munekatsu) Takahashi, who wrote the present manuscript. Takahashi then gave this manuscript on 9 February 1675 to Itakura.

The first part is entitled “*Oranda kowa bassui*” [“*Excerpts of Translations of Dutch Medicine*”] and gives in katakana the Dutch names of a series of ingredients for medicines, along with their translations in Japanese, written in kanji and katakana. The ingredients include oils and essences derived from plants, fruits, woods, insects, animal organs, and minerals.

Parts II and III both have the same title: “*Oranda den nanko ho*” [“*Dutch Ointments and Methods of Treatment, passed on*”]. In these two parts we find the names of the medicines and the diseases they could cure, very exact recipes with ingredients, instructions, measurements, methods of application, and results.

Very good copy, preserved in a chitsu.



## Homeishu: Maintaining Life through Sake

2. **HERBAL LIQUORS.** Manuscript on paper, entitled on upper cover “*Meishu no ho narabini tsukurikata. Mankintan ho*” [“*Recipes of Fine Sake-[based Liquors] with Directions. Mankintan Recipes*”]. 13 folding leaves. 8vo (240 x 173 mm.), orig. wrappers (wrappers repaired, some minor dampstaining), new stitching. [Japan]: on final leaf of text: “mid-January 1806.”

**\$3750.00**

A most interesting manuscript providing recipes for **seven types of herbal sake-based liquors**, including jurokumi homeishu, a drink still manufactured today that contains 13 herbs. Homeishu was served to both Perry and Harris at official occasions.

Other medicinal drinks include a liquor using chrysanthemum flowers, mirin (a rice wine similar to sake but sweeter and with a lower alcohol content), another distilled drink using cherry blossoms, a liquor with both mirin and shochu, and a liquor employing fennel. At the end is a recipe for a patent medicine named Ise Asakuma Mankintan, which included gambier extract, buckwheat flowers, cinnamon, cloves, deer musk, and camphor.

On the final page we learn that the precious information in this manuscript should be kept carefully and was intended to be used by the recipient only.

Minor worming, repaired.

3. **KATO, Kensai & Genjun.** *Wakan ninjinko* [*Thoughts about Medicinal Plant Roots*]. Eight full-page woodcuts & two large woodcuts in the text. 24 leaves. 8vo, orig. blue wrappers (covers somewhat worn & wormed), new stitching. Edo & Osaka: Yuki Jirobei et al., 1774.

**\$2500.00**

Second edition, revised (1st ed.: 1748), of this uncommon work on **medicinal plant roots found in Japan, China, and Korea, their cultivation, and health benefits**. This work consists of three sections and two addenda, written by Kensai Kato (1669-1724), and revised by his son Genjun (1699-1785). Both were medical doctors.

Kensai wrote this book to explain and simplify the teachings on medicinal roots of his mentor, Jakusui Ino (1665-1715), physician and botanist. Ino studied Chinese herbalism and Confucianism with the scholar Jinsai Ito while a student in Kyoto and was in the process of writing a great encyclopedia of natural products at the time of his death. See Federico Marcon, *The Knowledge of Nature and the Nature of Knowledge in Early Modern Japan*, pp. 103-07.

The first section describes cultivation techniques and includes two woodcuts. The second part contains descriptions of the various roots, most notably ginseng. Part Three contains woodcuts of eight kinds of plant roots. Part Four is an addendum to the second part, written by Genjun and dated 1751, containing additional information. The fifth part is an addendum to the entire work.

There is much on conversations about **herbal medicines with “Korean messengers”** (merchants) in Nagasaki.

Very good copy, preserved in a chitsu. Some minor worming throughout, mostly carefully repaired.

### Post-Surgical Treatments

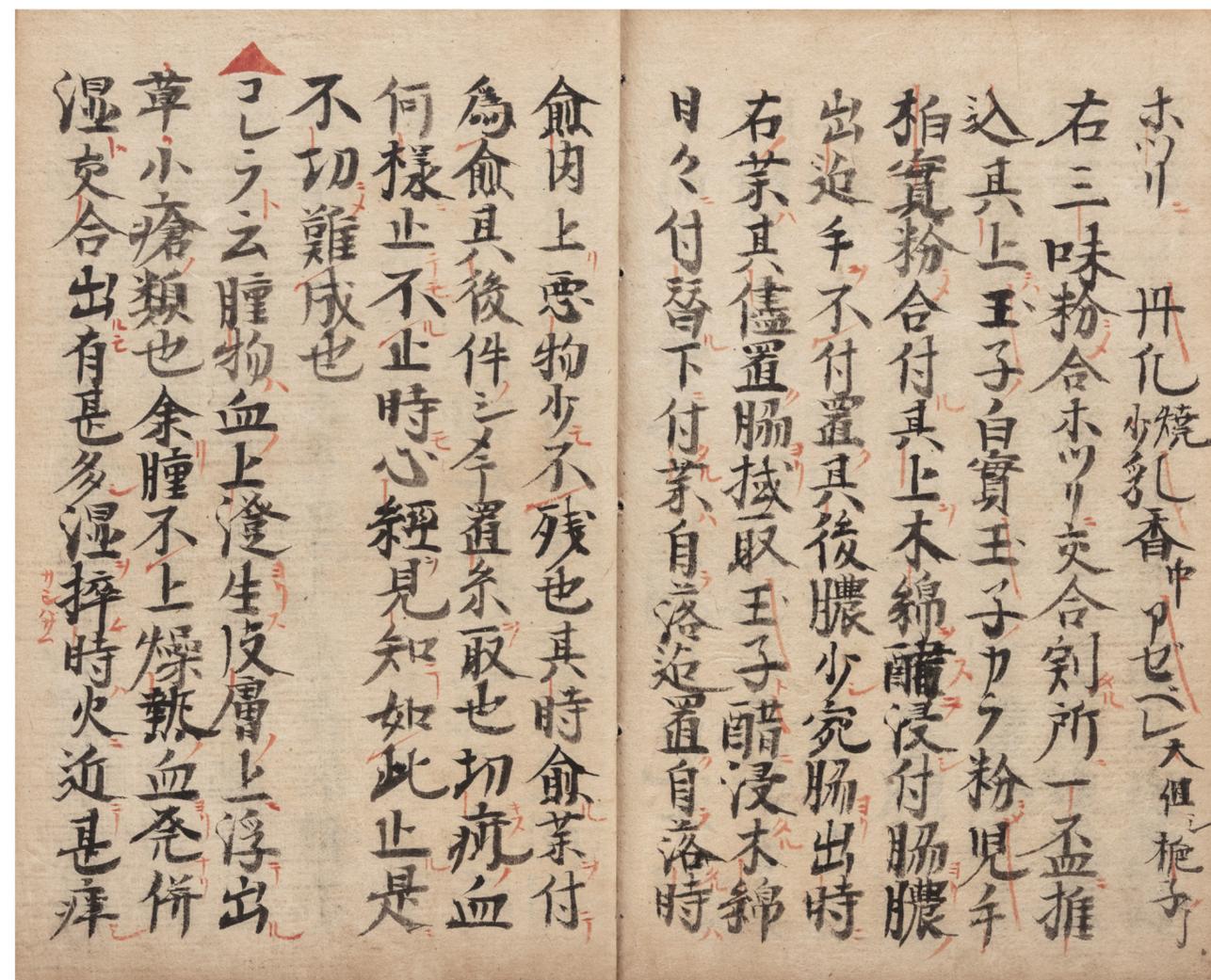
4. **RED HAIR MEDICINES.** Manuscript on paper, entitled in manuscript on label of upper cover “*Komo yuyaku ho den*” [“*Red Hair Medicines & Ointments Passed Down*”]; title on first leaf: “*Komo geka sho kan*” [“*Red Hair Surgery Book*”]. 32; 28 folding leaves. Two parts in one vol. 8vo (240 x 165 mm.), orig. wrappers, stained with persimmon juice (a little worn & rubbed), new stitching. [Japan]: late Edo.

\$3000.00

A most interesting manuscript that provides descriptions of ingredients and **more than 100 recipes for medicines**. The first section describes medicines for application to wounds and the surrounding skin following surgery and treatment of abscesses and fungal infections. This portion is written in katakana, indicating its foreign origins. The author has provided numerous descriptions of unguents to be applied using medicated plasters, cotton bandages, and sponges.

The second contains accounts of a number of ailments (cholera, hernia, hydrops, gangrene, abscesses, cancer, fevers, flatulence, etc.), their symptoms, diagnoses, and treatments using these medicines. Again recipes are provided with methods of application. In this part, the names of the medicines and ingredients are translated and written in kanji.

Fine condition.



### Red-Haired Medicines

5. **WESTERN MEDICINES IN JAPAN.** Manuscript on paper, entitled in manuscript on label on upper cover “*Komo ryu mae abura [or] yu koho*” [“*Collection of Red-Haired Style Oil Ointments*”]. 37 folding leaves. 8vo (226 x 162 mm.), orig. semi-stiff blue wrappers, new stitching. [Japan]: from the final page, in trans.: “copied in May 1703 by Chikatsune Hara.”

\$3500.00

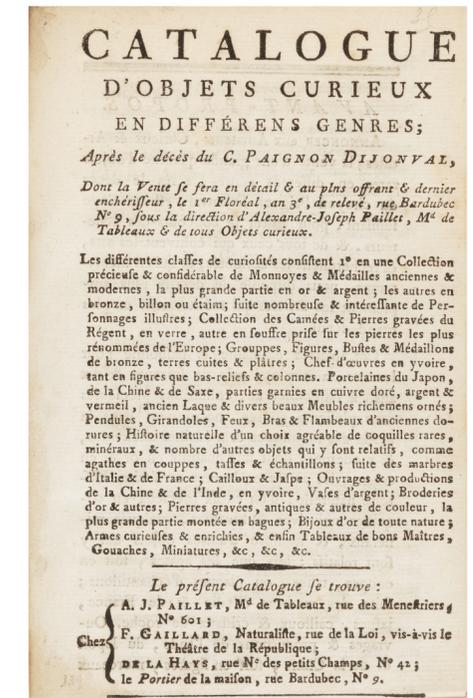
This quite early manuscript describes a series of about **80 Western “red-haired” pharmaceutical recipes** for preparing medicinal ointments and oils. The instructions are very detailed; given are measurements, methods of preparation, diseases for which each medicine could be used, etc. Most of the names of the ointments are transliterated into katakana, and occasionally the Chinese and Japanese names are provided in kanji. Many of the **medicines are described as having been handed down by word of mouth from teacher (i.e., Western doctors)** to disciple.

Some of the names are rather simple: “Blue Ointment,” “Black Ointment,” “Red Ointment,” “Suction Ointment,” etc. One of the preparations is still manufactured in Asia — “Wan Ying Ointment” — and used for rheumatism, soreness, joint pain, and sprains.

Fine copy.



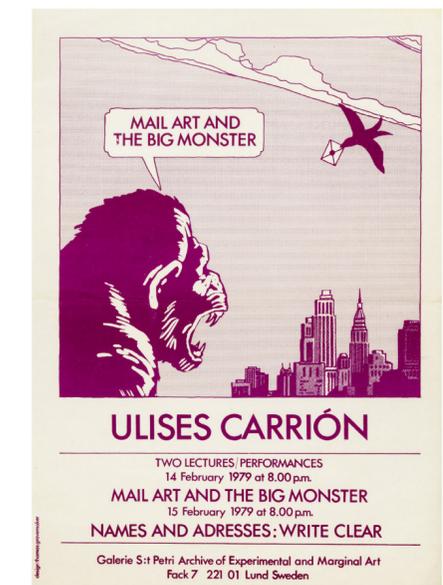
1st edition of Naude’s “*Advis pour dresser une Bibliotheque*” (1627)



Unrecorded sale catalogue of a French wunderkammer



Inscribed copy of LeWitt’s “*Autobiography*”, with an original drawing



Rare poster for Ulises Carrion’s lectures at Galerie S:t Petri in Lund, Sweden