A.M. TRACEY WOODWARD’S SPECIALIZED COLLECTIONS OF JAPAN DONATED BY L.W. CHRISTENSON

FINDING GUIDE

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Album 1, Plate 3, Wove Paper, Position 5

Smithsonian
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Smithsonian National Postal Museum, A.M. Tracey Woodward’s Specialized Collections of Japan,
Donated by L.W. Christenson Accession Numbers 230483 and 233688, p. 2.
**COLLECTION SCOPE & CONTENT**

These specialized collections of A. M. Tracey Woodward's original plating study of the 1, 2 and 4-sen stamps of Japan issued between 1872 and 1874 are contained in eight albums.

**PROVENANCE**

L. W. Christenson donated a specialized 4-volume collection of Japan. The 1-sen blue postage stamp of 1872 was donated on April 26, 1960 (Accession Number 230483). There are a total of 1,156 objects in these volumes labeled Volumes 1 - 4.

On November 30, 1960 (Accession Number 233688), he donated another specialized 4-volume collection of Japan the 2-sen yellow and 4-sen rose postage stamps of 1872 – 1874. There are a total of 1,138 objects in these volumes labeled as Volumes 5 - 8.

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

These albums contain the original plating study of A. M. Tracey Woodward, which resulted in several chapters of his two-volume book entitled *Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies* (1928). It is one of philately’s rarest books and the NPM library has two copies—one a regular edition, the other a reviewer’s copy.

In 1929, A.M. Tracey Woodward received the Crawford Medal, a vermeil medal, awarded by the Royal Philatelic Society of London for the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the relevant period. The medal is named after James Lindsay, 26th Earl of Crawford, who by the time of his death in 1913 had amassed the greatest philatelic library of his time.

There are eight albums in the collection; the first four albums cover the 1-sen stamp, the next three albums cover the 2-sen stamp and the last album covers the 4-sen stamp.
CONTAINER INVENTORY

Album 1 – Introductory Page

Album 1: 59 pages of the July 20, 1872 1-sen blue stamp. This portion of the plating study is discussed in The Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies, Volume 1, Chapter 13, pages 179 - 192.

The album covers plates 1 – 5 showing examples of different types for each plate, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.
**Album 2:** 53 pages of the July 20, 1872 1-sen blue stamp.

The album covers plates 6 – 14 showing examples of different types for each plate, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.

![Image of Album 2 – Plate 12]

**Album 3:** 42 pages of the July 20, 1872 1-sen blue stamp.

The album covers plates 15 - 22 showing examples of different types for each plate, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.

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**Album 4:** 44 pages of the July 20, 1872 1-sen blue stamp.

The album covers plates 23 - 30 showing examples of different types for each plate, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.
**Album 5:** 40 pages of the June 5, 1873 2-sen yellow stamp. This portion of the plating study is discussed in *The Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies*, Volume 1, Chapter 15, pages 219 - 222.

The album covers plates 1 - 22 showing examples of different types for each plate, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.

**Album 6:** 61 pages of the February, 1874 2-sen yellow syllabic stamp.

The album covers the 2-sen yellow showing examples of 11 different syllabic characters, different plate types, wove, foreign wove, and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.

Album 7 – Syllabic “nu” in a box covering crossed kiri branches above SEN
**Album 7:** 61 pages of the February, 1874 2-sen yellow syllabic stamp.

The album covers the 2-sen yellow showing examples of 12 different syllabic characters, different plate types, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.

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**Album 8:** 57 pages of the April 1, 1873 4-sen rose stamp. This portion of the plating study is discussed in *The Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies*, Volume 1, Chapter 15, pages 211 - 218.

The album covers plates 1 - 18 showing examples of specimens, different plate types, wove and laid paper, perforation varieties, shades, errors and varieties, mint and used stamps. Also, there are detailed drawings of each plate.
Resources found in the Smithsonian National Postal Museum Library are:


This finding aid was prepared with the assistance of the Council of Philatelists Research Committee members Chair Roger Brody, John Hotchner, Robert Odenweller, Robert Rose, Herbert Trenchard, Alan Warren, Richard Winter, NPM Database Administrator Kate Diggle, and Museum Specialist James O’Donnell, Preservation Technician Manda Kowalczyk, and Museum Technician Rebecca Johnson. Special thanks go to Michael Rogers of the International Society for Japanese Philately and H. James Maxwell of the The China Stamp Society, Inc. for their assistance in helping the Committee identify the unique items described above.

For information about the International Society of Japanese Philately see their website www.isjp.org.

Images are from the A. M. Tracey Woodward Specialized Collection of Japan donated by L.W. Christenson at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.