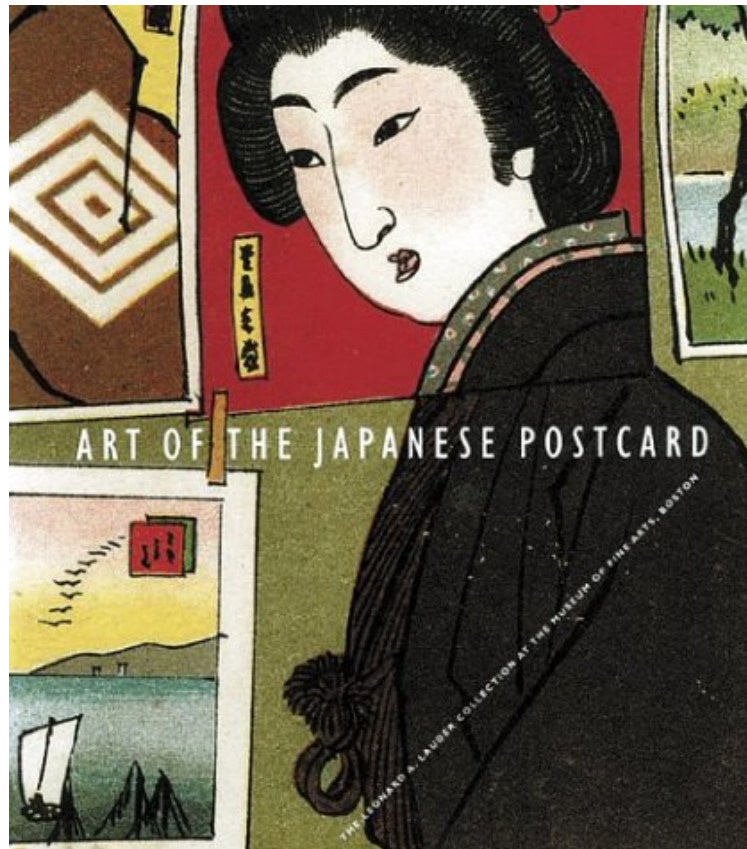


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## Art of the Japanese Postcard: Masterpieces from the Leonard A. Lauder Collection

*Kendall Brown, Leonard Lauder, Anne Nishimura Morse, J. Thomas Rimer*  
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**Kendall Brown, Leonard Lauder, Anne Nishimura Morse, J. Thomas Rimer : Art of the Japanese Postcard: Masterpieces from the Leonard A. Lauder Collection** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art of the Japanese Postcard: Masterpieces from the Leonard A. Lauder Collection:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. minor league art form given major league treatment By Merrily Baird Score another home run for Boston's Museum of Fine Arts for recognizing the importance of the Lauder collection of Japanese postcards and then producing a significant book to commemorate the 2004 exhibition of these miniature masterpieces. The MFA has again assembled a cast of formidable experts to provide both historical and artistic perspective for the late 19th- and early 20th-century postcards produced by many of Japan's leading artists. It is thus the case that the text chapters that open "Art of the Japanese Postcard: Leonard A. Lauder Collection at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston" help guide the reader through the changes in graphic art and design that followed Japan's opening to the West and the death of the classic "ukiyo-e"-style woodblock art. The postcards themselves are stunning, meriting repeated voyages through this beautifully designed and printed volume. And there are numerous other reasons to savor the images. For example, the cards that appear as numbers 9 through 60 in the catalogue/book

all reflect Japan's contemporaneous take on the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05. Then there are chapters that demonstrate the impact of the West's Art Nouveau and Art Deco movements on Japanese art sensibilities. Three other cards, my favorites, illustrate famous "haiku" poems, with the artist, Saito Shoshu, using the themes of the cards to stylize the calligraphy with which the poems are rendered. Delight here in a snail's slime trail blended into calligraphic brushwork, an underwater scene in which the calligraphy takes on a very fluid style, and a poem broken up to reflect the hopping of a frog. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. More Than Just Illustrations By VanI originally bought this for the illustrations but found the text equally valuable. The authors describe the history of Japanese postcards, the various styles, their uses, the printing methods and the artists. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Companion essays delineate the history of this art form By Midwest Book Review The collaborative project of Anne Nishimura Morse, J. Thomas Rimer, and Kendall H. Brown, *Art Of The Japanese Postcard* is a gorgeous, full-color gallery of Japanese postcards from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Far more than casual items to mail, most of these cards were designed by prominent artists and feature striking use of color and imagery. A few companion essays delineate the history of this unique art form as well as the immortalization of heart-stirring pictures meant to be sent and shared. *Art Of The Japanese Postcard* is an impressive and seminal work which is particularly recommended to students of Japanese Popular Culture.

From the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century, Japan was a vital world center for postcard art. More than just casual mail pieces, these postcards were often designed by prominent artists and had a visual impact that belied their modest format. Remarkably beautiful examples of graphic design in their own right, they also recorded the shifting definitions of "East" and "West" at a time when such European currents as Art Nouveau began to show up in Japanese visual productions. *Art of the Japanese Postcard* presents 300 full-color examples of these cards, culled from the vast Leonard A. Lauder Collection. They are astonishing not only for their beauty and the quality of their printing, but also for the insight they provide into contemporary Japanese artistic practices--insights not relayed in standard histories that focus on painting and sculpture--as well as for the fluid interplay of European and Japanese modes. Authoritative essays by leading scholars of Japanese art and culture, plus a statement by the collector himself, highlight the design, development, and cultural function of these rarely studied, but highly influential and visually exciting, expressions of graphic genius.