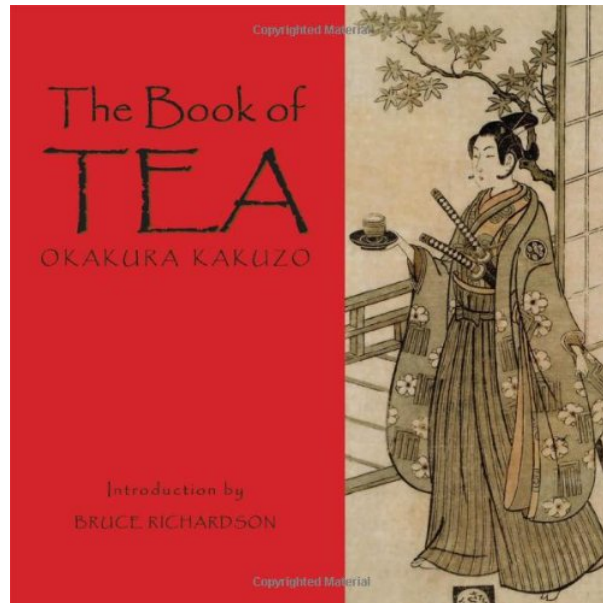
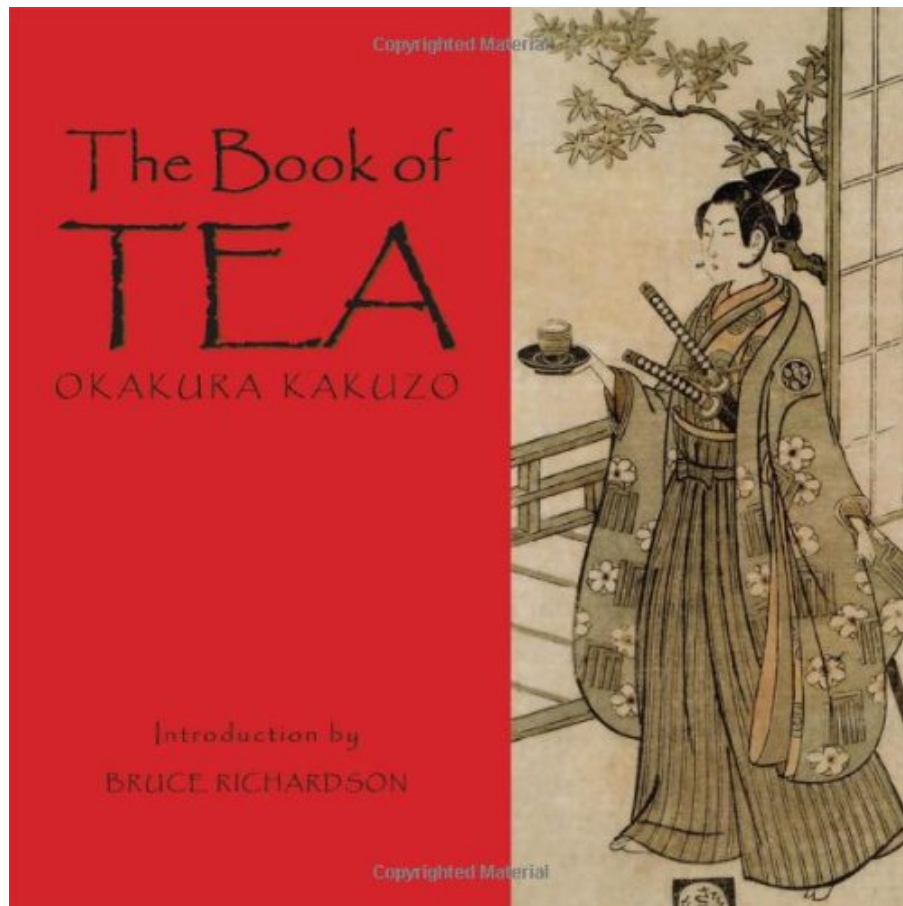


THE BOOK OF TEA BY OKAKURA KAKUZO



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Review

For those of us who, for years, have loved and been influenced by Okakura's prose and philosophy, this new edition brings fresh insight and clarity to the work. With sensitivity, admiration and profound appreciation for Okakura, Bruce Richardson unravels the complex and intriguing story that lies behind the original **Book of Tea**. All tea lovers will treasure this beautiful and valuable work. --Jane Pettigrew, London author

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Okakura was such a charismatic genius he is called by the Japanese *tensin* which means teacher; which he certainly was. But they have no word for bridge person, any more than we do in English, yet this describes the essence of Okakura's life work. He bridged cultures that seemed worlds apart, interpreting Japan and Asian ways to the West and in Japan itself finally achieving the honored status of *tensin*. **The Book of Tea** is only the best known of his monuments. What a life story is now revealed to us!

Bruce Richardson resurrects Okakura's life and times by means of exquisitely chosen and reproduced illustrations. It is rare for writing as exquisite as Okakura's to be illustrated just as exquisitely and this Benjamin Press Edition of **The Book of Tea** is in its own right a landmark in the art of bookmaking. We look through Mr. Richardson's educated eye at period photos and portraits from the time Okakura at 24 sailed from Yohohama to San Francisco in 1886. Already an enfant terrible in the Japanese art world, he was eager to discover new worlds - America and Europe - where his impact was to prove scarcely less epochal than it had been on his abandoned native soil.

Richardson also shows us how Okakura inspired and influenced several generations of American genius--very much including Frank Lloyd Wright and Georgia O'Keeffe--through **The Book of Tea**. Why has all this been kept secret up til now?

This new edition represents a work of generosity and love on the part of Bruce Richardson: It is a beautiful

work of art in tribute to a beautiful work of art. --James Norwood Pratt's review in TeaTime magazine

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Okakura Kakuzo was born in the bustling seaport of Yokohama in 1862, only eight years after Commodore Perry's "Black Ships" prried open Japan's international trade gates. Christian missionaries taught him to speak English and sing Methodist hymns, while Buddhist monks schooled him in Confucianism and drinking green tea. Working alongside his teachers at Tokyo University, all imported from New England, Okakura helped save Japan's artistic traditions from being tossed aside in favor of modern Western aesthetics.

By the turn of the twentieth century, Okakura had made his way to Boston, where he became the Director of the Asian Arts Department at the Museum of Fine Arts and the favorite companion of Back Bay society's grande dame, Isabella Stewart Gardner. Okakura found tea to be the perfect metaphor for interpreting the Japanese art spirit to a Boston culture thirsty for a counterpoint to America's headlong rush into materialism and wealth. The Book of Tea was first published in 1906 and has never been out of print. It is one of the most influential books ever written for those looking to infuse the tea spirit into their lives.

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Discover the fascinating character of Okakura Kakuzo and the story of how he came to write one of the twentieth century's most influential books on art, beauty, and simplicity--all steeped in the world's communal cup of tea. His incredible journey took him from Yokohama to New York, Paris, Bombay, and Boston, where his life intertwined with such luminaries as Rabindranath Tagore, John Singer Sargent, Henry James, John La Farge, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Ezra Pound, and Henri Matisse. His writings influenced the work of such notable artists as Frank Lloyd Wright and Georgia O'Keefe. American tea writer Bruce Richardson includes many historical photographs and illustrations in this updated edition of Okakura's classic text, along with unique insight into how his philosophy continues to inspire today's tea culture.

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As understood, book *The Book Of Tea By Okakura Kakuzo* is well known as the home window to open the world, the life, as well as extra thing. This is just what the people currently require so much. Even there are many people who don't like reading; it can be a choice as recommendation. When you really require the means to develop the next inspirations, book The Book Of Tea By Okakura Kakuzo will really guide you to the means. In addition this The Book Of Tea By Okakura Kakuzo, you will have no regret to obtain it.

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THE BOOK OF TEA BY OKAKURA KAKUZO PDF

The original 1906 edition of *The Book of Tea* is one of the classic texts found on the desks of artists, poets, teaists and Zen Buddhists around the world. The book has been re-designed and expanded for a contemporary audience.

You will discover the fascinating character of Okakura Kakuzo and the story of how he came to write one of the twentieth century's most influential books on art, beauty, and simplicity—all steeped in the world's communal cup of tea. His incredible journey took him from Yokohama to New York, Paris, Bombay, and Boston, where his life intertwined with such luminaries as Rabindranath Tagore, John Singer Sargent, Henry James, John La Farge, Isabella Stewart Gardner, Ezra Pound, and Henri Matisse. His writings influenced the work of such notable artists as Frank Lloyd Wright and Georgia O'Keeffe.

American tea writer Bruce Richardson includes many historical photographs and illustrations in this updated edition of Okakura's classic text, along with unique insight into how Okakura's philosophy continues to inspire today's tea culture. Plus, Richardson includes an all-new chapter on America's thirst for Japanese tea during the late 1800s, illustrated with archival photographs.

A beautiful work of art in tribute to a beautiful work of art. - Norwood Pratt, San Francisco

For those of us who, for years, have loved and been influenced by Okakura's prose and philosophy, this new edition brings fresh insight and clarity to the work. With sensitivity, admiration and profound appreciation for Okakura, Bruce Richardson unravels the complex and intriguing story that lies behind the original *Book of Tea*. All tea lovers will treasure this beautiful and valuable work. -Jane Pettigrew, London

I had read about Okakura and visited the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, but never realized the importance of the relationship between the two and how they embodied the bridge between East and West. Nor, until now, had I taken the time to read the entire book. How I wish that I had read it before I visited Japan where I learned that "Zen is another word for tea." The chapter titled *The Cup of Humanity* contains a sentence that seems ripped from today's headlines, "The heaven of modern humanity is indeed shattered in the Cyclopean struggle for wealth and power... Meanwhile, let us have a sip of tea." I'm resisting the urge to swallow this book whole, and forcing myself to savor it one cup of tea at a time. -Elizabeth Knight, author of "Tea with Friends"

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

An open window into the tea gardens of Japan.

By Fred

This is the second version of "The Book of Tea" I have owned. This version has some good photographs and an extensive introduction. This book is a must have for anyone with any level of interest in Taoism, Zen, Teism, Tea, or Japanese culture and it's relations with the West. The writer also includes a chapter on art appreciation and flower arrangement, and the influence of Teism on those particular arts, among others.

Okakura Kakuzo was a wordsmith beyond poetic in his prose descriptions of the Orient. His observations about America and western ways are incisive and deep. There is a reason he is so revered by those who know.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

an important moment in Art

By kennethb

Okakura Kakuzo was an important influence on the Gardner circle to this day and his insights brought a clarity to the movement toward the modern age and the wisdom of the past setting a precursor to the spirit of the modern soon to emerge at the Armory show. this book, only outwardly about tea, calls to the artistic spirit in all. a good edition of a timeless classic belonging in the library of every artist- though it will spend most of its time in studio, or at bedside.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

It's not just about a cup of tea!

By Cassy

A great book for anyone who enjoys learning more about the mingling of eastern and western cultures. Okakura made a statement in the Boston area, and he influenced many greats such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Georgia O' Keefe. This book was a gift, and it surprised me, you can't judge a book by it's cover!

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