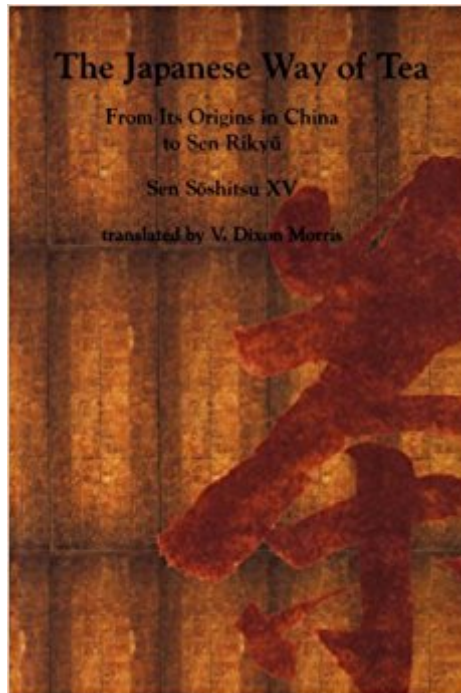


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The Japanese Way Of Tea: From Its Origins In China To Sen Rikyu



Synopsis

Almost a millennium before the perfection of chado (the Way of Tea) by Sen Rikyu (1522-1591), the Chinese scholar-official Lu Yu (d. 785) wrote exhaustively about tea and its virtues. Grand Tea Master Sen Soshitsu begins his examination of tea's origins and development from the eighth century through the Heian and medieval eras. This volume illustrates that modes of thinking and practices now associated with the Japanese Way of Tea can be traced to China--where from the classical period tea was imbued with a spiritual quality.

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Customer Reviews

Fills a major gap in the study of tea in English. No other book-length study exists on the origins and development of tea drinking in China and Japan.... [T]he book offers occasional insights into the practice of tea that are true gems, obvious products of a tea master and scholar.-- "Monumenta Nipponica"Convey[s] eloquently a well-researched history of the tradition, and model[s] the praxis of the tradition in its contemporary form.-- "Pacific Affairs"

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A detailed but easily read history of tea in Japan and their philosophical approach to it.

This scholarly work first examines the discovery & establishment of tea & tea culture in China, in particular the profound influence of Lu Yu in developing a Chinese tea tradition. The remainder of the book is devoted to explaining the development of the peculiarly Japanese tea culture which grew from Chinese beginnings following tea's introduction to Japan from China during the Tang Dynasty. The book is well illustrated with some superb full colour plates, and a number of black & white photographs. The author is the fifteenth generation tea-master entrusted with preserving the history and practising the art of the Japanese tea traditions.

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