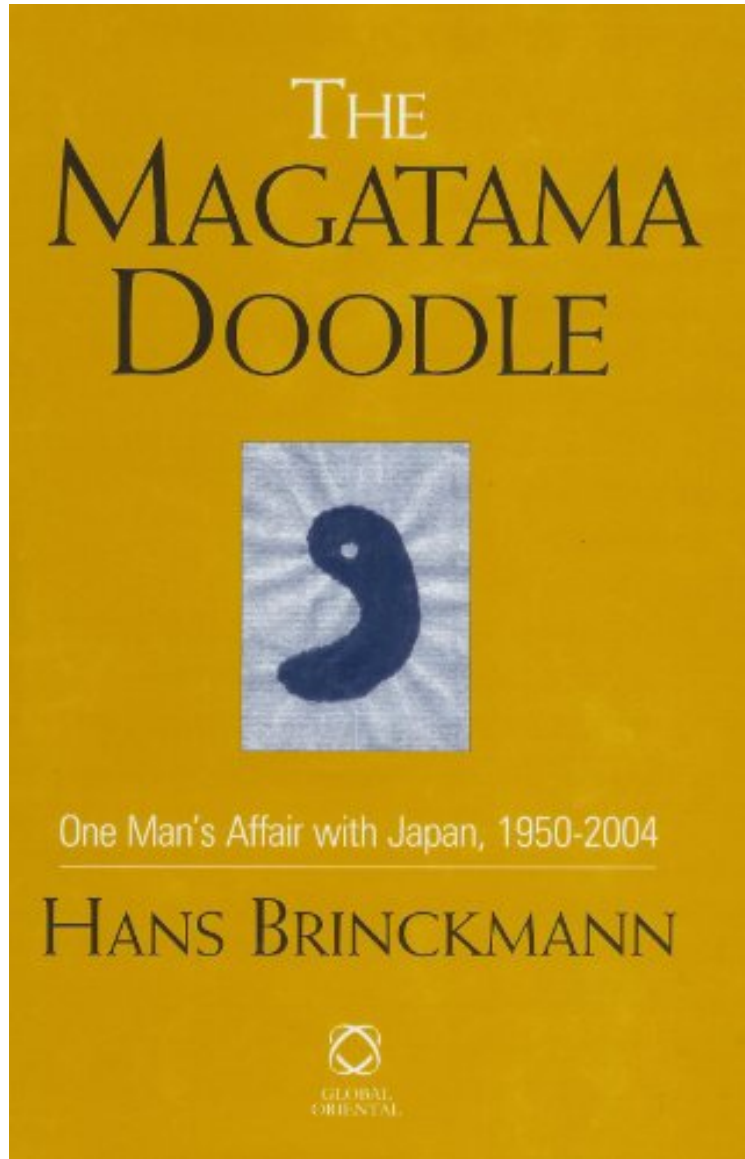


[E-BOOK] The Magatama Doodle: One Man's Affair With Japan, 1950-2004

The Magatama Doodle: One Man's Affair With Japan, 1950-2004

Hans Brinckmann

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#8441336 in Books Global Oriental 2004-11-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.80 x 1.01 x 5.76l, 1.05
#File Name: 1901903737256 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Hans Brinckmann : The Magatama Doodle: One Man's Affair With Japan, 1950-2004 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Magatama Doodle: One Man's Affair With Japan, 1950-2004:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Superlative and personal By Philip Philipsen Who is Hans Brinckmann? I hadn't the foggiest when I first set out to read this volume. Now I do and am all richer for it. Although a banker by profession, Mr Brinckmann appears to be much too sensitive a soul to have been one by heart as well. As

you read, this becomes increasingly clear. Recounting his arrival in a still occupied Japan and counting all the way to his departure in the mid-seventies, Mr Brinckmann offers a highly personal and insightful view into what may be described as the soul of Japan -- not all pretty, but certainly interesting. While naturally heavy on the personal, this delightful volume nevertheless succeeds in accurately describing and assessing the character of the land. I believe this is one of those rare writings on Japan that are worth retaining in your library. That is, if personal accounts / autobiographies are your thing. It is also rather singular in that it is written by a continental European. There's no shortage of splendid accounts by the hands of great Americans, and though nationality is said to matter little in this supposedly international age, I for one relished the European flavor present at all times as an undercurrent. Mr Brinckmann also offers a separate account of Showa Japan, but this is a far superior volume. I should enjoy meeting the author very much.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. **UNIQUE LOOK INSIDE JAPAN** By Michael Rogge
There is hardly any book available by a Westerner looking back over more than half a century's contact with Japan - , culturally, economically and socially. Well, Hans Brinckmann's *The Magatama Doodle* fills the gap. The author starts with entering Japanese life in the service of a Dutch bank in 1950. By means of anecdotes and observations he tells us how his experiences became an 'affair' with Japanese culture. He explains the backgrounds of its sometimes strange customs and how he dealt with them. Not only by means of anecdotes and examples but also by going back into history he brings Japanese life into relief. At the same time we follow his career from bank employee to banking executive, and from bachelor to being married to a Japanese young lady of 'good family'. As such he was able to meet Japanese leaders and gaining an insight into the manifold reasons for their decisions and actions. The title refers to a habit he noticed early on among some Japanese men in authority: that of doodling imaginary comma-like figures on some handy surface, whenever they avoided expressing an opinion or making a decision. The doodles reminded him of magatama, ancient comma-shaped precious stones found in prehistoric tombs. They seemed to him an appropriate symbol for one of the book's underlying themes: that a deeply conservative ethos lies at the root of both Japan's distinctive and much-admired culture and the undeniable rigidity of its political, educational and managerial structures. The author stresses he is not suggesting a simple key to understanding the 'Japanese mind', let alone presuming to offer prescriptions for change. As he sees it, Western attempts to make Japan 'more like us' are doomed to fail. Japan must build on its own considerable strengths and rely on the fresh energies of a new generation of leaders to meet the challenges of a globalized society. I should consider this book essential reading for everyone interested in understanding the often-mystifying ethics, politics and economics of this country that has left its mark on world history in more than one way.

Michael Rogge. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. **The Japan You Never Knew** By Nora Hines
I read this book twice. This in itself should be sufficient recommendation! But I'll give you some of the reasons why I like it so much. It is rich in historical detail and sociological examination, as well as the author's personal experiences. I was thoroughly entertained, informed and sometimes surprised. There were some unexpected revelations - such as the raucous behavior of passengers on the train to Osaka and the ubiquitous noise pollution with apparent little effect on the serenity of the Japanese people. The author proved open to all aspects of life in Japan, and presents his story with vivid detail and an eye for beauty. He must have possessed an enormous amount of energy. He describes his business career (with admirable modesty) and Japan's economy, business philosophy and practices with an insider's knowledge. He found time to explore Japan's countryside, and immerse himself in the pursuit of understanding Japan's culture. This included the study of the Japanese language, art and religion. I was struck by the author's keen and objective observations about Japanese life. And he didn't limit occasional criticisms to the Japanese, but had some strong opinions about the Dutch and Americans as well. But this is not the whole story. His and his wife's personal lives are lovingly described. The tale is well paced and contains many fascinating details of their experiences with friends and family, and many other people they encountered. I highly recommend this book - it provides insight far beyond the standard western ideas about Japan. Nora Hines, Prescott, Arizona, USA

Part personal memoir, part professional flashback, part socio-cultural commentary, this title chronicles the author's experiences during his twenty-four years (1950-74) of living in Japan as a reluctant banker. It also touches on some of the significant changes that have taken place in Japanese society since the mid-Seventies.

About the Author Born in The Hague in 1932, Hans Brinckmann though keen on writing and poetry from an early age, decided to make a career in banking. Unusually, it proved to be a career of banking in Japan (for the most part). Having joined a Dutch bank as a management trainee at the age of seventeen, he was assigned to Japan the following year, where he lived for the next twenty-four years. Appointed Tokyo branch manager at the age of twenty-nine, and area executive at thirty-nine, he retired to Buckinghamshire in 1974 to write and to continue his Japanese studies. Two years later, he was invited to return to banking and subsequently worked in Curacao, Amsterdam and New York, where he chaired the Institute of Foreign Bankers, and a Dutch-American foundation active in educational and cultural exchange. In 1986 Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands made him an Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau for cultural and professional achievement, notably in Japan and the US. Since 1988 he has been writing fiction and poetry, and has contributed frequently to the Op-Ed pages of Dutch newspapers, often on Japanese topics. He lives in Tokyo and

London.