

Use “BACK BUTTON” to return to home page.



## CATALOGUE 37

73. [PHOTOGRAPHS – JAPAN]. TAMAMURA, KOZABURO & KIMBEI, KUSAKABE:  
An album with 25 original photographs. In 1890's. €2 800



Oblong folio. Comprises 21 hand coloured photos, one original sepia coloured and three black and white. Sizes: about 25–26 cm x 20–21 cm (h/c) and 27 x 22 cm (b/w). The photos are mounted on thick gilt edged card board in attractive pictorial laquer covers with lightly rubbed leather spine.

Inscribed: “Andenken von Dr. Otto Schnitter, Johannesburg, Transvaal Süd Afrika den 1ste Februar 1897”. (Otto Gottlob Schnitter, born in Germany but lived most of his life in South Africa where he worked as a rural doctor on the Transvaal Highveld).

This “composite” album contains photographs from Japan and two from Singapore (one sepia tinted of Chinese shops stamped Lambert G.R. and one b/w of the Tentania Club). The photos from Japan depict views from different parts of the country, for example the Tokaido Bridge, pagodas in Ikegami and Nikko, Lake Biwa, the Daibutsu in Kamakura and a street in Enoshima. These are with printed numbers and captions by Kozaburo Tamamura (1856–?) and Kusakabe Kimbei (1841–1934). Some of the photos depict Japanese people in various situations, such as Japanese girls nursing; bathing; spinning wheels; writing and sewing; and others illustrate different occupations such as a basket seller; rickshaw driver; bow maker; street vendor; farmer; and monks. Some of these photos have printed numbers and captions, others don't and we have not been able to identify any of the studios. A very attractive album with delicately handcoloured

*Use “BACK BUTTON” to return to home page.*

photographs in very good condition.

This kind of souvenir albums begun to appear in the second half of the 19th century in Japan. In the beginning most of the studios were based in Yokohama but after the 1880's several studios opened in Tokyo, Kobe and Nagasaki. Customers of the albums – primarily foreign tourists – would like to acquire scenic photographs which represented the key regions throughout Japan or perhaps mirrored the actual journey the tourist had taken. As from 1890s onwards the studios many times sold “composite “albums which includes photographs from different studios. See Terry Bennett, *Old Japanese Photographs*, London, Quaritch 2006.

