Au Japon

The Memoirs of a Foreign Correspondent in Japan, Korea, and China, 1892–1894

Amédée Baillot de Guerville, Translated, Annotated, and with an Introduction by Daniel C. Kane

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© 2009 by Parlor Press. 230 pages, with introduction, illustrations, bibliography, glossary, appendices, and index.

In what was by all appearances a relatively short life, Amédée Baillot de Guerville was by turns an instructor of French at a women’s college, a newspaper and magazine owner and editor, Honorary Commissioner for the World’s Columbian Exhibition, popular lecturer, war correspondent, author, and general “globe-trotter.” Immigrating to the United States as a very young man in the 1880s, de Guerville gained his widest fame as a New York based correspondent and lecturer in the 1890s, before returning to his native France in 1898. In Au Japon (1904), de Guerville recounts with mostly comical gaze—and perhaps a touch of imagination—his experiences in the Far East during the years 1892 and 1894. As the author himself confesses, “each of us sees things in our own way.” After a century, that of Monsieur de Guerville is worth rediscovering. In addition to translating the original French, Daniel C. Kane provides a thorough introduction, a glossary of key figures, a chronology of de Guerville’s publications, and an index.

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