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# JAPANESE PRINTS

AURORA ART PUBLISHERS · LENINGRAD The Hermitage collections 38



## ЯПОНСКАЯ ГРАВЮРА XVIII-XIX веков

Коллекции Эрмитажа

Выпуск 38

Japanese coloured woodcuts comprise a phenomenon that is unique in the history of world art, even though the technique was borrowed from China. One should note that the small Buddhist icons and talismans that were cut and printed in Japan as far back as in the eighth century were exclusively of a journeymanship character. As an independent art the coloured woodcut came into its own in the Tokugawa period (1603-1868), the ultimate stage of Japan's medieval history. A new urban culture that emerged at this time reflected the aesthetic tastes of the merchant and artisan classes. Meanwhile in the art of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries there likewise developed a new style or trend called the ukiyo-e which found its best expression in xylography.

Ukiyo, which means the 'floating' or 'fleeting' world, is a very old term associated with Buddhist notions. Buddhists understood it as the transient, unreal world, but as the years rolled by this philosophical concept assumed another meaning, implying the world of day-to-day life. However, in the urban culture of the Tokugawa period the term came to imply a world of pleasure and amusement, of a carefree life and mundane joys. No wonder, the ukiyo-e woodcuts mostly began to portray the courtesans from what were

known as the 'gay quarters'.

Interestingly enough, due to the specific domestic situation, the gay quarters played a role of significance in Japanese life of the period. Indeed, in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries Japan was a police state in the full sense of the term. Every aspect of the social and private life of the Japanese was strictly regimented. No wonder, in this libertylacking atmosphere the gay quarters served as a "no man's land", a place where human contact and behaviour were not regulated by the authorities and where the urban resident could, at least for a time, feel free. It was there that Kabuki actors gave their performances, businessmen concluded deals and people came to visit the celebrated teahouses whose geishas were famous not only for their beauty but also for their erudition, elegance and exquisite tastes.

Note that virtually as popular during the mature stage of xylography were other genres such as the yakusha-e, the theatrical engraving, the musha-e, dealing with historical heroes, the kacho-e, which depicted flowers and birds and the latest of all, fukei genre,

that of the landscape.

The initial stage of the art of xylography was monochromatic, as printed from the block was only the outline often coloured in by hand. All that these woodcuts shared in common was their rather coarse, monotonous colouring. However, by mid-eighteenth century we already see the introduction of polychrome printing, involving, as a rule, the quartet of publisher, artist, carver and printer. The publisher was more than simply entrepreneur and manager. He suggested the theme for the individual sheet or series, chose the artist, carver and printer, and prepared the prints for sale. Success largely depended on his aesthetic taste and perspicacity.

The process was as follows: the artist did a sketch of the future print, then outlined the drawing in Indian ink on thin paper and also indicated how each detail should be

coloured since it was not customary to fully paint in the rough sketch.

The great turning-point for the art of the Japanese woodcut was 1764 when, with funds provided by the Kikurensha Association of Art Lovers, a calendar for 1765 was published in a limited edition. Author of the prints, which were made from several blocks, was Suzuki Harunobu (1724—1770), whose oeuvre introduces the roughly 50-year-long classical period in the history of Japanese xylography.

One must necessarily note that none of Harunobu's followers was ever able to excel

this master in producing a contemporary variant of the classical style of painting, let alone repeat his discoveries. True, now and again their efforts are as impeccable in form; however, they failed to convey the air of refinement and elegance. No wonder, they initiated a search for new ways and means of expression. Thus, Isoda Koryusai (active 1764-88) was one of Harunobu's few pupils who not only followed his teacher's style but introduced in it certain corrections, at times of a rather essential order.

The first artist of talent measuring up to Harunobu appeared only in the 1780s. This was Torii Kiyonaga (1752-1815), whose style was the second high point of Japanese xylography after Harunobu. He was of the Torii line or school that specialized in the portrayal of actors. However, though he produced many works dealing with the theatre, the range of his subjects was much wider; the artist often addressed himself to the bijin-ga genre (this, as one will remember, was concerned with the portrayal of courtesans). Although Kiyonaga was trained in the atelier of Torii Kiyomitsu, leader of the school, he already in his youth fell under the influence of Harunobu and, later, of Koryusai. By the 1780s he had developed a highly distinctive style in his prints that were conspicuous for their authentic interpretation of figures and environment. Indeed, his figures are not as massive as those of Koryusai, yet at the same time are not as ephemeral as those of Harunobu. As a rule, he took great pains with the background, whether interior or landscape. Also, he was the first to introduce complex multifigure compositions abounding in diverse detail. One could say that the attempt to tell a story is that quality which characterizes Kiyonaga's presentation of traditional subject matter.

In the 1780s Kiyonaga exerted a commanding influence on artists of very different manners, among them the young Hokusai, Eisho, Utagawa Toyokuni and Utamaro. The last of the four was ordained to seriously rival Kiyonaga and become by the 1790s the leading

star in the firmament of masters of coloured prints.

Associated with the name of Kitagawa Utamaro (1754—1806) is the third highwater mark in Japanese xylography. His innovation lies above all in his highly original approach to the traditional bijin-ga genre. With him the narrative style of Kiyonaga has been superseded by the urge to convey the model's emotional state. The compositional arrangement was thus fundamentally changed. The model is now given in close-up, as it were, half-length or even with only face, and everything that stands in the way such as realia, genre details and the like is decisively removed. Stylization is emphasized and the figure's natural proportions are boldly violated. This approach initiated a specific aspect of the bijin-ga genre in which Kitagawa Utamaro had no equal.

In this same period the artists of the Hosoda school also addressed themselves to the bijin-ga genre. The founder of this school was Hosoda Eishi (1756—1829) who trained at his atelier no small number of gifted painters, including Chokosai Eisho (active c. 1793—98) and Rekisentei Eiri (active c. 1795—1800). Though they produced works of fine standing, it should be emphasized that they were not that individual, as adhering mainly to their teacher's traditions, they were most heavily influenced by Utamaro, yet borrowing from him mostly purely formal methods. In short, the art of Hosoda Eishi's

pupils signified a decline in the classical type of woodcut.

It has become the tradition to regard the nineteenth century as the sunset of Japanese xylography. This is valid only for the bijin-ga genre, and not for Japanese engraving as a whole. The work of Kuniyoshi, Hokusai and Hiroshige turned over a new page in

the annals of the ukiyo-e.

Kuniyoshi (1797—1861) was of the nineteenth century's most influential Utagawa school. Unlike artists of other schools who specialized in one or another definite genre, Utagawa pupils produced engravings on diverse subjects. In the nineteenth century the historico-heroic genre came into prominence and in it Kuniyoshi's talent manifested itself with particular brilliance. In his works extolling the deeds of the ancient heroes or describing events of the recent past, Kuniyoshi created the image of the ideal warrior, at once strong, steadfast and decisive. He and his pupils were attracted by movement, by the expressiveness of action, by uncurbed lusty might. Indeed, in eighteenth-century engraving we shall not find anything alike the tense, dynamic expressive compositions as are to be encountered in the case of the latter-day Utagawa artists.

Yet, the superlative development in the nineteenth-century Japanese woodcut was the emergence of the landscape as a new and completely independent genre. The most outstanding landscape artists were Katsushika Hokusai (1760—1849) and Ando Hiroshige (1797—1858), whose efforts comprise a new chapter in the history of the Japanese landscape. In contrast to the traditional Far Eastern landscape paintings that embodied philosophical concepts of Nature in symbolic terms, the landscapes of Hokusai and Hiroshige are concrete, faithfully conveying the character and specific atmosphere of the place depicted. The efforts of Hokusai and Hiroshige represent the last highwater mark in the history of Japanese xylography, by which time its influence had transcended national boundaries. In Europe, at the turn of this, twentieth, century, the interest in Japanese art was stimulated firstly by the works of Utamaro, Hokusai and Hiroshige, to mention but three. Meanwhile in Japan itself such artists as Tadashige Ono, Sasajima Kihei and Maeda Masao are making fruitful use of the finest achievements of national xylography readapting and re-interpreting them within the context of the art culture of our present time.



### CHOKOSAI EISHO. Active 1793-1798

Wakamurasaki from the Kadotamaya Teahouse (From the series Competition of Courtesans of the Gay Quarters).
C. 1794—95. 38×25.5 cm
Signed: Chokosai Eisho (in Japanese), with seal of the publisher Yamaguchiya Chusuke The Hermitage, Leningrad

We know hardly anything about the life of either Eisho or, for that matter, of any other of Hosoda Eishi's pupils, only that he began to work on his own in 1793-94 and that four years later he ceased producing single-sheet prints and in 1798-99 worked on book illustration. As for his life after 1800 we have no information whatever. The series Competition of Courtesans of the Gay Quarters represents his best effort. All the sheets in this series are devoted to the geishas of Yoshiwara, the more notorious of Edo's gay quarters. The print shows the artist's favourite model, the geisha Wakamurasaki. The artists of the Hosoda school, including Eisho, adhered to the same style as their great contemporary Kitagawa Utamaro, whose bust-length portraits definitely influenced Eisho's work. However, Eisho borrowed only superficialities and compositional arrangement, failing to convey the mood of the model depicted, which is so characteristic of Utamaro's finest prints.

### ТЕКОСАЙ ЭЙСЕ. Работал в 1793-1798

Серия «Состязание красавиц веселых кварталов». Около 1794—1795 Вакамурасаки из чайного дома Кадотамая.  $38 \times 25,5$  Подпись Тёкосая Эйсё, печать издателя Ямагутия Тюсукэ Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Об Эйсё, так же как и о других учениках Хосода Эйси, почти ничего не известно. Работать самостоятельно Эйсё начал в 1793—1794 гг. Через четыре года он прекращает выпуск отдельных листов гравюр и в 1798—1799 гг. работает в области книжной иллюстрации. О его судьбе после 1800 г. мы не располагаем никакими сведениями. Серия «Состязание красавии веселых кварталов» — лучшая в творчестве художника. Все ее листы посвящены обитательницам Ёсивара — наиболее известного среди «веселых кварталов» Эдо. В данной гравюре изображена излюбленная модель Эйсё — гейша Вакамурасаки. Мастера школы Хосода, и Эйсё в их числе, работали в той же манере, что и их великий современник Китагава Утамаро. В частности, несомненное влияние на творчество Эйсё оказали погрудные портреты Утамаро. Правда, Эйсё заимствует только внешнее оформление, композицию, ему не удается передать эмоциональное состояние изображаемой модели, что присуще лучшим работам Утамаро.



### TORII KIYONAGA. 1752-1815

In the Minami Quarter (From the series Competition of Fashionable Courtesans of the Gay Quarters). 1783. 38.5×27 cm Signed: Kiyonaga (in Japanese) The Hermitage, Leningrad

In the 1780s, thanks to the efforts of the publisher Nishimuraya Yohachi, Torii Kiyonaga came into prominence. The series Models for Fashion: New Designs as Fresh as Young Leaves, entrusted to Koryusai and launched by Nishimurava in the 1770s, was discontinued around 1779 in view of the fact that Korvusai abandoned woodcut designs for painting. The series was resumed in 1782 when Nishimurava commissioned the then young and little known artist Torii Kiyonaga to complete it. His contribution to this series brought him plaudits while his next series, Competition of Fashionable Courtesans of the Gay Quarters, consolidated his fame as a top master in woodcut design. The scene herein depicted is set in Minami, a gay quarter in the southern section of Edo. Note the spy-glass, an instrument which must have been imported into Japan from Europe by the Portuguese or the Dutch.

### ТОРИИ КИЁНАГА. 1752—1815

Серия «Состязания модных красавиц веселых кварталов» В квартале Минами. 1783. 38,5×27 Подпись Киёнага Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

В 1780-е гг. ведущее положение занимает Киёнага. Этим он обязан издателю Нисимурая Ехати. Серия «Образцы мод: модели новые, как весенняя листва», начатая Нисимурая еще в 1770-е гг. и порученная им Корюсаю, была прервана около 1779 г. в связи с тем, что Корюсай оставил гравюру и занялся живописью. Выпуск был возобновлен в 1782 г., когда Нисимурая поручил завершение этого заказа молодому и малоизвестному мастеру — Тории Киёнага. Гравюры этой серии принесли успех художнику. Следующая серия «Состязания модных красавиц веселых кварталов» закрепила за ним славу одного из лучших мастеров гравюры. Изображенная сцена происходит в Минами — «веселом квартале», располагавшемся в южной части Эдо. Обращает на себя внимание интересная деталь - подзорная труба — предмет, завезенный в Японию из Европы португальцами или голландцами.



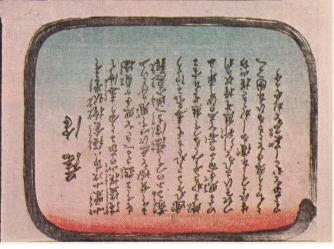
### HOSODA EISHI. 1756-1829

Night Walk. 1790s. 24×17 cm Signed: *Eishi* (in Japanese) The Hermitage, Leningrad

### хосода эйси. 1756-1829

Ночная прогулка. 1790-е.  $24 \times 17$  Подпись Эйси Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

# 東海海五十三世





### UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI. 1797-1861

The Fujisawa Station (An Episode from the Life of Oguri Hangan). C. 1845.  $36 \times 24$  cm

From the series The 53 Stations on the Tokaido Road (done jointly with Hiroshige and Kunisada)

Signed: Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi (in Japanese)

The Hermitage, Leningrad

A theme characteristic of the heroico-historical genre describing an episode from the life of the mid-fifteenth century warrior Oguri Hangan. His wicked perfidious stepmother expelled him from their house and sent him some poisoned wine. Oguri drank the wine and became a cripple. After several years of wandering he encountered a maiden by the name of Terute-Hime who fell in love with him despite his being a cripple. She prayed for his recovery to the deity of the Hakone shrine in the vicinity of the Fujisawa Station. Depicted in this sheet is the curing of Oguri Hangan. Hence, the piece has three aspects: in plot it is historical, in title, a landscape, but in effect, it is a theatrical engraving as presented are actors as Oguri Hangan and Terute-Hime. The emergence of these encoded theatrical woodcuts was due to a government edict of 1842 imposing a number of bans in the field of xylography, more specifically on the portraval of actors. Although the names of the actors are not given in woodcuts as this, theatre buffs of the period easily recognized them.

### **УТАГАВА КУНИЕСИ.** 1797—1861

Серия «53 станции дороги Токайдо» (создавалась совместно с Хиросигэ и Кунисада) Станция Фудзисава. Эпизод из жизни Огури Хангана. Около 1845. 36×24 Подпись Итиюсая Куниёси Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Этот сюжет характерен для историко-героического жанра. Здесь описан эпизод из жизни воина Огури Хангана (середина XV в.). Коварная мачеха выгнала его из дома, а затем прислала отравленного вина, выпив которого. Огури превратился в калеку. После нескольких лет скитаний он повстречал девушку по имени Тэрутэ-химэ, полюбившую его, несмотря на увечье. Она обратила молитву к божеству святилища Хаконэ, которое находилось недалеко от станции Фудзисава. Художником изображен момент исцеления Огури Хангана. Таким образом, по сюжету это историческая гравюра, по названию — пейзаж, по сути же — гравюра театральная: здесь изображены актеры в ролях Огури Хангана и Тэрутэ-химэ. Появление зашифрованных театральных гравюр было вызвано указом 1842 г., которым правительство вводило ряд запретов в области гравюры. В частности, были запрещены изображения актеров. Хотя в подобных листах имена актеров не обозначены, любители театра того времени с легкостью их узнавали.



### TORII KIYONAGA. 1752-1815

On the Verandah (Left-hand wing of the triptych Contemplating the Moon from the Bank of the Sumida River). 1787. 38×25.5 cm Signed: Kiyonaga (in Japanese) The Hermitage, Leningrad

This sheet relates to the most interesting stage of the author's career, when one of his main innovations was a detailed background. Unlike Harunobu or Koryusai, who at best but conventionally designated the locale, Kiyonaga presents a concretely realistic environment. In this piece the house is near the famous Ryogoku-bashi spanning the Sumida River in Edo. Kiyonaga not infrequently employed linear perspective, a technique borrowed from European art.

### ТОРИИ КИЕНАГА. 1752-1815

На веранде (левая часть триптиха «Созерцание луны на берегу реки Сумида»). 1787.  $38 \times 25,5$  Подпись Киёнага Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Этот лист принадлежит к наиболее интересному периоду творчества Киёнага, к основным нововведениям которого относится в первую очередь использование подробно разработанного фона. В отличие от гравюр Харунобу или Корюсая, в которых место действия в лучшем случае обозначалось чисто условно, пейзажное окружение в листах Киёнага реально и конкретно. В данной гравюре особняк находится неподалеку от Рёгоку-баси — знаменитого моста через реку Сумида в Эдо. Нередко в своих работах Киёнага использует линейную перспективу — прием, пришедший в японскую гравюру из европейского искусства.



### UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI. 1797-1861

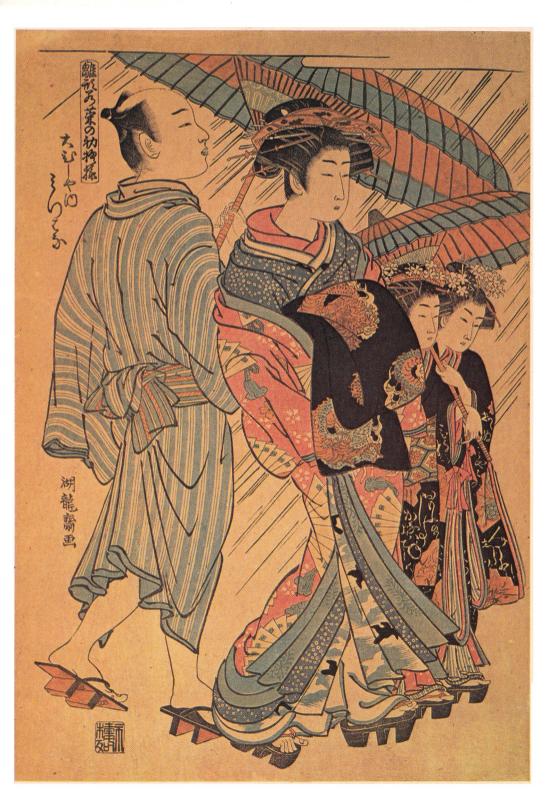
Yajima Kihei Mitsunobu (From the series The Mirror of the Devoted Vassals). 1857. 35×23.5 cm Signed: Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi (in Japanese), with seals of the Utagawa school, the Kanda publisher Horikoshi and of the censor, and a seal giving the date as the fourth month of the Year of the Serpent (1857) The Hermitage, Leningrad

Like the Lives of the Devoted Vassals, the Mirror of the Devoted Vassals series is a gallery of the "portraits" of the 47 ronins. However, unlike the earlier prints produced in the 1840s, here we observe a certain decline. The artist employs stereotype and repeats his own compositional finds. The prints are somewhat monotonous but their execution - the well-etched drawing, the expressive movements and the fine colouring - is still impeccable. In the 1850's Kuniyoshi directed a large atelier. Not infrequently he would incorporate in his sheets compositions devised by his pupils, including his own daughter, one of the few women painters to do woodcuts. In the cartouche at the top of this sheet is an engraving in the Flowers and Birds genre, which as one gathers from the signature was executed by Kuniyoshi's daughter Yoshitorijo, who died c. 1899.

### **УТАГАВА КУНИЕСИ.** 1797—1861

Серия «Зерцало преданных вассалов». 1857 Ядзима Кихэй Мицунобу.  $35 \times 23,5$  Подпись Итиюсая Куниёси, печать школы Утагава, печать издателя Хорикоси из Канда, печать цензора, печать с датой: «Четвертый месяц года Змеи» (1857) Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Серия «Зерцало преданных вассалов», так же как и «Биографии преданных вассалов», является галереей «портретов» 47 ронинов. По сравнению с работами 1840-х гг., в серии намечается определенный спад творческой активности художника. Куниёси использует шаблонные приемы, повторяет собственные композиционные находки. Гравюры несколько однообразны, впрочем, их техническое исполнение, острый рисунок, экспрессивно трактованное движение, выразительный колорит по-прежнему на высоте. В 1850-е гг. Куниёси возглавлял большую мастерскую. Нередко в свои листы он включал композиции, выполненные учениками, в том числе и собственной дочерью — одной из немногих женщин-живописцев, работавших в гравюре. В данном листе в картуше наверху воспроизведена гравюра, относящаяся к жанру «цветы и птицы», которая выполнена, как явствует из подписи, Еситоридзё (умерла около 1899) — дочерью Куниёси.



### ISODA KORYUSAI. Active 1764-1788

Mitsuya from the Omushiya Teahouse (From the series Models for Fashion: New Designs as Fresh as Young Leaves). 1776—78. 38×25.5 cm

Signed: Koryusai (in Japanese), with seal of Nishimuraya Yohachi's Eijudo Publishing House

The Hermitage, Leningrad

The series Models for Fashion: New Designs as Fresh as Young Leaves by the noted artist Isoda Koryusai, done during his mature period, is among the best and more characteristic of his productions.

### ИСОДА КОРЮСАЙ. Работал в 1764-1788

Серия «Образцы мод: модели новые, как весенняя листва». 1776—1778
Мицуя из чайного дома Омусия.  $38 \times 25,5$ Подпись Корюсая, печать издательства «Эйдзюдо» (издатель Нисимурая Ехати)
Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Серия «Образцы мод: модели новые, как весенняя листва» известного художника Исода Корюсая — одна из лучших и наиболее характерных в его творчестве. Она относится к зрелому периоду деятельности мастера.



### KITAGAWA UTAMARO. 1754-1806

Conversation. C. 1800.  $38 \times 26.6$  cm Signed: Utamaro (in Japanese), with seal of the publisher Tsuruya Kihei The Hermitage, Leningrad

By the 1790s Utamaro was in the forefront of Japanese xylography. This piece may be attributed to the artist's mature period, when evolving a new type of courtesan portrait he renounced full-length figures and concentrated on the face in an attempt to convey the model's mood.

### **КИТАГАВА УТАМАРО.** 1754—1806

Беседа. Около 1800.  $38 \times 26,6$  Подпись Утамаро, печать издателя Цуруя Кихэя Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

В 1790-е гг. Утамаро возглавил развитие японской граворы. Лист «Беседа» относится к зрелому периоду творчества художника, когда Утамаро разрабатывает новый тип «изображений красавиц», отказываясь от фигур в рост и все внимание сосредоточивая на лице, стремясь передать настроение модели.



### SUZUKI HARUNOBU, 1724-1770

Fukurokuju, God of Good Fortune in a Barber Shop. C. 1765. 28.5×20 cm Signed: *Harunobu* (in Japanese) The Hermitage, Leningrad

Depicted is one of the Seven Gods of Good Fortune, the most admired divinities in the pantheon of Japanese popular beliefs. Incidentally, the Seven Gods of Good Fortune were seen as close familiars whose favours could be invoked on the most trifling of occasions. Never feared and often held up to ridicule, they would be presented in comical or discreditable situations.

### СУДЗУКИ ХАРУНОБУ, 1724-1770

Бог счастья Фукурокудзю в цирюльне. Около 1765. 28,5×20 Подпись Харунобу Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

> Изображен один из семи богов счастья — наиболее популярных божеств в пантеоне верований японцев. Семь богов счастья воспринимались как нечто очень близкое, обыденное, их можно было просить о самых мелких, даже суетных вещах. Их не боялись, над ними нередко подшучивали, изображая в смешных или компрометирующих ситуациях.



### HOKUSAI KATSUSHIKA. 1760-1849

A Poem by Motoyoshi Shinno (From the series The "Verses of One Hundred Poets" Anthology as Retold by the Nanny). 1834—40. 26×38.5 cm Signed: Hokusai (in Japanese), with seals of Nishimuraya Yohachi's Eijudo Publishing House and of censor The Hermitage, Leningrad

In his poem Motoyoshi Shinno describes the loneliness of a man all of whose thoughts are of his kith and kin who remained in Naniwa (now Osaka). Hokusai meanwhile depicts a genre scene on the shores of the Gulf of Osaka, which is all that would seem to link the picture with the noem

In his later series Hokusai achieved the acme of perfection. Unlike many painters who did only rough sketches for engravings, Hokusai was familiar with every stage of the creation of a woodcut, from sketch to the final print. For this reason in the series he did late in life he was able to accomplish the knottiest of objectives, that is, to preserve in the final print the specific features and the multiple shades in the brushwork characteristic of the original. Like other of his contemporary colleagues, Hokusai employed aniline dyes which in the first half of the nineteenth century superseded mineral and vegetable pigments. Nevertheless the colour range of Hokusai's latter-day efforts are in their richness and refinement no whit inferior to the efforts of the finest colorists of the classical period.

### ХОКУСАЙ КАЦУСИКА. 1760—1849

Серия «Антология "Стихи ста поэтов" в пересказе няни». 1834—1840 Стихотворение Мотоёси Синно.  $26 \times 38,5$  Подпись Хокусая, печать издательства «Эйдзюдо» (издатель Нисимурая Ехати), печать цензора Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

В стихе Мотоёси Синно рассказывается об одиночестве человека, все помыслы которого устремлены к местам, где остались его близкие. Бытовая сценка, происходящая на берегу Осакского залива, — это все, что связывает гравору с произведением Мотоёси.

В поздних сериях мастерство Хокусая достигает совершенства. В отличие от многих живописцев, работавших для граворы, которые ограничивались лишь предоставлением эскиза, Хокусай осваивал все этапы создания печатного оттиска. Ему было хорошо знакомо ремесло и резчика и печатника, поэтому в поздних сериях художнику удается осуществление сложнейшей задачи: сохранить в печатном изображении специфику и многообразие нюансов движения кисти, присущее живописному оригиналу.

Подобно своим современникам, Хокусай пользовался анилиновыми красителями, вытеснившими в первой половине XIX в. минеральные и растительные пигменты. Однако колористическая гамма поздних работ Хокусая своим богатством и изысканностью ничуть не уступает произведениям лучших колористов классического периода.



### ANDO HIROSHIGE, 1797-1858

Evening in Takanawa (From the series *The Sights of the Eastern Capital*). 1832—34. 24×35.5 cm Signed: *Hiroshige* (in Japanese), with his seal and those of Sanoya Kihei's Kikakudo Publishing House and of censor The Hermitage, Leningrad

Hiroshige dedicated 50 large series to Edo, now Tokyo, Japan's eastern capital. In the first of these series, published in 1831, he made his debut as landscapist. In 1832, encouraged by the success that his initial landscapes gained, he launched a new series under the same title which was published over the next ten years. Generally over the 1830s Hiroshige evolved his style as landscapist. He developed a new type of what one may term a lyrical landscape. In serene explicit compositions he strove above all to convey the state of the natural environment, even though he rather faithfully presents the topographical details.

### АНДО ХИРОСИГЭ. 1797-1858

Серия «Достопримечательности восточной столицы» 1832—1834
Вечер в Таканава. 24×35,5
Подпись и печать Хиросигэ,
печать издательства «Кикакудо»
(издатель Саноя Кихэй), печать цензора
Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Хиросигэ посвящает теме Эдо — восточной столице Японии (по-японски Токио) — 50 больших серий, в том числе и первую, вышедшую в 1831 г., в которой он впервые выступает в качестве пейзажиста. Ободренный успехом пейзажей, в 1832 г. Хиросигэ начинает выпуск новой серии под тем же названием, выходившей в течение десяти лет. 1830-е гг. — время сложения художественной манеры Хиросигэ-пейзажиста. В его творчестве формируется особый тип «лирического» пейзажа. В спокойных, ясных, уравновешенных композициях Хиросигэ стремится передать в первую очередь состояние природы, хотя достаточно точно изображает и топографические особенности местности.



應需一筆茶誌

### UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI. 1797—1861

Kataoka Dengoemon Takafusa (From the series *The Lives of Devoted Vassals*). 1847. 36.5×25.5 cm Signed: *Ichiyusai Kuniyoshi* (in Japanese), with seals of the Utagawa school, the publisher Ebiya Rinnosuke and the two censors Murata Heiemon and Mera Taichiro The Hermitage, Leningrad

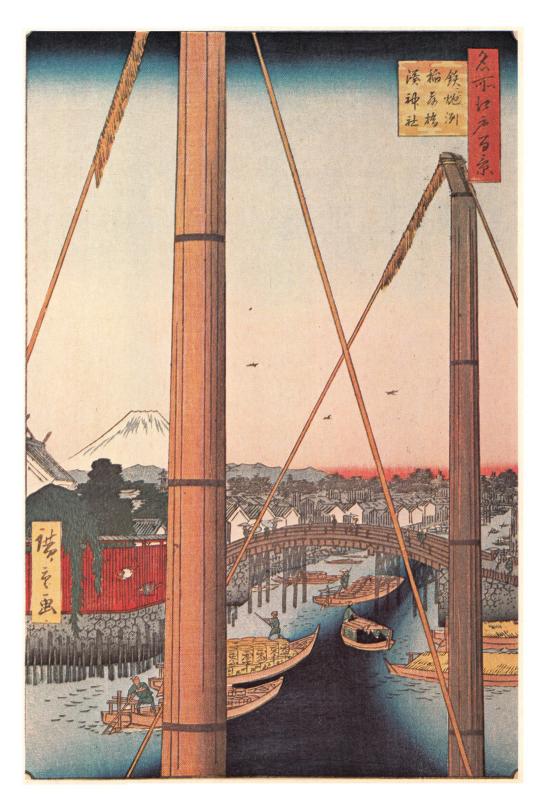
In his work Kuniyoshi time and again addressed himself to the Tale of the 47 Ronins. In the early eighteenth century, at the Palace of the Shogun the noted courtier Kira Kozuke-no Suke gravely insulted Asano Takumi, the ruler of the Ako Province. Angered, Asano drew his sword and wounded Kira. The Shogun punished such actions with the death penalty; Asano was arrested and sentenced to commit harakiri. Deprived of their leader, his samurai vassals became what were known as ronins. They vowed to wreak vengeance for their late master. Bursting into Kira's house they killed him and then committed harakiri. This event had tremendous repercussions, with the lives and conduct of the 47 ronins extolled as the personification of samurai morality.

There are, however, two types of portrayals, either of the actors involved in a play about the 47 ronins, or, as in the series in question, of the ronins themselves, ideal warriors of mighty strength, steadfast and loyal. The lengthy inscriptions accompanying the "portrait" give the name of the depicted personage and describe his life and exploits at great length.

### УТАГАВА КУНИЕСИ. 1797-1861

Серия «Биографии преданных вассалов». 1847 Катаока Дэнгоэмон Такафуса. 36,5×25,5 Подпись Итиюсая Куниёси, печать школы Утагава, печать издателя Эбия Ринносукэ, печати цензоров Мурата Хэймона и Мэра Таитиро Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

> В своем творчестве Куниёси неоднократно обращался к теме «История 47 ронинов». События относятся к началу XVIII в. Во дворце сёгуна (военного правителя) знатный придворный Кира Кодзукэ-но сукэ тяжко оскорбил Асано Такуми, правителя области Ако. В гневе Асано обнажил меч и ранил Кира. Подобные действия во дворце сёгуна карались смертью; Асано был арестован и приговорен к самоубийству. Самураи, находившиеся у него на службе, оказались без предводителя, то есть стали ронинами. Верные долгу, они поклялись отомстить за своего господина. Ворвавшись в усадьбу Кира, ронины убили его, после чего сами совершили ритуальное самоубийство. История имела огромный резонанс. Жизнь и поступки преданных вассалов стали воплощением самурайской морали. Существуют два типа изображений 47 ронинов: актеры, разыгрывающие пьесу, посвященную этим событиям, или, как в данной серии, «портреты» ронинов, где перед нами образы идеальных воинов: мощных, стойких, верных долгу. Пространные надписи, сопровождающие изображение, содержат имя персонажа и подробный рассказ о его жизни и подвигах.



### ANDO HIROSHIGE, 1797-1858

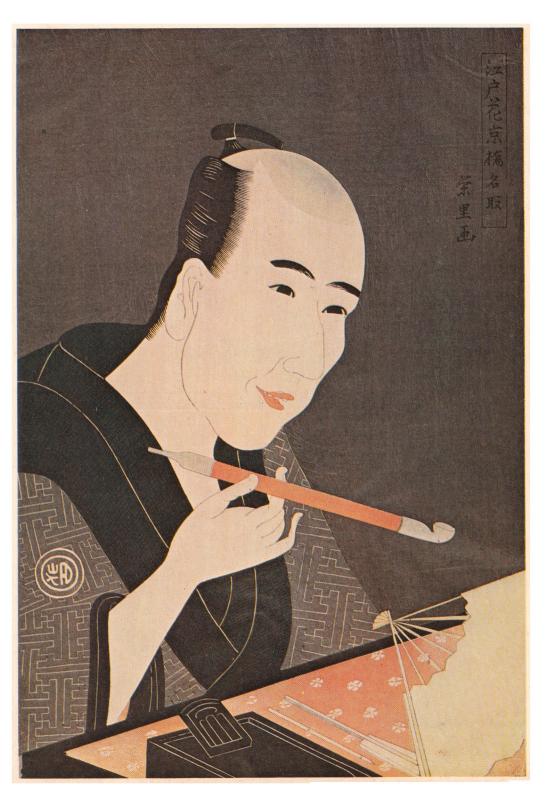
The Shinto Temple of Minato near the Inari-bashi Bridge in the Tepposu Quarter (From the series *One Hundred Famous Views of Edo*). 1856—58. 37×25.5 cm Signed: *Hiroshige* (in Japanese), with seals of the publishers Uoei Heikichi and of censor, and also a seal giving the date as the second month of the Year of the Serpent (1857) The Hermitage, Leningrad

The One Hundred Famous Views of Edo is the last and rather unusual of Hiroshige's landscape series. Unlike the serene lyrical landscapes he produced throughout the 1830s and 1840s, in these prints Hiroshige supplies a dramatized interpretation by employing a scheme of sharply contrasting planes, clashing colours and a highly dynamic composition. In fact, the landscape as such is pushed into the background, with one or another isolated motif occupying the whole of the foreground. In this case the Inari bridge, the Minato temple and the river teeming with boats piled high with kegs of sake are seen through the masts of a ship which appears to be sailing towards the viewer. However, the artist was not ordained to develop these new trends. Hiroshige died before the final sheets in the series could be published.

### АНЛО ХИРОСИГЭ. 1797—1858

Серия «Сто знаменитых видов Эдо». 1856—1858 Синтоистский храм Минато около моста Инари-баси в квартале Тэппосу.  $37 \times 25,5$ Подпись Хиросигэ, печать издателя Уоэя Хэйкити, печать цензора, печать с датой: «Второй месяц года Змеи» (1857) Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

«Сто знаменитых видов Эдо» — последняя и не совсем обычная пейзажная серия Хиросигэ. В отличие от спокойных, лирических пейзажей 1830—1840-х гг., в гравюрах этой серии Хиросигэ дает «драматическую» трактовку природы. Он использует резкое сопоставление планов, остродинамичное построение композиции, напряженные цветовые аккорды. Собственно пейзаж отступает в глубь листа, заслоняется каким-либо частным мотивом, занимающим весь передний план композиции. В данной гравюре мост Инари, храм Минато, река, по которой плывут лодки, груженные бочонками с сакэ, увидены Хиросигэ сквозь мачты корабля, как бы надвигающиеся на зрителя. Этим новым тенденциям в творчестве Хиросигэ развиться было не суждено. Последние листы этой серии вышли после смерти художника.



### REKISENTEL EIRL. Active in the 1790s

The Celebrity from the Kyobashi District (Portrait of Santo Kyoden), C. 1796. 38×26 cm From the series The Flowers of Edo Signed: Eiri (in Japanese)
The Hermitage, Leningrad

All that we know about Eiri is that he was of a samurai family and was trained in the school of Hosoda Eishi. Though his efforts are devoted mostly to the courtesans of the gay quarters, he has gone down in the history of Japanese xylography as author of the Flowers of Edo series depicting the celebrities of the "Eastern Capital". The most well-known of these portraits is that of Kitao Masanobu, who as a novelist was called Santo Kyoden (1760—1816). A man of versatile genius, he was not only late eighteenth-century Japan's leading novelist but also a well-known engraver, illustrator and gifted poet, especially in the realm of comical verse.

### РЭКИСЭНТЭЙ ЭЙРИ. Работал в 1790-е

Серия «Цветы Эдо» Знаменитость из района Кёбаси Портрет Санто Кёдэна. Около 1796. 38×26 Подпись Эйри Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Об Эйри известно немного. Он происходил из семьи самураев, учился у Хосода Эйси. Его листы посвящены в основном красавицам «веселых кварталов», но в историю японской гравюры он вошел как автор портретной серии «Цветы Эдо», в которой изобразил знаменитых жителей «Восточной столицы». Наиболее известен портрет Санто Кёдэна.

Санто Кёлэн (1760—1816) был человеком разносторонних

Санто Кёдэн (1760—1816) был человеком разносторонних дарований: ведущий беллетрист конца XVIII в., известный мастер гравюры, иллюстратор, а также талантливый поэт — создатель шуточных стихов.



### UTAGAWA KUNIYOSHI. 1797—1861

The Lady Kesa (From the series Tales of Wise and Courageous Women). 1847. 35.5×24.5 cm Signed: Chooro Kuniyoshi, with seal of Ibaya Sensaburo's Dansendo Publishing House The Hermitage, Leningrad

This sheet belongs to Kuniyoshi's mature period, when in the early 1840s this versatile master reached his zenith. He addressed himself to sundry themes, however enjoying particular success with woodcuts in the heroico-historical genre. His finest series is that of Tales of Wise and Courageous Women, of which possibly the best is the Lady Kesa sheet after a mid-twelfth century episode. It so happened that one Endo Morito, an influential courtier, was enamoured of the samurai Watanabe Wataru's wife Kesa. Since she repudiated his importunations, he swore that he would kill Watanabe and make her his wife. When she learned of his intentions she arranged a rendezvous with him. On some trumped-up excuse she got her husband to leave home and herself went out to meet Endo dressed in her husband's garments. In the darkness Endo confused her with her husband and chopped off her head. Discovering his blunder, he in sheer desperation entered a monastery under the name of Mongaku Shonin and subsequently gained fame by his ascetic exploits.

### **УТАГАВА КУНИЕСИ.** 1797—1861

Серия «Предания о мудрых и отважных женщинах». 1847 Госпожа Кэса. 35,5×24,5 Подпись Тёоро Куниёси, печать издательства «Дансэндо» (издатель Ибая Сэнсабуро) Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Лист относится к зрелому периоду творчества Куниёси. В начале 1840-х гг. активность этого разностороннего мастера достигает своего апогея. Он обращается к различным сюжетам, но особенно удачны историко-героические гравюры. Лучшей серией этого периода является серия «Предания о мудрых и отважных женщинах». Особенно интересен лист «Госпожа Кэса», сюжет которого связан с историей, имевшей место в середине XII столетия. Кэсу жену самурая Ватанабэ Ватару — полюбил влиятельный придворный Эндо Морито. Поскольку Кэса отвергла домогательства Морито, он поклялся убить Ватанабэ и сделать ее своей женой. Узнав об этом, Кэса назначила Эндо свидание, нашла предлог удалить мужа из дому, а сама переоделась в его одежду. Эндо не заметил в темноте подмены и обезглавил Кэсу. Обнаружив ошибку, он в отчаянии постригся в монахи, приняв имя Монгаку-сёнина. Впоследствии он приобрел известность своими аскетическими подвигами.



### HOKUSAI KATSUSHIKA. 1760—1849

A Poem by Ono-no Komachi (From the series The "Verses of One Hundred Poets" Anthology as Retold by the Nanny). 1834—40. 38×26.5 cm Signed: Hokusai (in Japanese), with seals of Nishimuraya Yohachi's Eijudo Publishing House and of censor The Hermitage, Leningrad

The "Verses of One Hundred Poets" Anthology was compiled in 1235 by Fujiwara-no Sadai and included one hundred poems by Japan's most eminent bards of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. During the Tokugawa period (17th — 19th centuries) it was often the case for paintings, engravings and book illustrations to be based on subject matter from this Anthology, Especially popular were the "parodies" which transported the happenings described in the classical poetry into contemporary surroundings. Hokusai's series is such a "parody". Hokusai conceived it towards the evening of his life and evidently had originally thought to produce one hundred sheets, for each of the poets represented in the Anthology. However, only 28 are known today. To judge by the title, the print should illustrate a poem by Ono-no Komachi, ninth-century Japan's greatest poetess... "Blossomed to no purpose, the cherry red has gone; Oh, short-lived is my life! Unblinking I stare with a look as long as the falling rain." Indeed, the only detail that would appear to link the poem with the picture in this artless scene from rustic life are the fallen petals of cherry blossoms which two peasants are gathering.

### ХОКУСАЙ КАЦУСИКА. 1760—1849

Серия «Антология "Стихи ста поэтов" в пересказе няни». 1834—1840 Стихотворение Оно-но Комати. 38×26,5 Подпись Хокусая, печать издательства «Эйдзюдо» (издатель Нисимурая Ехати), печать цензора Государственный Эрмитаж, Ленинград

Поэтическая антология «Стихи ста поэтов» была составлена в 1235 г. Фудзивара-но Садаи и включала сто стихотворений крупнейших японских поэтов XII—XIII вв. в период Токугава (1603—1868) на темы стихов сборника нередко создавались картины, гравюры и книжные иллюстрации. Особенно популярны были «пародии», в которых описываемые в классических стихах события изображались происходящими в условиях современной жизни. К типу таких «пародий» относится и серия Хокусая. Она была создана в поздний период его творчества. Хокусай, по-видимому, предполагал создать серию из ста листов—по количеству представленных в антологии поэтов, но нам известно только двадцать восемь. Судя по названию, гравюра должна иллюстрировать стихи Оно-но Комати — величайшей японской поэтессы IX в.:

Распустился впустую, О, век мой недолгий! Минул вишенный цвет. Век не смежая, гляжу Взглядом долгим, как дождь.

Единственная деталь, связывающая текст и изображение в этой незатейливой сценке из сельской жизни, — опавшие лепестки цветов вишни, которые убирают двое крестьян.

# Front reproduction: UTAGAWA KUNISADA. 1786-1865 At the Mirror. 1820s. Detail

На обложке: УТАГАВА КУНИСАДА. 1786—1865

У зеркала. 1820-е. Деталь



The Hermitage Museum boasts the Soviet Union's largest collection of Japanese art, more specifically metalwork, porcelains and other ceramics, lacquers, textiles, carved ivories and woodwork. However, pride of place in this collection is held by the coloured woodcuts which introduce the viewer to the most eminent masters of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, such as Harunobu, Koryusai, Utamaro, Kiyonaga, Sharaku, Shunsho, Eishi, Hokusai and Hiroshige.