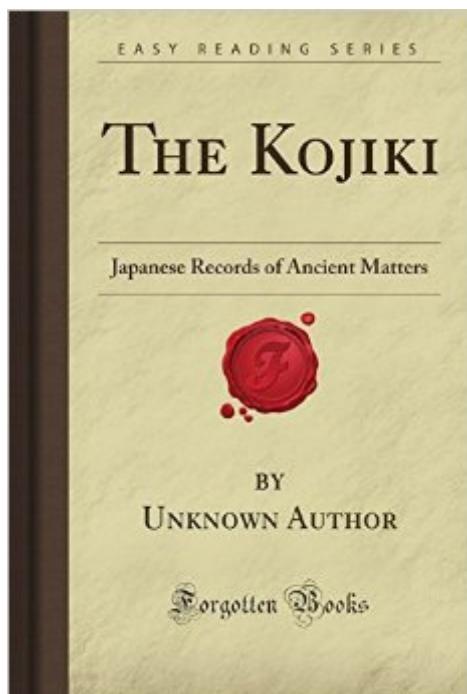


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The Kojiki: Japanese Records Of Ancient Matters (Forgotten Books)



Synopsis

The Kojiki is one of the two primary sources for Shinto, the Japanese national religion. It starts in the realm of myth, with the creation of Japan from foam. Innumerable gods and goddesses are described. The narrative moves from mythology to historical legends, and culminates in a chronology of the early Imperial line. The book is densely footnoted, almost to the point where the text is buried in apparatus. However, even this cannot shroud the wonderful story-telling. There are supernatural episodes, and tales of murder, passion and betrayal, all interspersed with extemporaneous poetry, reminiscent of Icelandic sagas. (Quote from [sacred-texts.com](http://www.sacred-texts.com))

About the Author Basil Hall Chamberlain (1850 - 1935) Basil Hall Chamberlain (18 October 1850 - 15 February

1935), was a professor of Tokyo Imperial University and one of the foremost British Japanologists active in Japan during the late 19th century. (Others included E. M. Satow and W. G. Aston.) He also wrote some of the earliest translations of haiku into English. He is perhaps best remembered for his informal and popular one-volume encyclopedia *Things Japanese*, which first appeared in 1890 and which he revised several times thereafter. His interests were diverse, and his works included a volume of poetry in French. (Quote from [wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org))

About the Publisher Forgotten Books is a publisher of historical writings, such as: Philosophy, Classics, Science, Religion, History, Folklore and Mythology. <http://www.forgottenbooks.org>

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Customer Reviews

It goes without saying that the book, and Chamberlain's translation, are excellent and should be a part of any liberal education. I had never read the whole book or the whole of Chamberlain's

Introduction and many end notes. So when it arrived I immediately glued in ribbons for place markers and set down to serious study. I found to my chagrin, however, that this edition is highly lacking. The end notes lack the Kanji, the Chinese characters, which are used in Japanese along with their phonetic alphabets, and which Chamberlain intersperses in his Introduction and end notes. Instead of the Kanji from the original the publisher put in a slash or other mark. For me, a student of Japanese, the absence of the kanji makes the book close to useless. Chamberlain's end notes, moreover, use Roman numerals to refer us back to various sections. But the sections themselves have no numbering whatever. How can I use the end notes? I don't know much about the publishing industry. But I imagine that at least the omission of the kanji, and perhaps also the lack of section numbers, may have been intended to save money. And I admit that the price is cheap. But the reader should have been informed in advance of these failings. It is definitely not for the serious student. I feel cheated. I know you are a reliable company with good intentions. But I guess this one slipped past you. What can I do? I pasted in ribbons. Not thinking that I would want to return it, I didn't treat it extremely gently. The front and back covers are a bit wrinkled. (Maybe this is the fault of cheap material. But since I cannot prove that, I'll say that maybe I am responsible for the wrinkles.) So I doubt that I can return it as new. What do you recommend? I would like to get a decent and usable edition. But I don't feel like writing off what I have lost on this one. After all, your description of this edition lacked information. What do you recommend?

Excellent seller, smooth transaction. I highly recommend this book and this seller to everyone. It shows the difference between the creation and destruction stories I grew up with and the ones Japanesse believe. It is amazing to read this and other mythological creation stories to think which one is the real one, or perhaps are they all false and created by humans? why do different continents have different creation and destruction stories? I now have many doubts about my own religious beliefs. It is important to read this book and other creation books and do not be afraid to discover new important info about the world's creation.

Endnotes detail the wrong page (They are always on the previous page indicated). Some things left out and replaced with slash marks. It tells you the title of the book at the top corner instead of saying endnotes. Maybe I'm being an idiot but page 74 seems to be written in latin. Anyway the information is there so if you really want to save money go ahead and buy the book but if not then look for something better.

It is a great book. However there are lots of typo's in the text but the meaning is clear.

Interesting.

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