

Bakumatsu Meiji Syoki No Yōshiki Sangyo Shisetsu To Glover Syōkai
(Industrial Buildings in Bakumatsu and early Meiji Japan: Western-style
Architecture, Transfer of Technology and the Role of Glover & Co. in the
Nineteenth-Century International Society)

Susumu Mizuta

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Western-style industrial structures built in the Bakumatsu and early Meiji era (1860s.–1870s.) announced the dawn of modern Japan, and they are regarded as the legacy of the industrial revolution. But how should they be assessed in the international context?

The author examines the technology transfers embodied in the Western-style industrial buildings constructed in Japan during the 1860s and 1870s, with particular reference to the role played by Scottish merchant Thomas Blake Glover's firm, Glover & Co. The author directs his attention to five facilities in particular: Tea Firing Establishments in Nagasaki; the Amami Ōshima Sugar Mill; the Kagoshima Cotton Mill; the Kosuge Slipway; and the Osaka Mint.

In each case the author has conducted a review of documentary evidence both in Japan and abroad to shed light on the circumstances and process of construction, to show how Glover & Co. contributed, and to reconstruct the architectural characteristics of the buildings. He also compares the Japanese facilities with similar industrial facilities from the same period in order to assess their international standing. The work is an invaluable contribution to the historical scholarship on architecture, as well as on industrial technology and socioeconomics.