THE BLACK SHIPS SCROLLS

The American Naval Expeditionary Mission to Japan of 1853–1854, commanded by Commodore Matthew C. Perry, was of tremendous interest throughout the civilized world. Japan had closed its doors to the international community in the 16th century, and it remained hostile to all external expressions for amity and trade relations. Western missions that entered Japanese waters before Perry's remarkable success were productive of nothing but a deepening suspicion and misunderstanding on both sides.

Nowhere was interest greater than in Japan itself. For over two centuries, the Japanese people had been nurtured on a steady diet of fear of the so-called "Western Barbarians" by their feudal overlords. Little wonder, then, that the entire population of the island nation stood in awe of the first appearance of the American Asiatic Squadron in Tokyo Bay in 1853, and that it continued to experience anxiety when treaty negotiations began at Yokohama in February 1854. Gradually, as the peaceful intent of the Americans became more obvious, the fatalistic attitude of the people changed to an almost passionate interest in everything about them.

Universal concern bred a variety of means by which news of the Americans was spread throughout the land. One popular and attractive device was the painted pictorial with text done in scroll format. Many were produced, often in duplicate, and they circulated widely. The paintings are not high art; on the contrary, they are the work of the artisan and not of the legitimate artist. The usage "Black Ships Scrolls" was coined subsequently and is a reference to the color of Commodore Perry's ships.
Not many Black Ships Scrolls have survived. For this reason, the Naval War College Museum marks itself fortunate to have a collection of well preserved scrolls in its holdings. The collection consists of 13 framed scroll segments, and they are permanently exhibited on the third floor of the museum along with associated Japanese period artifacts. The collection is the property of the Preservation Society of Newport County, which has placed it on long-term loan with the museum.

Text Translations

The following translations of the scroll texts were done in 1980 by Mrs. Hideko Dring of Providence, RI and Mrs. Sarah Anne Greene Smith of Jamestown, RI. The work of these two individuals appears here exactly as it was provided. No attempt has been made to edit for more appropriate grammatical usages or for uniformity in format.

**SCROLL 1**
Translation (right to left)

1. VISITING CARDS AND SWORD
   Size of cards is 1 sun 5 bu by 2 sun 5 bu.
   1. H.A. Adams - Captain of the Fleet
   2. —[Illegible]
   3. —[In Chinese characters - probably by the Chinese interpreter, Lo]
   4. —[Long sheet, 1st line illegible]. [Next three lines] - the United States Ship Frigate MISSISSIPPI.
   5. Sword - size 3 shaku 5 bu. Handle is 4 su 8 bu. The brown part of the hilt is rusty iron.
   6. Scabbard - length 3 shaku 2 sun. The metal at the top is brass and also wire. Main part is of polished iron.

**SCROLL 2**
Translation (right to left)

1. VIEWS OF THE WATER KEGS - they come in three sizes and the largest holds 6 to of water.

2. U.S.E. MISSISSIPPI - [misspelling of USA and also of MISSISSIPPI].

3. THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD MARINE
   Grave
   Casket
   Robert Williams - name in white on black slab

   The funeral was at Kanagawa Ken, Yokohama, Zotoku Temple, of the Shingon Buddhist Sect. 20 Americans landed. Six Americans and four Japanese dug the grave. A man with a sword conducted the service. Then the Americans returned to their ships in seven boats.
4. DIAGRAM OF THE RECEPTION HOUSE FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT OF THE AMERICANS IN YOKOHAMA, 1854

a. Hall for the Japanese officials of various ranks is the first block.

b. The kitchen is the next block. At the upper end of the kitchen there is a raised floor [apparently the lower section has an earth floor].

c. Next come seven small rooms in which the Japanese of upper ranks wait. The size of each room in mats is given. These rooms are in the third block.

d. The two large entertainment rooms [the smaller, which is the lower, is 15 mats in size. The larger room at the back, is 20 mats. Jutting out at the back of the larger room is a small secret conference room].

e. The main entrance to the Reception House is marked by horizontal lines, which could be steps.

There are two areas over to the left of the drawing which may be the waiting rooms for the Americans, but these are not so marked. The small squares enclosing circles inside the kitchen are probably the toilet facilities.

5. PORTRAITS OF TWO MEN

H.A. Adams, Senior, 50 years old and a sample of his handwriting.

Adams Junior, Secretary, 18 years old and sample of his handwriting.

6. LOCOMOTIVE AND COAL CAR PRESENTED TO THE JAPANESE,
Numbered 1 and 2

Length of locomotive and coal car is 3 ken. Date of landing in Japan - 7th year of Kaei, February [this is by Japanese reckoning, Kaei is the name of the era]. It came from North America to Yokohama. It runs like an arrow. It is made of iron and goes 10 or 20 ri in one day [one ri is 4 kilometers or 2 1/2 miles]. The wheels are made of polished iron.

Norris [on back of the boiler - name of Philadelphia firm.]

I. Fasingmill [printed below locomotive - Facing Mill, probably is the name of the firm which made the locomotive's decoration.] Coal or charcoal is used to heat the water to make the locomotive run.

SCROLL 3
Translation (right to left)

1. ARTIST'S COMMENTARY

Written characters are a means of depicting people's minds, and pictures are a means of depicting the shapes of things. There are certain methods for depicting minds with characters and for depicting shapes with pictures. If such methods are properly applied, depictions will clearly reveal style and refinement.

Pictures which exhibit the movement of brush tips and show refinement throughout the surface of the paper can make viewers hear sounds or soundless poems. The excellence of such pictures cannot be expressed in words. Well, let us put this subject aside for now.

An ancient man [a Chinese in the 3rd century B.C.] once said that characters are adequate when people's names are written with them and that pictures are adequate when drawn as the artist's mind directs. Characters are useful simply for supplementing what records cannot cover. If characters and pictures are used effectively, that is all that can be asked for.

Last year [1853] American ships came to Uraga, Sagami Province [the present Kanagawa Prefecture] with a letter from the American President. They have now come again and anchored off Kanagawa, Musashi Province. There were certain persons who compiled detailed written reports and records relating to all these events. The master [it is not clear who he was, but he must have been of a rather high position] immediately ordered those close to him to make copies of these records. This copy is called Kichu-koin Zakki.
The master also obtained two volumes of *Isen Jimbutsu Shozu* [Drawings of Foreign Ships and Men] and ordered me to copy them. I have never studied drawing or painting, and therefore I do not have a good knowledge of the use of brushes or colors. Nor do I know any other matters relating to pictures. I simply did my best to copy them, but I am afraid I may have missed something in doing so. As for the portraits of foreign men, although I copied them very carefully, I am afraid that they bear only a slight resemblance to the original pictures. My copies are not worth showing to people in a high position. These copies can only supplement what the Kichu-koin Zakki could not completely depict.

Since these drawings are not done well enough to be shown to people in a high position, I am afraid that I may be reprimanded for submitting such inferior work. That is why I have added this note to these artless drawings, and I would be very happy to answer any questions on these matters.

The beginning of July [Old Japanese calendar], the 7th year of Kaei (1854)

Respectfully written by Tamemasa Yoshida

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2. THE ILLUSTRATIONS - in color
   a. Interpreter - S. Wells Williams - portrait head
   b. Same - full picture
   c. Robert Danby - indication of which is his first name and which is his family name. He is on MISSISSIPPI [engineer]; his clothes are of navy blue wool.
   d. Same - full picture
   e. Commander - no name - feathered hat
   f. Soldier - front view. His clothes are "flower color" [light shade of blue].
   g. Soldier - clothes are black woolen cloth
   h. Commander - chevrons on sleeves, clothes of navy blue wool.
   i. Musician - back view only
   j. & k. No explanation
   l. Dutch interpreter - wearing red cape [Portman]
   m. Officer - [back]
The names of the ships in the fleet are given and the position at anchor of each. One frigate is in Uraga Cove. Only seven ships are shown. At extreme left and a distance of 1 1/2 ri from shore, a corvette is shown. This is marked "Supply ship - alone."

2. YOKOHAMA HARBOR - View from the opposite shore

Hatsutera 3 times [written in phonetic script]. Daigaku No Kami, Ido [the names of the high ranking officials are given but no mention of what they did.]

February 10 - They put flags on POWHATTAN, the flagship of Perry, and also on the other seven ships, these were the national flags. MACEDONIA saluted seventeen times in honor of Perry's landing. POWHATTAN had a white flag flying at her bow, this means Peace. A little later the Commander and those men who were to land with him, boarded the 27 courier boats - Hatsutera - and guide boat led them to the shore. [Not clear whether the guide boat was American or Japanese.] The time of landing was noon. The Commander entered the Treaty House and his men lined up as in the accompanying picture.

After that the MACEDONIA gave twenty salutes and there were twenty Hatsutera from the barges. This was to honor the highest Japanese official present [supposedly the Emperor or the Shogun]. Seventeen salutes were given for Lord Hayashi by the barge Hatsutera. Perry and Buchanan with 500 men then left to return to their ships.

Several Japanese sailing boats are shown going toward the American ships. [It is written - "SARATOGA"- but someone says "VANDALIA is here."]

3. THE AMERICANS ARE SHOWN LANDING AT KANAGAWA

There are 27 courier boats. Before the salutes are given the Americans lined up as shown in the top line [eight ships are shown]. Later four ships from the right saluted. Then they lined up and broke the straight line formation by sailing in different directions.

Flagship is shown in clouds in center. Salute takes place and the MACEDONIA changes her position.

SCROLL 6
Translation (right to left)

1. GRAVE OF THE MARINE WHO DIED ON THE MISSISSIPPI IN JAPANESE WATERS

Yokohama Village, Zotokuji Temple, grave of an American, Robert Williams, from Esuland. [In phonetics; probably means from the East Coast.] R.W. [These are the initials on the inside of the footstone.]

Size of Footstone [in U.S.A. measurements:]
Length 1 shaku 5 bu [1 shaku = 1 foot]
Width 1 shaku 4 bu [1 sun = 1/10 foot]
Thickness 1 sun 2 bu [1 bu = 1/10 of a sun]

Measurements of the grave, for the body and from marker to marker = 6 shaku. Indication given as to which way the head lies and which way for the feet. There are white letters on a black slab.

Headstone: height 3 shaku 5 sun 5 bu
width: 1 shaku 2 sun 6 bu
thickness: 1 sun 7 bu

The characters over the English words on the headstone read: Monument to the memory of, personal name and official rank [not filled in or explained], warship, corps [the name of a place is incorrectly used here], departed [the word for "setting sail" is used instead of the word for "departed this life"] on board the United States Ship MISSISSIPPI, port of Yedo, Japan, 3rd month, 6th day, 1854. 24 years old. [Note written along the side.] March 6th in the American count is February 1st in the Japanese count.
2. PICTURES FOLLOWING:

   Courier Barge with an awning over it. National flag - size 9 shaku [but whether this is length or width is not indicated]. The material is thin. The flag has 20 flower crests. [This is a traditional family crest reference. The stars are likened to flowers in the mon. No reference to stripes or color.]
   Pulley for sail ropes
   Anchor
   Rudder
   Tiller [the straight shaft] - 1 sun 3 bu 5 ri
   Circle in the Tiller - 2 bu 6 rin 5 mo
   Small hole - 1 bu 4 rin
   The canon of the Courier Barge makes a whistling sound when fired.
   There are three types of Water Barrels - the 19 bu size holds 6 to 8 of water.

SCROLL 7
Translation (right to left)

1. MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES
   Corvette #7 - looks something like this - her figurehead is shown.
   MISSISSIPPI #5 - view of smokestack [letters are written on top?]
   National flag - size 9 shaku, thin material, 20 flower crests.
   Pulley showing ropes for sails
   Barge and rudder
   Anchor
   Steam Frigate POWHATTAN #3 - from stern
   Corvette SARATOGA #8 - both stern and bow views. Stern view shows sailors in barge opening gun port.
   MACEDONIA saluting - ship almost entirely enveloped in smoke.
   Ship sailing - no explanation
   Great clouds of smoke - explanation is "27 boats saluting and Hatsutera" [only 10 boats with their American flags are shown.]

SCROLL 8
Translation (right to left)

1. AMERICAN PRESENTS TO THE JAPANESE
   a. Five views of Bullet mold
   b. Agricultural machine - could be straw cutter - Ruggi.
   ES Nourse Masom & Co. R.L. Allen, New York
   c. Agricultural machine - cutter of some kind
   d. Oval basin with two handles - probably a churn
   e. Folding ladder - two views, both open and closed
   f. Coin - East India Co. - Queen Victoria shown on reverse
   g. Button [Navy symbol on front]
   h. Cap
   i. Powder bag

2. MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES
   Ship SARATOGA - entering Kanagawa Harbor from Shimoda (1854)
   Paddle wheel
   Picture of gangway showing main entrance to steamer
   Ship POWHATTAN - deck
   Smokestack and air vents, guns and swords mounted on cabin wall, cannon and cannon balls.
   At the bow of the ship a courier barge, filled with sailors.
   There is one man opening the door of the gun port so that a salute can be fired.

3. YOKOHAMA TREATY HOUSE
   In the larger room benches are marked. The six rooms for the Japanese officials to wait in are all marked according to rank. The lower ranking officials are to be in the rooms lower down on the diagram and the higher officials are to be in the upper rooms. No waiting rooms for the Americans are shown. The small squares with circles inside are probably the toilets - there are eight of them.
The two rooms marked in red at the upper part of the building are the secret conference rooms. These are off the main entertainment room.

SCROLL 9
Translation (right to left)

1. PASSENGER CAR - numbered 3 [the character for room is written on it].

   Locomotive is called stoom wagon [misspelling of steam.]

   The three vehicles are shown connected and move along the rails by means of steam. The speed is like an arrow. I regret that it is hard to describe in detail because it moves so fast. Therefore, I just give a rough sketch of it. The rails are of iron and slightly grooved so that the wheels can run along them.

2. THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH MACHINE

   Over the machine there is a message in dot and dash code. Explanation tells that there are two machines and one is placed 1 or 2 cho away from the other so that messages can be sent back and forth. Three wires are shown on the diagram:

   Wire A is tied to the machine and receives the message.
   Wire B goes into the hot water [this is below the machine and term “hot water” must mean the acid]
   Wire C goes into the ground
   Wire D is mentioned but is not shown. It is used for sending the messages.

   The two wheels for winding the paper are made of brass. The object hanging below the machine is made of iron. The square container is made of tin. [1 cho is 360 feet or 109 meters. 1 ken is 6 feet].

3. MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES

   American Courier Barge - length is 2 jo, or 10 shaku
   Rudder
   Barge - broadside view
   Oar - 9 shaku in length
   Hole for oar
   Mid-ship section of barge [tipped sideways]
   Barge - looking directly down on planking
   Detail of the oar hole from inside barge
   Close up of bow of Barge

SCROLL 10
Translation (right to left)

[All pictures are of the 1853 visit, the first visit, to Japan and landing to Kurihama]

1. LARGE PICTURE OF STEAMER - length is 45 ken, width is 32 ken [1 ken is about 6 feet]
   Sailing ship is 30 ken in length, 22 ken in width.
   This steamer has six big guns - three on each side. Size of a gun is 6 sun.
   There are 28 stone fire arrows [muskets or howitzers]
   The number of the crew is 500 men.
   The paddle wheel turns by steam, and the fuel is coal.
   Tent of the captain [awning over midships section] made of sheep skin
   Entrance to the ship [at top of gangway, no explanation]
   Flag - sign of ship [this is under the Stars and Stripes]
   Anchor [at bow]
   Water compartment
   Red plaster and water [used for paint on ship]
   Ship is covered in black tar
   Paddle wheel box is 5 ken in diameter [about 30 feet], 1 ken in width. It is black.
2. MISCELLANEOUS PICTURES

Sword - the scabbard is brass and the handle is gold
Barge - 3 ken [drawing is too wide in proportion]
Holes for oars are designated
Rudder has a chain to steer
Hinge for rudder is shown
Oar length is 1 1/2 ken
Thin leather is wrapped around the oar
Small anchor on chain for use of the barge
Barge is shown with a cotton awning. Notation that officer steers himself.

3. OVER 500 AMERICANS LANDED AT KURIHAMA

Two boys carried the letters for the Emperor, wrapped in red cloths. Perry is shown standing between these boys - his title of commander is given, not his name.

Two high officials, dressed like Perry, are shown but unnamed. Group of soldiers with bayonets is shown [probably they are Marines]. Colors of the flag are white and red [no mention of blue]. The American procession is headed by a band with drums, cymbals, flute and horns.

4. PORTRAYAL OF THE JAPANESE PROCESSION THAT MET THE AMERICANS - 1853

Over 1,100 soldiers were there and their ranks are given. Two governors of Uraga were there - Toda and Ido [their names are circled]. Other officials of Uraga are shown with banner and drums. Fifty Doshin are shown [officials of Uraga] with bayonets. Also police officials and Yoriki [higher than Doshin]. Some men are mounted on horseback. Lord Ido and Lord Toda are the higher officials. Many lower officials are present, but names are not given. There are ten guns [named]. The procession begins at the right.

5. ENLARGEMENT OF THE AREA AROUND THE RECEPTION TENT AND KURIHAMA BAY AREA

Far right, crest of Lord Hikone; it is an orange Mon [or crest], his name is Ii, and he is very important. On the other side of this drawing, the curtain is divided in two for the other high officials. Thus the retainers of the various officials knew where to assemble. There are three crests [or mon] altogether.

Just under the orange crest there is a red banner. At the opposite end of the screen curtain there is a red banner with white crest. Inside the curtain enclosure, to the right, the soldiers of the high officials are gathered.

On left side of this same picture are field guns, and farther to the left there is a long double line of Doshin [police official]. Ships of both countries are on shore.

THE SECOND, OR LEFT PICTURE

In the center of the picture, surrounded by curtains is the temporary pavilion into which the two letters were brought. The size of this tent is 20 ken long and 6 ken wide. In front is a smaller tent, 13 ken by 6 ken. The lower corner of this smaller tent is the entrance and behind it is the room in which the exchange of letters took place. This room has a raised floor.

Down in front along the shore are the American landing barges. The line of march to the reception area is indicated by dots. The Japanese guard boats are lined up along the shore, 68 boats to right and 47 boats to left. The Americans are lined up in front of their fourteen boats.

The Americans landed on June 9th between 8 and 9 in the morning. The two Japanese Lords were Toda Izuno-kami and Ido, Iwamino-kami. They received the letters for the Emperor sitting on folding canvas chairs. The letters were received in the room with the raised floor.

The highest American official [this is Perry but his name is not given] was supported by three officers for the presentation of the letters.
6. MORE DETAILED PICTURE SHOWS THE LARGER VIEW OF THE URAGA AREA

The presentation pavilion is at the lower right. The four American ships are shown off shore, but not named. The map shows Kannon Cape, West Uraga on the inlet. At top right with banners are the soldiers of Lord Kikone. By Kannon Cape are the soldiers of Lord Kawagoei. There are more soldiers at upper left, and farthest up of all are the soldiers of Lord Hosokawa.

SCROLL 11
Translation (right to left)

1. RECEPTION PAVILION FOR THE AMERICAN LETTERS, JUNE 9, 1853.

Compass points North to left, East to right.

Inside the pavilion where the letters were received, 500 gold screens were set up and 500 pieces of red carpeting were used. There were many spectators outside the pavilion and a space of six ken was left open for them to look through.

The soldiers of Lord Kawagoe were located to the upper right. The soldiers of Lord Hikone [also called Ii] were located by the “V”-shaped navy blue screens in front. This Lord also had two groups of men surrounding the five red banners. In front of these banners, on June 4, the Americans practiced for the parade which was to take place at the time the letters were presented. The distance which they crossed on Kurihama Bay to reach shore was 5 cho. The barges saluted Batsuteira (?)?

Characters are written sideways to indicate that the Commander was waiting at this point off shore. Lines from the two steamers show that they are located 10 cho from shore. Fourteen American boats landed and 400 men came ashore. Adams was in command. His men lined up to the left and right, according to his orders.

For the Japanese - the Guard boats of Lord Oshii were drawn up on the right and those of Lord Aizu, 50 in number, along the center shoreline. Each had five soldiers. There were two five-gunned Japanese ships [the size of each is given]

Two of the American ships sailed to Kurihama; their positions before departure are indicated. The Japanese boats inside the cove, all shown in white, went out into the Bay.

2. MOVEMENT OF THE AMERICAN SHIPS - 3RD TO 8TH OF JUNE, 1853

After the landing of the men, the two steam ships changed their anchorage going to Uraga.

On the 9th day they went to Kurihama. On that same day they moved to near Hommoku. On the 6th day one steamer came close to land at Haneda, so that she was only a little more than one mile from shore. On the 11th four ships came near to Sarushima, Ikoshima, Eboshishima and Natsushima. The land area is shown with many small red lines. These indicate the shore areas for which each Japanese official was held responsible.

3. PLAN FOR PROPOSED JAPANESE NAVAL SHIP - A SPAR TORPEDO BOAT

There are two wooden wheels outside, and holes for rifles, and an arrangement for observation from inside. Wood used is oak and chestnut. There are four holes for entrance in the iron roof section and also a hole for the mast to fit into. Size of the boat is 30 ken in length and 4 ken in width. On outside of the boat there is a hook which can be manipulated so from within, that an enemy boat can be caught, pulled in close and finally boarded from the front bow section.
SCROLL 12
Translation (right to left)

1. YEDO BAY
Survey of water depths [probably done by Americans]
On left side - place names along the harbor
Shinagawa. Depths of water is generally shallow
Takagawa. Even 2 1/2 miles from shore - only 2-4 feet
Kuramacho. From 4 to 9 o’clock, second tide.
Kanasugi
Hammagyochi. Distance from shore of the soundings is
given
Suzakijiri
Fukugawa Renten
Small fan like objects on right side seem to be the channel
markers.

2. DRAWING TO SHOW YOKOHAMA HARBOR AND SHIPS
JANUARY, 1854

The two artists who made this are Kato, Magozo, and
Sasaki, Morindo; both are from Honomoku. Upper left
shows Kannon Cape. Senda and Hatayama are shown on
this cape.

The position of the artists is indicated by small circles.
From this observation point to the nearest American ship it
is 1 1/2 ri, and to the other American ships, 3 ri. These
distances are shown by small red lines. The soldiers of Lord
Inshu are located to the left, among the mountains.

3. ANOTHER VIEW OF YOKOHAMA HARBOR
January 7, year of Kaei [1854]
Names of the two artists - Ogawa, Uchuji and
Yamaguchi, Koheiji.
Red circle on land marks the point from which drawing is
made.
Kannon Cape - upper right corner
Soto Yokosuka

Uchi [inside Yokosuka]
Kanazawa
Seven American ships are shown. The first one is 20 cho
from land. Three ships have circles on them, probably the
paddles, and four others seem to be sailing ships.

4. ENLARGEMENT OF RECEPTION AREA, VIEW
FROM KOSHIKA

This enlargement of the area at edge of previous map is
to show the Reception House and area. This is Kurihama
and is where the Kanagawa Treaty was signed on February
10, 1854. [The portrayal of the Reception Hall is too small
to be very clear.]

American Marines are shown to the left. Reception Hall or
Treaty House [as it is later called] has a large room with
earth floor for the Japanese working staff. The two main
rooms are 64 mats and 24 mats in size. The 24-mat room is
near the entrance which is shown by the Z-like figure.

The Americans have a waiting room in the building to the
left. Shinto shrine with name for a water God is shown. The
roofs shown are Hongo village and another village. The
curving arc represents some Japanese guards and other
waiting groups positioned by the insignia of their lords.

Over to the right there is a place of hotels so designed. A
small compass shows west is above, east is below, north is
to the right, and south is to the left.

5. MEETING IN URAGA IN 1853

The temporary pavilion to which the letters were brought
and where the Japanese gave receipts is shown.

Outside the pavilion there is the landing guard. On the
extreme right the men of Lord li are shown; on the opposite
side are the men of Lord Matsudaira. The wharf where the
Americans landed is shown and to the right stood the
guards of Matsudaira who are from Shinosa Province.
Another group of soldiers is at the upper level: these are
more men of Matsudaira and come from Higo Province.
On the pointed area the men of Yoriki rank are located. The 48 small circles represent Doshin, who are lower in rank. The man shown to the left of the Doshin is Shimosonei, Kinzaburc. Retainers of Lord Toda are shown by the spots on the left [no indication of their number].

The Americans are lined up under the red spots. There are two flag bearers. The line of small red dots indicates the path of the Americans as they came up to the reception pavilion from the shore. The size of the pavilion is 100 mats. The entrance to this inner room of the pavilion is by the American flag bearers at the upper right corner of the square.

Inside the large room there is another, smaller room having a raised floor. The entrance to this inner room is about in the right middle. The red spots by this entrance are the American band.

The four red spots inside are the important American officials - viz: The Admiral [name of Perry not given], the Vice Admiral [Buchanan?], a High Officer [H.A. Adams], Interpreter [S.W. Williams].

The small square indicates place to which the letters were taken. The two black dots are Lords Ido and Toda with the black dots above and outside the retainers of Ido. Those at the bottom are the retainers of Toda. The larger dots represent Kayama, who is a Yoriki and so in charge of protocol, and four other high ranking officials. The roof lines at the bottom of the picture are for the waiting places.

1. CLOTHING SHOWN

First man shown on the right is a Marine dressed in tight white pantaloons. His jacket is made of woolen cloth. Main part of his hat is black and there is gold ornament on it. The buttons on the hat are also of gold.

Second man shown is also a Marine. He has a pistol, but it does not show. He does not have the decorations of the first man as he is lower rank.

Next man is a commander. He has a black jacket of woolen material and white silk pantaloons.

Fourth man - no notation

Hats of the higher Marine officers have cockades of red and blue. The main parts of these hats are black and have a scarlet band on which the gold buttons are located.

A second type of hat for Marines is shown and also the decoration for the hat of the 3rd class Marine.

Special object of clothing worn by the Interpreter is shown [not clear what it is].

Commander’s hat is plain but with red feather decoration.

Seaman’s regulation hat is shown.

Shoe is shown - made of black leather which is soft.

2. MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS OF THE BAND

Big drum - 3 feet in diameter
Small drum - 1 foot in diameter
Drum stick for larger drum has a leather ball on its end.
Drum stick for smaller drum is made of iron.
Small horn
Small flute or fife
Big horn is all brass.

Pistol - only the handle is shown protruding from the case and the muzzle is pointed down. The case holds powder on one side and bullets on the other side.
GENERAL:

All explanations are from RIGHT to LEFT, contrary to Western custom which is from left to right.

Terms used in the scrolls:

bu = 1/10 sun = approx. 1/10 inch
cho = 360 feet
jo = 5 shaku = 5 feet
ken = 6 feet
ri = 2 1/2 miles
shaku = 1 foot 12 inches
sun = 1/10 foot approx. 1 inch
doshin = police
mon = crest