



# Barry Lawrence Ruderman Antique Maps Inc.

7407 La Jolla Boulevard  
La Jolla, CA 92037

www.raremaps.com

(858) 551-8500  
blr@raremaps.com

## [USS Powhatan Carrying the First Japanese Embassy to America.]

**Stock#:** 55550  
**Map Maker:** Anonymous Kwaraban  
**Date:** 1860 circa  
**Place:** Japan  
**Color:** Uncolored  
**Condition:** VG  
**Size:** 11 x 9 inches  
**Price:** \$ 1,600.00



### Description:

#### *The First Japanese Embassy to the United States.*

Woodcut kwaraban sheet showing the USS Powhatan serving in its role transporting the first Japanese Embassy to the United States in 1860.

#### First Japanese Embassy to the United States

The Japanese Embassy to the United States (Man'en gannen kenbei shisetsu, lit. First year of the Man'en era mission to America) was dispatched in 1860 by the Tokugawa shogunate (bakufu). Its objective was to ratify the new Treaty of Friendship, Commerce, and Navigation between the United States and Japan, in addition to being Japan's first diplomatic mission to the United States since the 1854 opening of Japan by Commodore Matthew Perry.

Another significant facet of the mission was the bakufu's dispatch of a Japanese warship, the *Kanrin Maru*, to accompany the delegation across the Pacific and thereby demonstrate the degree to which Japan had mastered Western navigation techniques and ship technologies barely six years after ending its isolation policy of nearly 250 years.

#### US-Japan Treaty of Amity and Commerce

The Treaty of Amity and Commerce (Nichibei Shūkō Tsūshō Jōyaku), also called the Harris Treaty, between the United States and Japan was a formal consequence of Perry's opening of Japan in



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1853. The treaty was signed on the deck of the USS *Powhatan* in Edo (now Tokyo) Bay on July 29, 1858. It opened the ports of Kanagawa and four other Japanese cities to trade and granted extraterritoriality to foreigners, among a number of trading stipulations.

**Detailed Condition:**

Very few small wormholes and a few repaired edge tears.