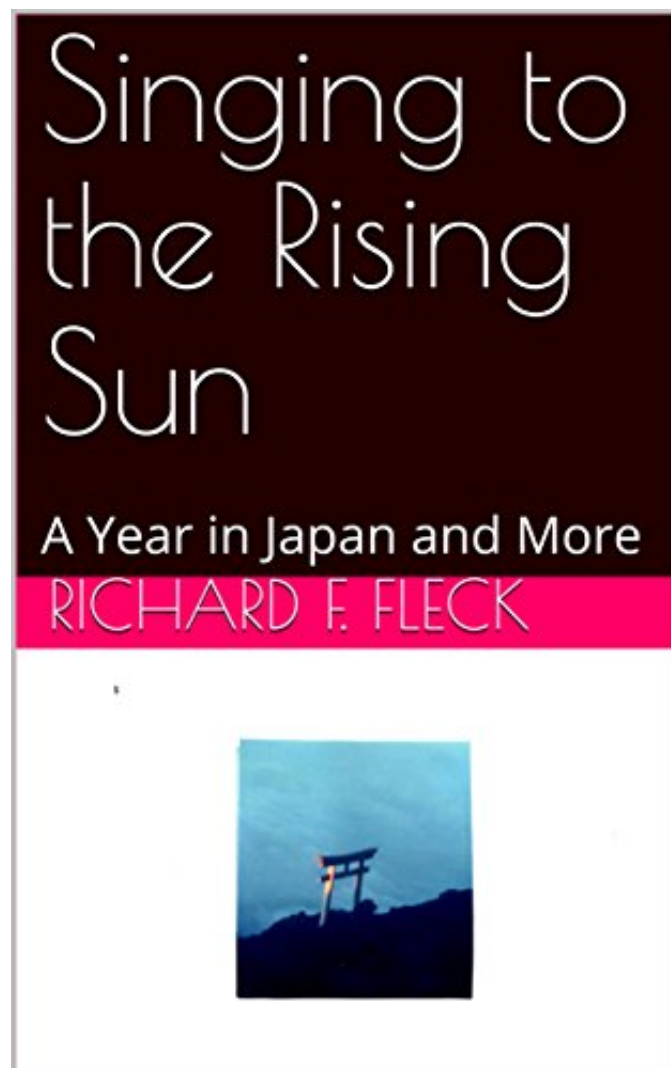


Singing to the Rising Sun: A Year in Japan and More

by

Richard F. Fleck



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Synopsis

This book is a memoir of my year in Japan teaching at Osaka University, lecturing at other institutions, writing poetry, climbing Mount Fuji and sharing my family's experiences of my children going to school and my wife doing volunteer work at the Canadian Academy. It also contains experiences of Japanese exchange professors coming to Wyoming to teach and visit Yellowstone and Indian reservations.

What people say about this book

Anne Skillion, "From Wyoming to Oasaka: A Year in Japan. Ricard Fleck's book is a fresh, immediate account of a first encounter with Japan in the early eighties (we can only assume that it began as a contemporaneous journal). Fleck, with his wife and young family, accepted an invitation for him to spend a year teaching English and American literature in Osaka. They did not know Japanese and the children cried on their first morning, but they went on to be game participants in the adventure. This is a memoir of a Wyoming family confronting an unknown culture that makes the reader want to know how it all unfolds. You might say that Richard Fleck is a traveller of the old school. His tale of a rich sojourn in Japan invites comparison to those brief stays of a million tourists taking selfies and hopping from one famous monument to the next at break-neck speed. In contrast, Fleck's curiosity is boundless and persistent. No itinerary seems too challenging to discourage him. He is naturalist, ethnographer, poet, intelligent observer, student and teacher combined, and exudes a radiant delight at every discovery. While this book would have benefited from a good copy-edit, it is nonetheless a very interesting read."

R. P. Harton, "Refreshing and Inspiring. I enjoyed reading this book. Richard Fleck's memoir of his life in Japan is more than an entertaining memoir. His discussions of the wilderness perspective in Japanese and American literature provided many ideas for thought and reading. His evocative descriptions of academic and social life in the 1980's — in Japan and in Wyoming — felt like a breath of fresh air. Richard Fleck's joyful enthusiasm for people and places and literature is inspiring. Although about the past, the book reveals so many paths to follow today. Delightful reading; full of surprises."

YMO, "so A SINGIN TO THE RISING SUN is a brilliant mixture of a candid journal of an American professor's A memoir of an American nature writing expert's encounter with Japan: its nature, food, religion, art, and, above all, people. This is a book about the people the author has made friends with ☐ Osaka U colleagues, Thoreau scholars in Tokyo, Nigawa residents in the neighborhood, as well as the initial struggle of his family to adapt themselves to an exotic Asian culture. Richard Fleck is a modern-day Thoreau and this book his WALDEN, only his concerns are too human to be confined to the contemplation of nature. Just as WALDEN is a curious amalgam of a practical record of tough outdoor life and metaphysical observations of man and nature, so A SINGIN TO THE RISING SUN is a brilliant mixture of a candid journal of an American professor's personal experiences with Japan and an insightful study of Japanese culture from an American perspective."

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