



"The History of Medicine in Japan"

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(Visit Kyoto Ambassador)

Summary:

With its origins mainly from Chinese traditional medicine, Japan established its own traditions and systems of treatments in an array of different situations over the course of its several time periods. These were further influenced by the indigenous belief system of the Japanese called Shinto as well as the arrival of Europeans into Japan, particularly Rangaku or “Dutch Learning.” Rangaku helped advance Japanese medicine towards more empirical observation used in the West rather than speculative theories of the Confucian method borrowed from China. It is most important to note that medicine was the key force in the development of Western knowledge in Japan during its “closed” state for approximately two centuries.

Pauline Chakmakjian is an independent expert lecturer on the arts, culture and history of Japan. She is the author of a series of books starting with *The Sphinxing Rabbit: Her Sovereign Majesty* and *The Sphinxing Rabbit: Book of Hours* that are both available in print and e-book versions.