Isabella Bird, author of
The Hawaiian Archipelago: Six Months among the Palm Groves, Coral Reefs, and Volcanoes of the Sandwich Islands, 1875

In the Footsteps of Isabella Bird

Adventures in Twin Time Travel ➤ Photographs by Kiyonori Kanasaka

Hawai‘i State Library
478 South King Street, Honolulu
February 1–April 2, 2011
Mondays and Wednesdays 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursdays 9 a.m.–8 p.m.
Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Free Admission

Talk by Kiyonori Kanasaka
Saturday, February 12, 2011, 11 a.m.
“The Study of Isabella Bird and Twin Time Travel”
Reception following
Tracing Isabella Bird’s journeys through landscapes past and present

Isabella Bird lived in England and Scotland, 1831-1904. She traveled the world writing popular geographies, revealing places through her personal adventures. At age 49 she married Dr. John Bishop, and at his death five years later resumed traveling and writing as Isabella Bird Bishop.

Kiyonori Kanasaka is a professor of human and historical geography at Kyoto University. He has traced with his own camera Isabella Bird’s travels and writings from 1854 to 1901. He is a member of the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society. He is exhibiting his photographs in the places Isabella Bird lived and studied: Scotland, England, Japan, Colorado, Hawai‘i, with China on the horizon.

In 1873 Isabella Bird stepped off a steamship from New Zealand into King Lunalilo’s Hawai‘i. She island-hopped for half that year and compiled her letters home into the book *The Hawaiian Archipelago: Six Months in the Sandwich Islands*. Her observations of paniolo, planters, Hawaiians, foreigners, horses, volcanoes and valleys still hold great historical interest. *Six Months in the Sandwich Islands*, published in London in 1875, popularized knowledge about Hawai‘i. King Kalākaua awarded Isabella Bird the “Order of Kapi‘olani” on his trip to England. The National Library of Scotland is sending copies of the Royal Order and Isabella’s letters for this exhibit.

Isabella Bird learned to ride from Hawaiian women and used that skill to explore the Rocky Mountains, Japan, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Persia, Kurdistan, Ladakh, Korea, China, and Morocco. She depended on dignitaries and local hosts along her way and often echoed colonial values, but was most in her element beyond conventional society exploring little-known places. Family funds helped her early travels, but Isabella Bird supported her own expeditions through her writings. Isabella Bird was a member of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and was the first woman elected to Britain’s Royal Geographical Society.

**BOOKS** by Isabella Bird:
- *An Englishwoman in America* 1856
- *The Revival in America* 1858
- *The Aspects of Religion in the United States of America* 1859
- *Notes on Old Edinburgh* 1869
- *The Hawaiian Archipelago: Six Months among the Palm Groves, Coral Reefs, and Volcanoes of the Sandwich Islands* 1875
- *A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains* 1879
- *Unbeaten Tracks in Japan* 1880 (Abridged edition 1885, New edition 1900)
- *The Golden Chersonese and the Way Thither* 1883
- *Journeys in Persia and Kurdistan* 1891
- *Among the Tibetans* 1894
- *Views in the Far East* 1896
- *Korea and Her Neighbors* 1898
- *The Yangtze Valley and Beyond* 1899
- *Chinese Pictures* 1900

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**Images:** National Library of Scotland, Hawai‘i State Archives

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