



PEABODY MUSEUM  
*of* ARCHAEOLOGY & ETHNOLOGY

## PRESS RELEASE

**What:** FREE Lecture and Reception

**Where:** Geological Lecture Hall, Harvard University, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA;  
Reception follows in the Peabody Museum, 11 Divinity Ave.

**When:** Thursday, February 21, 2008, 5:30 pm

**Contact:** 617-496-1027 (public information)

Lecture title: "Artifact and Archive, Reality and Illusion: Japan's Photographs for the Foreign Market."

Lecture by: Eleanor M. Hight, Associate Professor of Art History, University of New Hampshire, Durham

**(Cambridge, January 24, 2008)** The Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology presents "Artifact and Archive, Reality and Illusion: Japan's Photographs for the Foreign Market." Though Paris may have had a head start, Boston was the first major center for the study of Japan in the United States, and in many ways it surpassed Paris in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. This was due to a fortuitous mix of travelers—educators, scholars, and wealthy collectors—who journeyed to Japan and were entranced by the country in the 1870s and 1880s. Hight will focus on the photographs that Bostonians purchased in Japan: the photographers, the subjects, the techniques, and their relationship to the *ukiyo-e*\* prints that they were also collecting. Today, the study of nineteenth-century photographs of Japan offers a window onto an exciting moment of cultural awareness, when Boston collectors first experienced Japan during its period of rapid Westernization and then used photographs to reconstruct the newly "discovered" country for themselves and for the museums they supported once they returned home.

\* "pictures of the floating world," a genre of woodblock prints.

## **Speaker**

Eleanor M. Hight is Associate Professor of Art History at the University of New Hampshire, Durham. Her publications include *Picturing Modernism: Moholy-Nagy and Photography in Weimar Germany* (MIT, 1995) and *Colonialist Photography: Imag(in)ing Race and Place* (Routledge, 2002), co-edited with Gary D. Sampson. Her current research focuses on photographs of Japan and Japonism in Boston in the late nineteenth century.

**This lecture is jointly sponsored by the Peabody Museum and the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, in conjunction with exhibition *A Good Type: Tourism and Science in Early Japanese Photographs*.**

## **About the Peabody Museum**

The Peabody Museum is among the oldest archaeological and ethnographic museums in the world with one of the finest collections of human cultural history found anywhere. It is home to superb materials from Africa, ancient Europe, North America, Mesoamerica, Oceania, and South America in particular. In addition to its archaeological and ethnographic holdings, the Museum's photographic archives, one of the largest of its kind, holds more than 500,000 historical photographs, dating from the mid-19th century to the present and chronicling anthropology, archaeology, and world culture.

**Location:** *The Peabody Museum is located at 11 Divinity Avenue in Cambridge. The Museum is a short walk from the Harvard Square MBTA station.*

**Hours:** 9 AM to 5 PM, 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. Admission is \$9.00 for adults, \$7.00 for students and seniors, \$6.00 for children, 3–18. Free with Harvard ID or Museum membership. The Museum is free to Massachusetts residents Sundays, 9 AM to noon, year round, and Wednesdays from 3 PM to 5 PM (September to May). Admission includes admission to the Harvard Museum of Natural History. The Peabody Museum participates in the City Pass and WGBH programs. For more information call (617) 496-1027 or go online to: [www.peabody.harvard.edu](http://www.peabody.harvard.edu).

Media Contact: Pamela Gerardi, Director of External Affairs  
Peabody Museum  
11 Divinity Ave.  
Cambridge, MA 02138

Tel: (617) 496-0099; Fax: (617) 495-7535, [gerardi@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:gerardi@fas.harvard.edu)