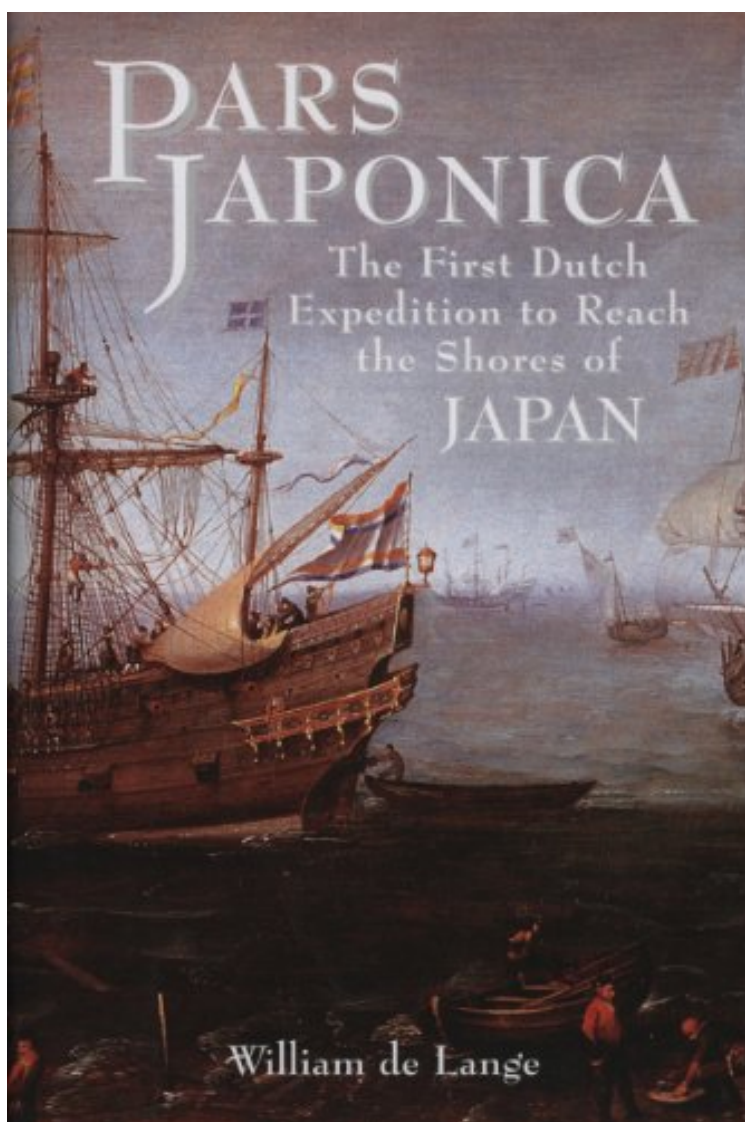


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## **Pars Japonica: The First Dutch Expedition to Reach the Shores of Japan . . . Brought by the English Pilot Will Adams, Hero of Shogun**

*William de Lange*

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**William de Lange : Pars Japonica: The First Dutch Expedition to Reach the Shores of Japan . . . Brought by the English Pilot Will Adams, Hero of Shogun** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pars Japonica: The First Dutch Expedition to Reach the Shores of Japan . . . Brought by the English Pilot Will Adams, Hero of Shogun:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By TokyoGaijinI just finished reading this book today after letting it sit on my book shelf for nearly two years. Honestly, the font put me off a bit, so I kept reading other books ahead of it, even though I was very interested in the subject matter. I definitely should have picked it up sooner. If you are picking up this book after reading/watching James Clavell's "Shogun" like I did, it doesn't spend a lot of time on William Adams...but it gives a better picture of the entire expedition than other accounts I have read. It is definitely a keeper for me.For anyone looking for more information about William Adams, I recommend "Samurai William: The Englishman Who Opened Japan" by Giles Milton.7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Still an Age of Discoveries, a rare gem found: Japonicae ParsBy T. B. van VlietThis is a gem of a book for many reasons. It tells, in a brilliant way, the story how Shogun's Anjin san (the pilot Will Adams) came to Japan. It expands on the terrible dangers of crossing from Europe to the East and focuses on the men who dared this. Its introduction gives a splendid overview of the age of discoveries. Finally the book itself gives one the idea to be in the possession of a very well preserved 16th century book: the yellowish paper, the way it is cut, the illustrations and maps, all adds to the feeling of the story told.The author is very erudite and has the unique capacity to make complex history a novel.

This is the harrowing account of arguably the most ill-fated expedition in the long maritime history of the Low Countries. At the end of the 16th century five heavily armed ships sailed from the port of Rotterdam under the command of men who had never set foot on a seagoing ship. Their plan was to sail through the treacherous Strait of Magellan and raid the western coast of Latin America as had the Englishmen Drake and Cavendish. Storms, disease, and general inexperience were to upset those ambitious plans in unexpected ways. The terrible hardships suffered in the course of the subsequent two years became an almost biblical trial of the officers and crew--a trial the outcome of which seemed to scorn the ships' talismanic names: Faith, Hope, Love, Fidelity, and The Gospel. Instead, treachery, betrayal, mutiny, and mayhem were the grim rewards of this fateful journey. Out of the five hundred men who sailed, only a hundred survived and only a handful of those were ever to return home. One ship did pass the test, but not in the way its owners had foreseen. It was through the offices of an English pilot that the ship called Love reached the as yet largely unknown islands of Japan and that the outcome of an otherwise so disastrous expedition was miraculously reversed. The pilot's name was William Adams, the near mythical yet real-life figure who became the hero of James Clavell's best-selling novel Shogun. William de Lange studied Japanese language and culture at the University of Leiden and at Waseda University in Japan. He is active as a translator and interpreter in a variety of capacities in the Netherlands, Germany, and Japan, and is author of the three-volume history Famous Japanese Swordsmen and The Real Musashi.

William de Lange, through his careful research into Dutch, English, Japanese and German sources, has produced a book, which gives a new perspective to the arrival of William Adams in Japan in 1600. A good deal has been written about Adams and his contributions to the development of the trade relations with Japan and his relationship with Tokugawa Ieyasu, but comparatively little has appeared about the voyage of the Dutch fleet of five ships, of which the Liefde (Love) with Adams as the pilot was one. -- Sir Hugh Cortazzi --Japan-UK , Volume 1 No 6