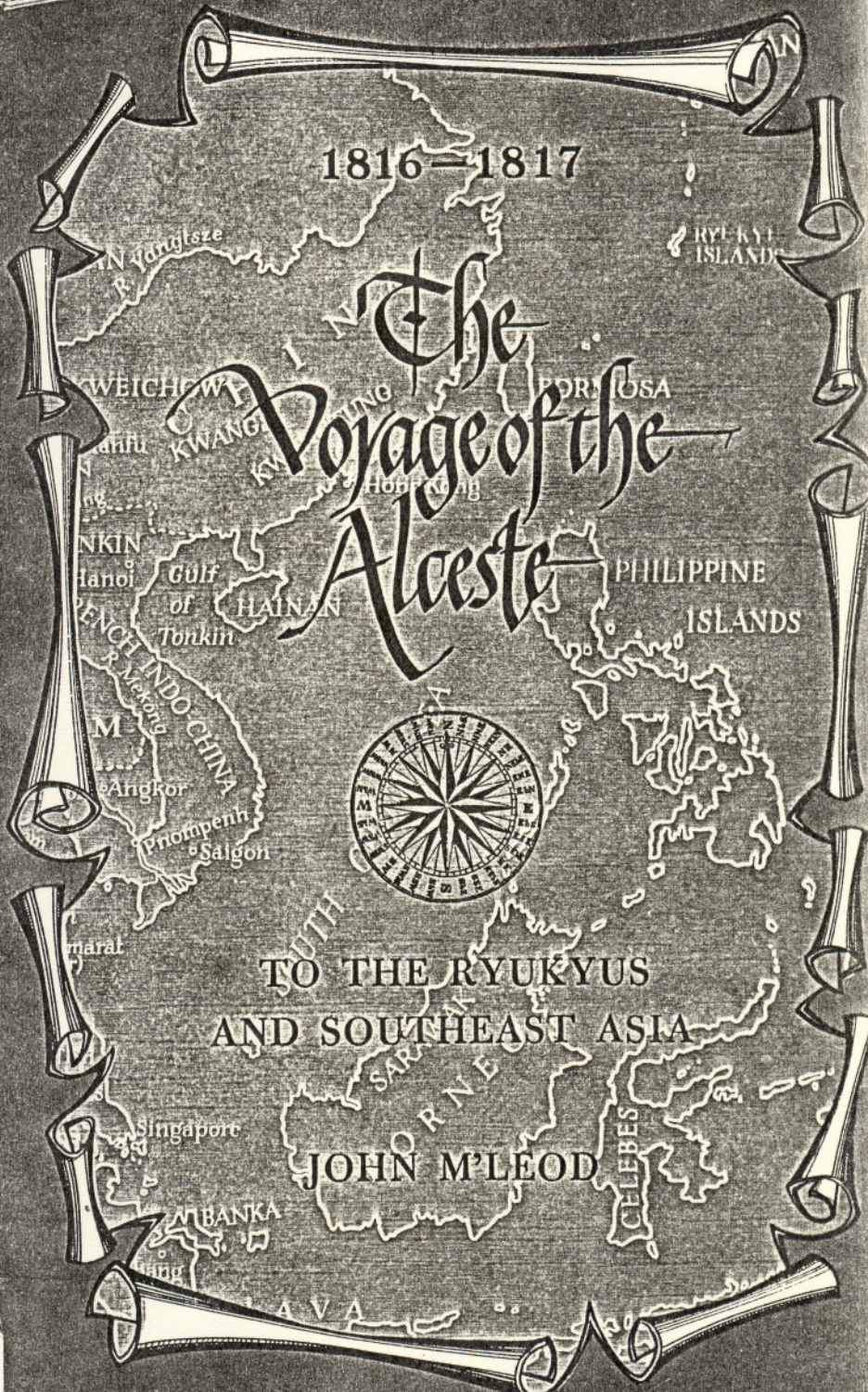


1816—1817

The Voyage of the Alceste

TO THE RYUKYUS
AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

JOHN M'LEOD



YANGTZE R.

RYUKYU ISLANDS

WEICHOW

FORMOSA

KWANG

ANKIN

HANOI

TONKIN

INDO-CHINA

ANGKOR

PNOMPENH

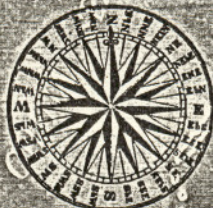
SALON

MARAL

SINGAPORE

BANKA

JAVA



PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

SARAWAK

BORNEO

CELEBES

THE VOYAGE OF THE ALCESTE TO THE RYUKYUS AND SOUTHEAST ASIA

Almost a century and a half ago, when the East was far more mysterious than it is today, there appeared in London a book with the voluminous title *Narrative of a Voyage in His Majesty's Late Ship Alceste, to the Yellow Sea, along the Coast of Corea, and through Its Numerous Hitherto Undiscovered Islands, to the Island of Lewchew; with an Account of Her Shipwreck in the Straits of Gaspar*. The author was John M'Leod, surgeon of the *Alceste*.

It is this fascinating narrative that is presented here in a complete and unabridged reprint of the original edition, together with a new and illuminating introduction by Shannon McCune, United States Civil Administrator of the Ryukyu Islands, and with a group of maps adapted from a companion volume. Readers will quickly discover for themselves why this valuable book deserves to be made available once again to a modern audience, but a few excerpts from Mr. McCune's introduction are appropriate here:

"Though published almost one hundred and fifty years ago, this book by John M'Leod relating events associated with a visit to the Far East in 1816 deserves to be read in the modern day. The felicitously told story of the long voyage of the *Alceste* from England via Brazil and Cape Town, the relatively inhospitable reception in

(continued on back flap)

(continued from front flap)

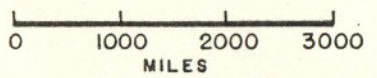
China and on the shores of Korea, the shipwreck near Java, and the eventual return of the ship's company via St. Helena, where Napoleon was encountered, is a good adventure yarn. Moreover, its detailed account of the Ryukyu Islands, the principal episode of the book, affords a valuable observation of life of a century and a half ago in what even today is a little observed or known part of the world. . . . Many of Mr. M'Leod's penetrating observations on the life and society of the Ryukyuan people are helpful to understanding the background of the present day. They create nostalgia for that long-gone gentle life of these islands of courtesy, but they may also, by contrast, light up the present scene. . . .

"In reading again this account of life in the Ryukyus of a century and a half ago, one cannot help but get an impression of a likable, quiet, courteous people, a people whose basic traits today are very similar despite the ravages of modernization and war."

JOHN M'LEOD was a native of Bonhill, Dumbartonshire. In 1815 he became the surgeon of the *Alceste*, a frigate of 46 guns and a component of a British expedition to the Far East. M'Leod was a man of wide interests and wrote other travel books in subsequent years. He had the pleasure of seeing his *Voyage of the Alceste* appear in a number of editions and reprints following its publication in 1817, including translations into Dutch and French in 1818 and an American edition in 1819.

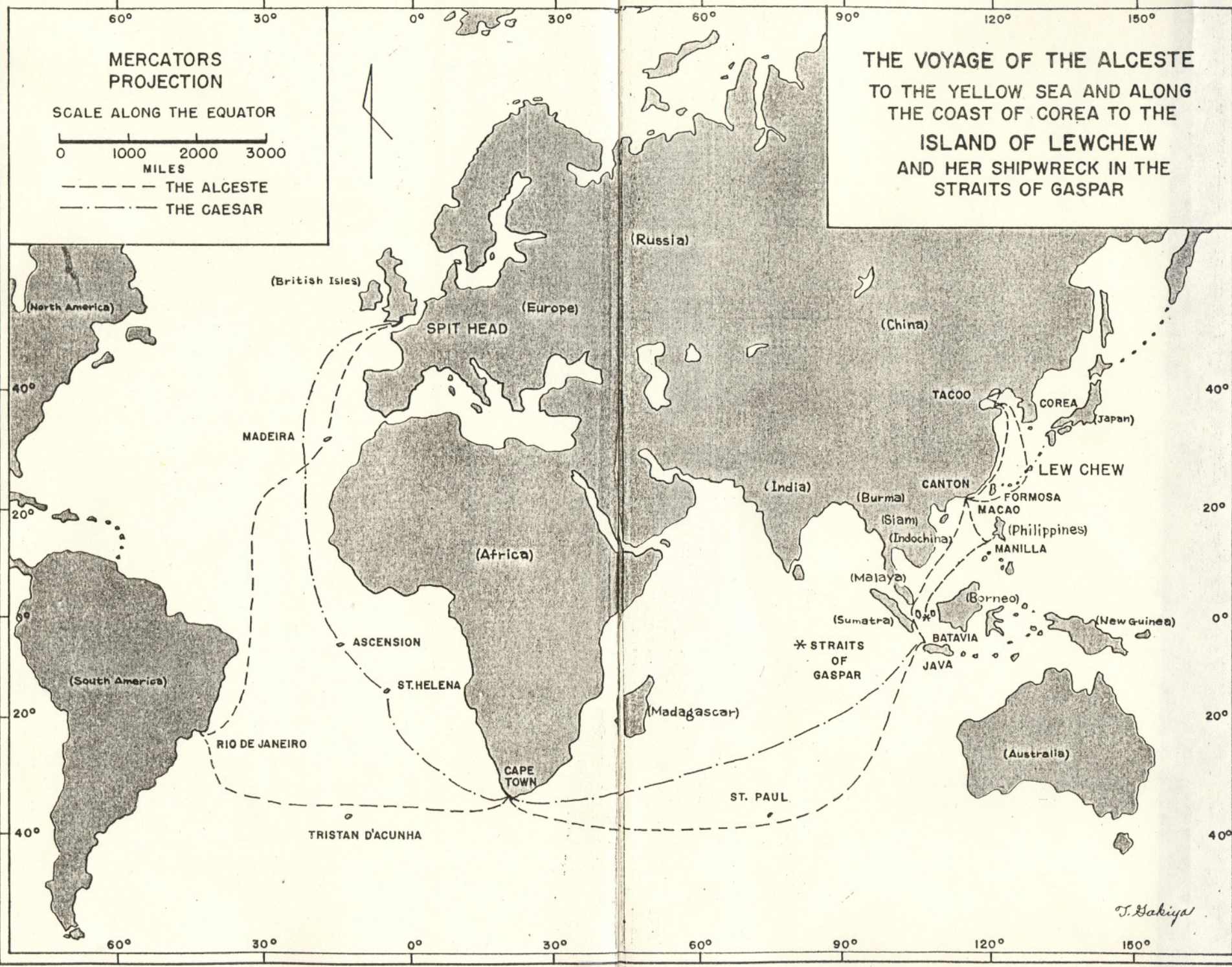
MERCATORS
PROJECTION

SCALE ALONG THE EQUATOR



--- THE ALCESTE
- - - THE CAESAR

THE VOYAGE OF THE ALCESTE
TO THE YELLOW SEA AND ALONG
THE COAST OF COREA TO THE
ISLAND OF LEWCHEW
AND HER SHIPWRECK IN THE
STRAITS OF GASPAR



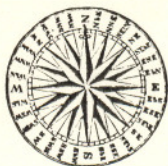
J. Hakiya

Karl

" THE VOYAGE
OF THE ALCESTE
TO THE RYUKYUS
AND
SOUTHEAST ASIA "

by John M'Leod, Surgeon,
of the Alceste

with an introduction
by Shannon McCune



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

IT has for some time been our policy to make available once again—in reprint form and for the benefit of scholars, interested laymen, and libraries throughout the world—valuable books on Asia containing original research material not obtainable elsewhere. In keeping with this policy, we are pleased to offer the present edition of John M'Leod's *Voyage of the Alceste*, first published in London in 1817 and long listed among rare books dealing with early British and American expeditions to the Far East. We are also pleased to acknowledge our indebtedness to Mr. Shannon McCune, United States Civil Administrator of the Ryukyu Islands, for his assistance in the project of

bringing this notable book to the attention of present-day readers—particularly those who have an interest in Okinawa and the other Ryukyu Islands.

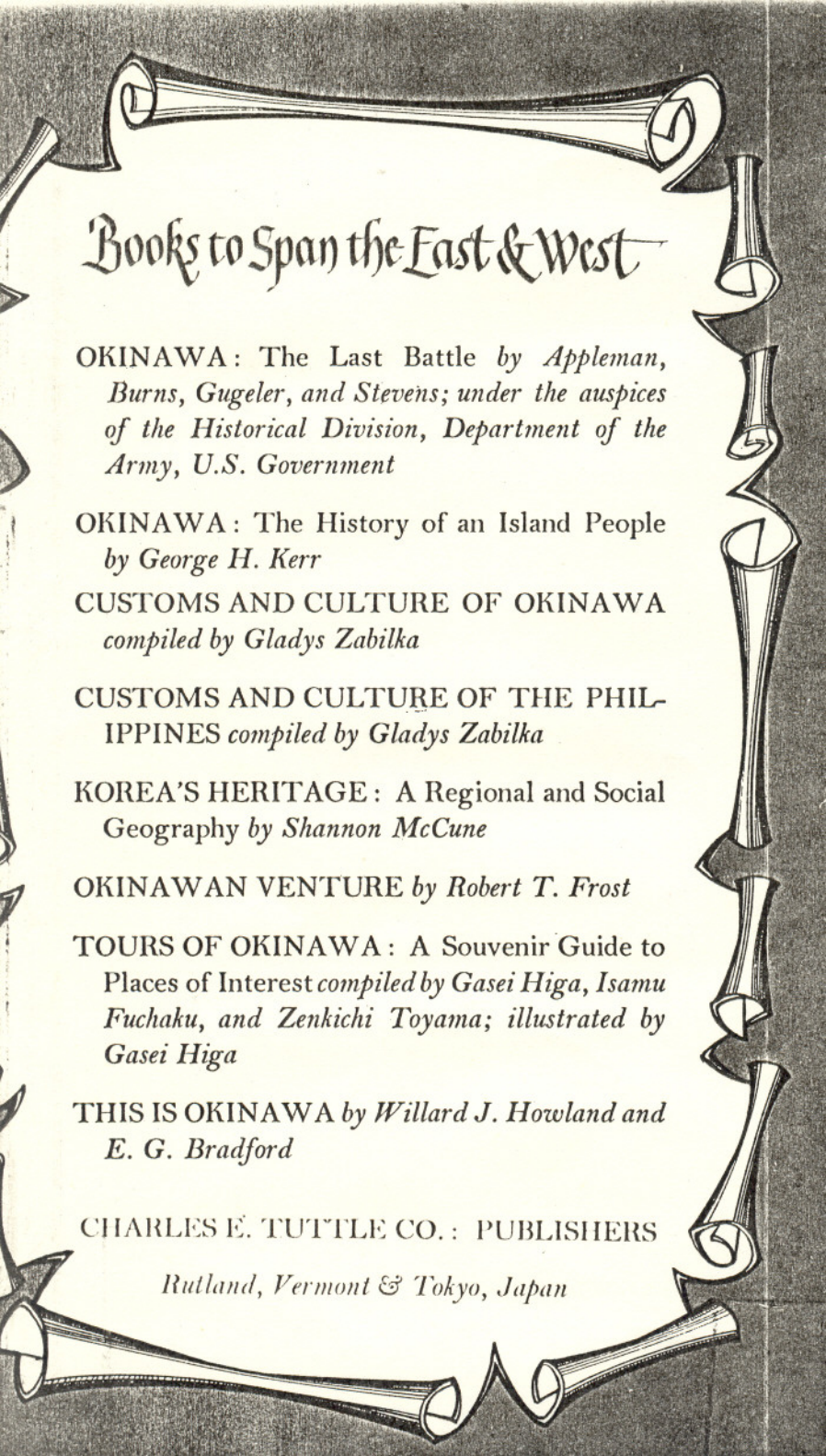
This complete and unabridged reprint has been made by photo-offset from the first edition of 1817 and includes the original title page, front matter, text, appendices, and illustrations—the last, however, reproduced in monochrome rather than in color. This material, which makes up the bulk of the volume and carries the same page numbers as in the original, is preceded by new front matter (paginated in Roman numerals) that includes the following: a less expansive and more modern title page stressing the principal episode of the book—that is, the sojourn of the *Alceste* in the Ryukyus; a table of contents; an illuminating introductory essay by Mr. McCune; and a group of the three maps redrawn and adapted by Mr. McCune from a contemporary companion volume. Rather than reproduce in facsimile the errata slip that was inserted in the edition of 1817, it has been decided to take note of the corrections here:

page 30, line 21: for "winter" read "summer"

page 38, line 19: for "easterly" read "northerly"

page 47, line 20: for "36° 26' N." read "34° 26' N."

page 53, lines 14 and 15: for "a hundred and thirty to a hundred and fifty" read "a hundred to a hundred and thirty"

A decorative border made of stylized, hand-drawn scrollwork and ribbon-like elements surrounds the text. The scrolls are drawn with fine lines and shading, creating a sense of depth and movement. The border is most prominent at the top and bottom, framing the title and publisher information.

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OKINAWA: The Last Battle by *Appleman, Burns, Gugeler, and Stevens*; under the auspices of the Historical Division, Department of the Army, U.S. Government

OKINAWA: The History of an Island People by *George H. Kerr*

CUSTOMS AND CULTURE OF OKINAWA compiled by *Gladys Zabilka*

CUSTOMS AND CULTURE OF THE PHILIPPINES compiled by *Gladys Zabilka*

KOREA'S HERITAGE: A Regional and Social Geography by *Shannon McCune*

OKINAWAN VENTURE by *Robert T. Frost*

TOURS OF OKINAWA: A Souvenir Guide to Places of Interest compiled by *Gasei Higa, Isamu Fuchaku, and Zenkichi Toyama*; illustrated by *Gasei Higa*

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