

The Japan Lights

On the Trail of the Scot Who Lit Up Japan's Coast



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Iain Maloney

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Literary Fiction – History

Travel Writing – Memoir

Humour – Scotland

Aberdeen – Japan

THE JAPAN LIGHTS

In 2017, holed up in a hotel room, feverish, despondent and aimless, Iain Maloney chances upon an article about Richard Henry Brunton, a Victorian civil engineer unknown in his Scottish homeland but considered 'The Father of Japanese Lighthouses' in Japan. With more than twenty of his lighthouses still in use today, Maloney sets out with newfound purpose to visit them all.

Part travel memoir, part history, *The Japan Lights* visits isolated regions of rural Japan, discovering compelling stories from its past. Maloney witnesses the lingering trauma of the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster, and comes to a new understanding of the precariousness of life on a planet that is 71 per cent water. On the way he explores the paradox of Brunton, a flawed human being whose work saved hundreds of thousands of lives and made the seas around Japan safer for all.

WHO'S IAIN MALONEY?

Iain Maloney is the author of eight books, including the critically acclaimed *The Only Gaijin in the Village*, a memoir about his life in rural Japan. He teaches creative writing and literature at Sugiyama Jogakuen University, and is also a freelance editor and journalist, mainly for *The Japan Times*. He was born and raised in Aberdeen, Scotland.

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PRAISES FOR *THE JAPAN LIGHTS*

Iain Maloney sheds new light on the topic, with a mix of historical fact and personal touches...an entertaining, enjoyable and informative read.

- Chris Glenn, Radio DJ, TV presenter and author.

In a kind of time-travel memoir, Iain Maloney shines a light on Brunton, illuminating both his good deeds, and his shortcomings with equal care and tenderness. Maloney's humour and compassion are the real star of the show.

- Nick Bradley, Author of *The Cat and The City*

PRAISES FOR *THE ONLY GAJIN IN THE VILLAGE*

A charmer...the crisp, evocative prose is liberally splashed with Maloney's dry blend of humour...This book is a wealth of information and the reader learns a huge amount about rural Japan. It is charming, as is its narrator, and always amusing. The crisp and evocative prose is liberally splashed with Iain's dry blend of humour.

- Dundee Courier Book of the Week

PUBLISHER'S INFORMATION

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