## Acknowledgements

This book started as a workshop "Curious and Scientific Things – Seeing and Knowing in Early Modern East Asia (1700-1900)" held at Leiden University in October 2018 and sponsored by Leiden University's Asian Modernities and Traditions Research Fund. We are grateful to all participants, presenters, and discussants who contributed to this workshop. Their constructive feedback encouraged us to progress towards a book project.

During the process of editing this book, we have received tremendous support from many institutions, colleagues, and friends. We thank Leiden University's Institute for Area Studies (LIAS) for providing research funding in 2022 and 2023; the open access of this book was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Isaac Alfred Ailion Foundation, a LIAS Publication Grant, and the Heinz Kaempfer Fund. At various stages, we received valuable advice from Victoria Blud, Marc Buijnsters, Anne Gerritsen, Hilde De Weerdt, Marc Gilbert, Lianyu Jin, Ivo Smits, Nira Wickramasinghe, and Guanmian Xu. We are also grateful for the meticulous and insightful comments from the anonymous reviewers. Our copy editor Anna Beerens patiently read through our manuscript twice and offered numerous comments. Last but not the least, we thank our editor Inge Klompmakers and her team for providing unwavering support with their professional expertise and heartfelt encouragement.