



Smithsonian
*Freer Gallery of Art and
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

Three Roads to Urga, [typescript]

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Three Roads to Urga [typescript]
Date:	circa 1920s
Identifier:	FSA.A1996.02
Extent:	1 Item (75 pages of typescript) 79 Items (silver prints; black and white)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Three Roads to Urga [typescript] Image(s): Three Roads to Urga [typescript]

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Silvio A. Bedini, 1996

Preferred Citation

Three Roads to Urga [typescript]. FSA.A1996.02. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Scope and Contents

A detailed account of uncertain authorship recalling travel to and from Urga (presently known as Ulaanbataar, Mongolia) in Outer Mongolia. The author is perhaps Georg Soderbom; a member of Sven Hedin's expedition who often worked under Frans Larson Soderbom is pictured in many of the collection's silver plates. The account is replete with descriptions of travel conditions and methods, ethnographic notes, an encounter with "the Andrews expedition" (likely the Central Asiatic Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History led by Roy Chapman Andrews from 1922-1925), and the natural ecosystem. 79 silver prints adorn the text, depicting Soderbom, peoples encountered, vehicles, buildings, and so forth. For the purpose of this collection, all relevant silver prints are numbered as attachments to the appropriate page of the transcript; i.e., the second print affixed to page 32 of the transcript becomes 32b.

While exact provenance of the collection is unclear, it is believed the collection was owned by the Asian art dealer Abel William Bahr (1877-1959). Bahr was born to a German father and a Chinese mother in Shanghai, and became an avid collector of Chinese paintings, jades, and porcelains. He would become a prominent collector and, in 1908, helped to host the first exhibition of Chinese art under the auspices of the Royal Asiatic Society in Shanghai.

Arrangement

Organized in the original manner by the creator.

Local Numbers

FSA A1996.02

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Types of Materials:

- Prints
- Travel diaries
- Travel diaries

Places:

- Mongolia
- Mongolia -- Mongolia -- Urga (Ulaanbaatar)
- Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)