



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

Charles Leander Weed Photographs of Japan

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	Charles Leander Weed Photographs of Japan
Identifier:	FSA.A2002.04
Date:	circa 1866
Creator:	Weed, Charles Leander, 1824-1903
Extent:	1 Print (albumen; image 40 x 52 cm., mounted 56 x 70 cm.)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): Charles Leander Weed Photographs of Japan Image(s): Charles Leander Weed Photographs of Japan

Administrative Information

Provenance

Purchase View of Yokohama, 2002.

Provenance

Purchase, Fishing Village on Mississippi Bay, 2001.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository.

Biographical / Historical

The American photographer Charles Leander Weed became well-known for his photographs of California, especially his spectacular views of Yosemite. Weed spent some time in the early 1860s in Hong Kong, where he established a studio with the Chinese name Wit Ying-Seung. When this proved unsuccessful, he traveled in Asia, then returned to California. In 1866-1867, he traveled again to Japan and China, where he made mammoth-plate landscapes that were issued as a series entitled "Oriental Scenery" by the publisher Thomas Houseworth. This mammoth-plate albumen print shows a landscape view near Yokohama, which was the base of foreign trade in Japan after Commodore Perry's arrival in 1853. This mammoth-plate albumen print shows the coastline of Negishi Bay, located south of Yokohama Bay. Located just over one mile due south of Yokohama, across a narrow peninsula, Negishi Bay was known to the foreign residents of Yokohama in the 1860s by its American designation, Mississippi Bay, a nomenclature that was based on the name of one of Commodore Matthew C. Perry's naval vessels. This photograph was taken from a vantage point along the coastal road about two miles southwest of Yokohama, facing in the direction of the city and the more distant capital city, Edo. This site was well within the boundaries established by the Ansei treaties of 1858 for travel by foreigners without special permits.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of two photographic prints: I. One sepia monochrome albumen print taken from a wet collodion glass plate negative, 40 x 52 cm., by Charles Leander Weed, circa 1866. Printed caption on mount reads "View Near Yokohama 19." Printed text on the reverse identifies the publisher, Thomas Houseworth, 317-319 Montgomery St., San Francisco. The reverse also includes a reproduction of a medal won by Thomas Houseworth at the Paris International Exhibition 1867 for the "finest photographs of scenery of the Pacific Coast." Image depicts a view of the landscape near Yokohama, Japan.

Scope and Contents

II. One sepia monochrome albumen print taken from a wet collodion glass plate negative, by Charles Leander Weed, circa 1866. Printed caption on mount reads "Fishing Village on Mississippi Bay -- Near Yokohama 18". Printed text on the reverse identifies the publisher, Thomas Houseworth, 317-319 Montgomery St., San Francisco. The reverse also includes a reproduction of a medal won by Thomas Houseworth at the Paris International Exhibition 1867 for the "finest photographs of scenery of the Pacific Coast." The photograph depicts a road running along white cliffs next to a fishing village on Mississippi Bay (Negishi Bay), near Yokohama, Japan.

Arrangement

One flat box.

Local Numbers

FSA A2002.04

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

Bays -- Japan

Types of Materials:

Albumen prints
Photographs

Places:

Japan
Japan -- Kanagawa prefecture -- Yokohama
Mississippi Bay
Yokohama-shi (Japan)