



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

View of Peking from the Observatory, with
17th century astronomical instruments

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives
Title:	View of Peking from the Observatory, with 17th century astronomical instruments
Date:	1870s
Identifier:	FSA.A2009.03
Extent:	1 Item (photographic print; albumen; 21.4 x 27.5 cm)
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): View of Peking from the Observatory, with 17th century astronomical instruments

Administrative Information

Provenance

Gift of Dr. Thomas Lawton

Citation

View of Peking from the Observatory, with 17th century astronomical instruments, FSA.A2009.03. National Museum of Asian Art Archives. Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. Gift of Dr. Thomas Lawton.

Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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

Biographical / Historical

The observatory was originally built in the Ming dynasty, but expanded in the Qing dynasty. Many of the instruments were looted during the occupation of the Eight-Nation Alliance.

Scope and Contents

A large format albumen print of the Beijing Ancient Observatory, with various bronze instruments, altazimuth in the foreground. The print has minor fading and wear, and appears to have been removed from a photographic album. Print shows slight image doubling, suggesting that the camera was nudged during the long exposure. Exact date and photographer are unknown.

Scope and Contents

北京

Arrangement

Single item

Local Numbers

FSA A2009.03

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- Astronomical observatories -- China
- Astronomy

Types of Materials:

- Albumen prints -- 1860-1880

Places:

- Beijing (China)
- China
- China -- Peking (Beijing)