



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

Guide to MS 1983-28 John Bernadou
collection of Korean maps and drawings

National Anthropological Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 1983-28 John Bernadou collection of Korean maps and drawings
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NAA.MS1983-28
Creator:	Bernadou, John B. (John Baptiste), 1858-1908 (Collector)
Extent:	10 Maps 4 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor) 1 Manuscripts (document genre)
Language:	Collection is in Korean and English.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The collection was assembled by Bernadou in Seoul, Korea in 1885.

The drawings were acquired by the USNM in 1886 (USNM Accession 16970) along with a larger collection of artifacts. Originally, there were five watercolor drawings in the set; the fifth drawing (described as "Story of Lomoo, a Chinese officer banished by the Emperor") has been lost. The drawings were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in 1984.

The maps were acquired by the USNM as a deposit in 1893 (USNM Accession 27260), and were transferred to the National Anthropological Archives in 1983.

Related Materials

The Department of Anthropology object collections holds artifacts collected by Bernadou in Korea in Accessions 16970, 32730, and 61681.

Processing Information

The items in this collection were originally cataloged by NAA as two separate collections, MS 7165 (drawings) and MS 1983-28 (maps and notes). In 2023, the collection was reprocessed and all items were incorporated into a single collection under MS 1983-28.

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

Biographical Note

John Baptiste Bernadou (1858–1908) was an officer in the United States Navy. In 1884, Smithsonian Secretary Spencer Baird appointed Bernadou a "Smithsonian Attaché" to the American Legation in Korea on an assignment to investigate the country's economic and strategic potential. Over the next year, Bernadou learned the Korean language and local customs, traveled extensively, and assembled a collection of material culture that was deposited at the Smithsonian Institution. He later served in the Spanish-American War and developed a formula for smokeless gunpowder.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of materials gathered by Bernadou in Korea in 1884-1885, including ten (10) maps and related notes and (4) watercolor drawings.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Publication Note

The collection is described in:

Hough, Walter. "The Bernadou, Allen, and Jouy collections in the U.S. National Museum." *Annual Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian* 1891.

Houchins Chang-su Cho. *An Ethnography of the Hermit Kingdom: The J. B. Bernadou Korean Collection 1884-1885*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution, Asian Cultural History Program, 2004.

Names and Subject Terms

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

Types of Materials:

- Manuscripts
- Maps
- Watercolors
- Works of art

Places:

- East Asia
- Korea

Container Listing

	Maps Notes:	Contains ten (10) hand drawn maps of the world, Korea, and Korean provinces, as well as a set of related notes.
Folder 1983-28, Item 1	Map of the world 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 14.5 x 11.75 inches) Image(s): Korean Map of the World Drawing Image(s): Korean Map of the World Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08826700
Folder 1983-28, Item 2	Korean Map of Korea 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 17 x 28 inches) Image(s): Map of Korea Drawing Image(s): Map of Korea Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08825800
Folder 1983-28, Item 3	Map of Hamgyong province 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 16 x 25.75 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08825900
Folder 1983-28, Item 4	Map of Hamgyong province 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 17 x 23 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08826000
Folder 1983-28, Item 5	Map of Gangwon province 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 16.75 x 21.75 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08826100
Folder 1983-28, Item 6	Map of Gyeongsang province 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 16.5 x 22 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08826200
Folder 1983-28, Item 7	Map of Jeolla province 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 17 x 22 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes:	NAA INV 08826300

Folder 1983-28, Item 8	Map of Gyeonggi and Chungcheong provinces 1 Drawings (visual works) (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 17 x 22 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes: NAA INV 08826400
Folder 1983-28, Item 9	Map of Hwanghae province 1 Drawings (visual works) (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 17 x 22 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes: NAA INV 08826500
Folder 1983-28, Item 10	Map of Gangwon province 1 Map (hand drawn and colored on mulberry paper; 15.5 x 22 inches) Image(s): Map Drawing Image(s): Map Drawing Notes: NAA INV 08826600
Box 1983-28, Folder 1	Notes Notes: Notes by Bernadou on the maps and other subjects, including: descriptions of the 145 nations represented in the Korean map of the world in Chinese ideographs and literal English translations; notes on other individual maps; notes on the Korean method of making ink; and notes on various colors of silk used for jewelry wrappings.
Box 1983-28, Folder 2	Drawings 4 Drawings (visual works) (watercolor; 12.5 x 11 inches) Notes: Four watercolor drawings collected by Bernadou in Seoul, Korea in 1885. A fifth drawing has been lost.
Box 1983-28, Folder 2, Item 1	Autumn moonlight scene 1 Drawings (visual works) Notes: NAA INV 10000030 USNM Catalog 77118 (1)
Box 1983-28, Folder 2, Item 2	Winter night scene after a snow storm 1 Drawings (visual works) Notes: NAA INV 10000031 USNM Catalog 77118 (2) Signed: Kyongman(?)
Box 1983-28, Folder 2, Item 3	Butterflies and flowers 1 Drawings (visual works) Notes: NAA INV 10000032 USNM Catalog 77118 (3)

Signed: Han Chin-u

Box 1983-28, Folder
2, Item 4

[Underwater view with seaweed, crabs, shrimp, and mollusks](#)

1 Drawings (visual works)

Notes: NAA INV 10000033

USNM Catalog 77118 (4)