



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to MS 7412 Chinese watercolor paintings

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 7412 Chinese watercolor paintings
<b>Date:</b>	undated
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS7412
<b>Creator:</b>	Pope, Alice James (Donor)
<b>Extent:</b>	11 Paintings (visual works) (watercolor on rice paper; 5 x 7 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	No linguistic content; Not applicable .
<b>Container:</b>	Box 7412

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The paintings were collected in China in the late nineteenth century by the merchant family of donor's husband. They were donated to the Museum of Natural History by Alice James Pope on July 30, 1979. They were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in September 1986.

### Processing Information

Some description based on research by Emily Hoover, summer intern, Department of Anthropology.

### Preferred Citation

MS 7412 Chinese watercolor paintings, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of eleven (11) miniature polychrome paintings on pith paper by an unknown artist. The paintings were probably made in the late nineteenth century by a professional artist who catered to foreign tourists wanting souvenirs from China. They may all be related to a common theme, or they may be scattered glimpses of Chinese life. Many of the figures appear to be part of a festival or drama.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and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.

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## Local Numbers

NAA MS 7412

USNM Accession Number 337069

USNM Catalog Numbers 419629-419639

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## Variant Title

Paintings of Chinese scenes

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Subjects:

China trade watercolor painting  
Chinese

### Cultures:

Chinese

### Types of Materials:

Watercolors  
Works of art

### Places:

China  
East Asia

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## Container Listing

### Man on horseback

Notes: NAA INV 10000057

A man in colorful garments is seated on a white horse. He is wearing traditional Manchu clothing--brocaded blue pants, a short-waisted yellow jacket, and a red peaked hat with a long green tassel, possibly a feather. He carried a sword in his right hand. The style and elaborateness of his garments indicate that he is a warrior or some other high-ranking government official.

### Woman

Notes: NAA INV 10000058

A woman wearing a green-shouldered brocaded blue dress with a red skirt underneath. On her head is a bowl-shaped hat. Her tiny shoes indicate that her feet have been bound, a tradition among the Chinese upper class.

### Woman playing the hu-gin

Notes: NAA INV 10000059

A woman sitting on a red chair palying the hu-gin, a two-stringed Chinese instrument played with a bow. The woman wears a purple robe, green pants, three flowers in her hair, and tiny red shoes over her bound feet.

### Man with bundle

Notes: NAA INV 10000060

The man wears a green robe, yellow hat, and black shoes and carries a red bundle under his left arm.

### Man with tambourine or chain

Notes: NAA INV 10000061

The man wears a grey robe, blue skirt, and red hat with two feathers. The object he holds has been only inconclusively identified.

### Man with sword

Notes: NAA INV 10000062

The man wears Manchu dress--red overjacket with pink and green robe that has tapered sleeves. He has a blue skirt on under the robe and wears a red and yellow hat with long yellow tassels or feathers (associated with Chinese opera).

### Man with red flag and gong

Notes: NAA INV 10000063

The man wears a green shirt, purple pantaloons, and a yellow hat.

### Man with parasol

Notes: NAA INV 10000064  
The man wears a green shirt and purple pants and carries a yellow-topped, red-trimmed silk parasol.

#### Man with tablet

Notes: NAA INV 10000065  
The man wears a blue shirt, purple pants, and a yellow hat. He is carrying something on a pole, possibly a tablet such as those used in wedding or funeral processions.

#### Houseboat

Notes: NAA INV 10000066  
A yellow boat with two sheltered areas floats in the water behind thirteen white ducks. the boat is a houseboat probably belonging to a fisherman.

#### Junk decorated for a celebration

Notes: NAA INV 10000067  
An elaborate, many-colored riverboat with a mast but no sail, a banner with an illegible inscription (possibly the name of the owner of the boat), and pink, blue and green flags.