



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

Guide to MS 7413 John Walter Osborne  
lithographs of scenes in China, March 1870

National Anthropological Archives  
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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 7413 John Walter Osborne lithographs of scenes in China
<b>Date:</b>	March 1870
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS7413
<b>Creator:</b>	American Photo-Lithographic Company Osborne, J. W. (John Walter), 1828-1902
<b>Extent:</b>	8 Lithographs (black-and-white; 11 x 7 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was donated to the Smithsonian Institution by J. W. Osborne in 1890. The accession record states that the collection contained 17 lithographs and 2 photographs. Eight lithographs and one photograph were transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives by Chang-su Houchins in July 1986. The location of the remaining photograph and nine lithographs is unknown.

### Separated Materials

The National Anthropological Archives holds a photograph (Group Wearing Blankets and Fur Robes, Some with Baskets) donated with the lithographs in Photo Lot 97.

### Related Materials

The National Museum of American History holds a large collection of photomechanical prints created and collected by J. W. Osborne and donated to the Smithsonian Institution in 1888 (Accession 23155).

### Processing Information

Some description based on research by Emily Hoover, summer volunteer, Department of Anthropology. Titles supplied by the archivist are in square brackets [].

### Preferred Citation

MS 7413 John Walter Osborne lithographs of scenes in China, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

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## Biographical Note

John Walter Osborne (1828-1902) was a professional photographer, lithographer, and inventor, who developed the world's first commercially viable photolithographic process. He was born in Ireland and emigrated to Australia in 1852. In 1859, while employed by the Surveyor General of Victoria in Melbourne, he developed and patented a

photolithographic transfer method suitable for copying maps. In 1864 Osborne emigrated to the United States. He set up the American Photo-Lithographic Company in Brooklyn, New York, and was contracted to print the official U.S. patent drawings between 1871 and 1874. His work also appeared in trade journals and advertising. Later he lived in Washington DC, where he served as a printing consultant and patent expert.

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## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of eight (8) lithographs of scenes in China printed on thick white paper. Each print bears a stamp "American Photo-Lithographic Co. Osborne's Process. New York" and the date.

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 7413

USNM Accession Number 23775

USNM Catalog Number 151643

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## Names and Subject Terms

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

### Types of Materials:

- Lithographs
- Works of art

### Places:

- China
- East Asia

## Container Listing

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[Landing Place and Entrance to the Temple of Honan, Canton, 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes: NAA INV 10000068

Drawn by T. Allom from a sketch on the spot by Warner Varnham, Esq., and engraved by C.T. Dixon. Pictured is a temple on the water with fishing boats, fishermen, merchants, and other townspeople. Labelled No. 57

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[\[Interior of Chinese lantern shop\], 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes: NAA INV 10000069

Untitled, by unknown artists. Shows the inside of a Chinese lantern shop with two men standing in the center, one a buyer and the other a seller. Other men are working on lanterns. Labelled No. 62.

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[Scene from the Spectacle of "The Sun and the Moon", 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes: NAA INV 10000070

Drawn by T. Allom, engraved by R. Staines. Scene from a Chinese opera. Three players are engaged in a battle--the "Moon" stands on the right, pointing his spear at the "Sun," who is raising two globe-shaped objects on poles above his head. A third actor is about to throw an object at the Moon. Seated around the edge of the stage are musicians, one playing the pipa (or balloon guitar) and another playing the ta-lo (gong). Labelled No. 65.

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[Arrival of Marriage presents at the bridal residence, 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes: NAA INV 10000071

Drawn by T. Allom, engraved by W. Floyd. Depicts an ornamental Chinese boat drawn up to the entrance of the bride's home. Presents from the groom are being handed to servants of the bride's family. Labelled No. 69.

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[Chinese Cat Merchants, 1870 March 23](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes: NAA INV 10000072

Drawn by T. Allom. Two cat merchants showing their cats to a prospective buyer. Shows cat cages. Labelled No. 70.

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[\[Warrior\], 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes: NAA INV 10000073

Untitled by unknown artist. Chinese warrior with helmet, three-quarter length overcoat over a skirt and trousers. Carries a bow, arrows, and sword. Labelled No. 73

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[The Archer, 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes:

NAA INV 10000074

By unknown artist. Chinese archer holding a bow and sword and sheath of arrow slung over his shoulder. Dress is typical Manchu warrior's dress, with feathered hat, short jacket, and embroidered skirt.

Box 7372 / 7413,  
Folder 3

[The Stocking Maker, 1870 March 9](#)

1 Lithograph

Notes:

NAA INV 10000075

By unknown artist. A woman sitting at a table sewing stockings, probably for a man to be worn under boots.