



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to MS 7421 Chinese watercolor paintings illustrating the rice industry

National Anthropological Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland, Maryland 20746  
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1310  
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883  
naa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

## Table of Contents

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Collection Overview .....        |   |
| Administrative Information ..... | 1 |
| Historical Note .....            | 1 |
| Scope and Contents .....         | 2 |
| Names and Subjects .....         |   |

## Collection Overview

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository:</b>      | National Anthropological Archives   |
| <b>Title:</b>           | MS 7421 Chinese watercolor paintings illustrating the rice industry                           |
| <b>Date:</b>            | undated   |
| <b>Identifier:</b>      | NAA.MS7421  |
| <b>Creator:</b>         | Unknown   |
| <b>Extent:</b>          | 10 Paintings (visual works) (watercolor on pith paper; 13 x 9 inches)                         |
| <b>Language:</b>        | Captions are in English.  |
| <b>Digital Content:</b> | <a href="#">Image(s): MS 7421 Chinese watercolor paintings illustrating the rice industry</a> |
| <b>Container:</b>       | Box 7162 / 7421 / 7508, Item 2;<br>Box 7162 / 7421 / 7508, Item 2                             |

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received by the United States National Museum from Foster Jennings through exchange, August 20, 1893. Transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives by Chang-su Houchins, August 1986.

### Preferred Citation

MS 7421 Chinese watercolor paintings illustrating the rice industry, 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.

---

## Historical Note

Chinese export watercolors were painted in the port cities of China for sale to western customers in the late 18th and 19th centuries. Many of the watercolors were done in sets such as trades, domestic interiors and gardens, boats, birds, mandarins, and punishments.

## Scope and Contents

A set of ten (10) watercolor paintings on pith paper.

The following are descriptions of the pictures that are copied from an accompanying sheet:

- (1) harvesting rice--the cycles in the farmers' hands are made of iron and palm wood
- (2) carrying sheaves of rice to be thrashed
- (3) threshing rice--the flail used is made of palm wood and bamboo
- (4) sweeping the rice grain together in order to have it sifted
- (5) sifting the rice--the woman represented uses a wooden dipper in order to put a small amount of rice in a hulling mill at a time
- (6) bolting the rice flour
- (7) showing samples to customer
- (8) selling rice shoots to commission merchant
- (9) a rice merchant and his attendant
- (10) carrying rice to be weighed

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.

---

## Local Numbers

NAA INV 10000081

---

## Variant title

Illustrations of the rice industry

---

## 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