



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

**Guide to MS 7423 *Window flowers: symbolical  
silhouettes for the Chinese New Year, 1948***

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## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	
Administrative Information .....	1
Biographical Note .....	1
Scope and Contents .....	2
Names and Subjects .....	

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Anthropological Archives
<b>Title:</b>	MS 7423 <i>Window flowers: symbolical silhouettes for the Chinese New Year</i>
<b>Date:</b>	1948
<b>Identifier:</b>	NAA.MS7423
<b>Creator:</b>	Koehn, Alfred
<b>Extent:</b>	1 Volume (45 pages; 295 cutouts; 15.25 x 21.25 inches)
<b>Language:</b>	English .
<b>Digital Content:</b>	<a href="#">Image(s): MS 7423 Window flowers: symbolical silhouettes for the Chinese New Year</a>
<b>Container:</b>	Folder 7423

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## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The collection was purchased in Beijing, China in 1948 by Ann Ford Doyle and donated to the National Anthropological Archives in 1984.

### Processing Information

Previously titled "Window flowers: typical silhouettes for the Chinese New Year."

### Preferred Citation

MS 7423 *Window flowers: symbolical silhouettes for the Chinese New Year*, 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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## Biographical Note

Alfred Koehn was a German diplomat and amateur botanist who worked in Asia. He authored and published a number of illustrated books on Japan and China.

## Scope and Contents

The collection consists of one (1) book by Alfred Koehn. The book is made up of cutouts, mostly from red paper, that have been mounted on the pages of the volume. The cutouts represent people, animals, birds, flowers, and other designs. These designs were mounted in homes to bring prosperity and good fortune for the coming year.

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 As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today.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 7423

NAA INV 10000085

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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:

- Chinese
- Chinese New Year decorations

### Cultures:

- Chinese

### Types of Materials:

- Books
- Silhouettes

### Places:

- Beijing (China)
- East Asia