

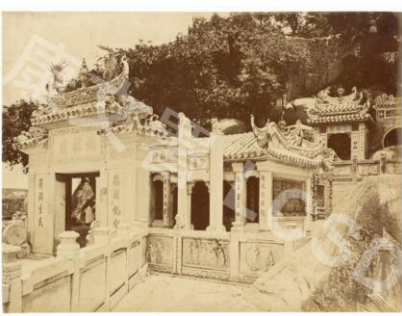


## Landscape in a Frame

| Image   | Caption   |
|---|---|
|    | <p>Pok Fu Lam waterfall, Hong Kong, 1870s.</p> <p>Pok Fu Lam waterfall, pictured in this photograph, was presumably located in a gorge below Pok Fu Lam Road, near present-day Chinese Culinary Institute. At the time, some renowned Chinese and Western photographers had captured the beautiful scenery at this waterfall.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC14.11)</p>   |
|    | <p>Ma Tau Chung and Sung Wong Toi, Kowloon, 1900s.<br/>By Robert Crisp Hurley</p> <p>The small hill on the waterfront on the right of the photograph is Sacred Hill. A boulder on the hilltop, with inscriptions such as “Sung Wong Toi”, “Restored in the Year of Dingmao in the reign of Qing Emperor Jiaqing” (1807), commemorates the stay of Southern Song (1127-1279) Emperors Duanzong and Bing in Kowloon while fleeing from the Yuan forces.</p> <p>During the Japanese occupation, the hill was partly flattened by the Japanese forces for the expansion of the runway at Kai Tak Airport. In the 1950s, the rest of the hill was levelled by the government for further expansion of the airport. The “Sung Wong Toi” boulder was cut into a cuboid and placed in Sung Wong Toi Garden.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC60.A.10)</p> |
|  | <p>A-Ma Temple, Macau, 1870s.</p> <p>Mazu is a common faith of many cities along the coast of China. People pray to the goddess for safe return of those at sea. The A-Ma Temple in Macau, one of the city's most significant historic buildings, is located at the mouth of the Inner Harbour.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 873-MAC12.P.1)</p>   |



Ruins of Saint Paul's, Macau, 1874.  
By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong

The Ruins of Saint Paul's is a famous tourist attraction in Macau. It was originally the façade of the Church of St. Paul, built by the Portuguese, and all that was left of the church after it was destroyed in a fire in 1835. “*Sam Ba*” (in Cantonese) was derived from the transliteration of “São Paulo (St. Paul)”. Since the remaining façade resembles a Chinese archway, the ruins’ Chinese name means the “arch of St. Paul’s”.

(Reference no.: 875-MAC14.S.1)



Main entrance of the Guangzhou Prefecture Government Office, 1870s.

The Guangzhou Prefecture Government Office was originally located in the present area south of Guangwei Road and on both sides of Guangda Road. In the photograph, the names of the counties under its jurisdiction, such as Gaoyao, Zengcheng, Sanshui and Shunde, can be seen on the plaques at the main entrance.

(Reference no.: GC43.26)



Zhenhai Tower, Guangzhou, 1890s.  
By A Chan Photo Studio, Guangzhou

In the 13th year of Hongwu reign in the Ming dynasty (1380), Zhu Liangzu, the Marquis of Yongjia based in Guangzhou, re-established the borders of Guangzhou city. The new north city wall, with a tower at the highest point, stretched over Yuexiu Mountain. Since the tower overlooked the Pearl River in the distance, it was named Zhenhai Tower (“zhenhai” means guarding the sea). In the photograph, Zhenhai Tower stands proudly on the hilltop and gives a commanding view of the smaller hills below. Today, the building houses Guangzhou Museum.

(Reference no.: 169-CAN50.P.1)



Minaret of Huaisheng Mosque, Guangzhou, 1880s.

Huaisheng Mosque, one of the earliest mosques in China, was built in the Tang dynasty (618-907) by Arabs in Guangzhou. There is a minaret in the mosque, known as Guangta. The top of the minaret was originally adorned with a golden rooster which span in the wind. It was damaged in a typhoon in the early Ming dynasty, and was replaced with a pointed top during restoration in 1934.

(Reference no.: 130-CAN12.S.1)



Chigang Pagoda, Guangzhou, 1887.

Chigang Pagoda, a fengshui structure, was built in the Tianqi era in the Ming dynasty (1621-1627). It is located on its namesake, Chigang mound. The octagonal pagoda has nine exterior floor sections and 17 levels inside. In the travelogues of foreigners visiting Guangdong in the late Qing dynasty, Chigang Pagoda is described as an important navigation mark for entering and leaving Guangzhou City.

(Reference no.: 148-CAN29.S.1)



Pazhou Pagoda, Guangzhou, 1880s.

Pazhou Pagoda was built in the Wanli era of the Ming dynasty (1573-1620). Some people thought the eastern water gateway of Guangzhou was empty and pagodas should be built for fengshui reasons. Therefore, three pagodas were constructed in the eastern part of Guangzhou during the Wanli era, one of which was Pazhou Pagoda.

(Reference no.: 133-CAN15.S.1)



Shuzhu Bridge, Guangzhou, 1870s.  
By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong

Shuzhu Stream was located along the southern banks of the Pearl River in Guangzhou. A stone bridge known as Shuzhu Bridge once stood over the stream, surrounded by entertainment venues, teahouses and restaurants.

(Reference no.: AC8.A.15)



Chen Clan Temple, Guangzhou, 1899.  
By Robert Crisp Hurley

Also known as the Chen Clan Academy, the Chen Clan Temple was a communal ancestral hall of all the Chen clans in Guangdong. It was completed in 1893. A refined specimen of Lingnan architecture, it now houses Guangdong Museum of Folk Arts.

(Reference no.: AC21.52)



Corridor inside Chen Clan Temple, Guangzhou, 1900s.

The Chen Clan Temple is best known for its magnificent decorations, which include wood, stone and brick carvings, lime and pottery sculptures, and iron engravings. Found in every corner of the architectural cluster, the decorations epitomise the folk craftsmanship of Guangzhou.

This photograph shows the corridor in the first hall of the building. Supported by cast iron posts, the canopy is adorned with elaborate plaster carvings. The iron panels of the terrace in the background are carved with patterns, almost leaving no blank space, and sophisticated openwork carving techniques are used.

(Reference no.: SC20.37)



View of the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Guangzhou, also known as Stone House, from a distance, 1880s.

In 1863, the French began to construct a cathedral on the site of the former residence of Governor-General of Guangdong and Guangxi Ye Mingchen, after it was destroyed in a fire. All the masonry was mined in Hong Kong and transported to Guangzhou, whereas construction work took 25 years to complete. Since the cathedral was much taller than the surrounding buildings, it was very eye-catching when viewed from afar, as in this photograph taken from the Pearl River.

(Reference no.: 161-CAN42.S.1)



Full view of the northern bank of the Pearl River, Guangzhou, 1870s.

The small but tall buildings in the photograph are pawn shops in Guangzhou. Built with bricks and stones, they were exceptionally strong; the vault was usually located on the top floor.

In the centre of the photograph towards the left, the relatively tall building with a hip roof is Custom House, Canton constructed in 1860. Further on the right, the Sacred Heart Cathedral, still under construction, can be seen.

(Reference no.: 144-CAN26.P.1)



Shamian, Guangzhou, 1880s.

In 1861, the Qing government was forced to sign a lease for Shamian with Britain and France, and Shamian became a concession of Britain and France, while the Qing government gave up all rights to the land. Britain and France established municipal councils to handle matters related to Shamian, including public order, administration and public facilities. When Shamian was a concession island, over 10 countries had established consulates here. There were also nine foreign banks and several dozen foreign trading companies. This photograph shows Central Avenue in Shamian, with Western-style buildings on both sides of the road. Many of the buildings have been preserved until today.

(Reference no.: 154-CAN35.S.1)



Meixi Royal Stone Archways, Zhuhai, 1900s.

By Robert Crisp Hurley

Originally located in the former site of Chen Fang's garden, the three stone archways are a famous tourist attraction in Zhuhai today.

Chen Fang, a native of Xiangshan, Guangdong, travelled to Hawaii to do business when he was young. He ran a plantation and sugar refinery there, which generated substantial profits, and was a nobleman of the Kingdom of Hawaii. He was devoted to charitable causes in China, having donated funds for disaster relief. In 1886 and 1891, two archways with the inscription “kind and charitable” and one archway with the inscription “public-spirited” were erected in Meixi in his honour.

(Reference no.: AC60.A.33)



Jinshan Temple, Zhenjiang, 1870s.

The Grand Canal and Yangtze River intersects in Zhenjiang, whereas Jinshan Temple is one of the city's most renowned cultural heritage. Jinshan was originally a small island in the Yangtze River. Due to changes in the watercourse and accumulation of sediments, it was connected to the mainland in the Qing dynasty. In the Eastern Jin dynasty (317-420), Zexin Temple, commonly known as Jinshan Temple, was built on the island. During his visit to the south, Emperor Kangxi bestowed upon the temple the name “Jiangtian Temple”. In this photograph, Cishou Pagoda can be seen beside the hill, while Liuyun Pavilion stands on top of the hill.

(Reference no.: 1011.17)



Little Orphan Island, 1870s.

Due to changes in the watercourse and accumulation of sediments, Little Orphan Island in Anhui is now connected to the mainland. In the past, however, the small island in the middle of the Yangtze River looked rather lonely. In the Tang dynasty (618-907), a temple was built on Little Orphan Island. Today, it is a renowned tourist attraction.

(Reference no.: 81-AM.10.S.1)



Bird's-eye view of Shaoxing city, 1900s.

Shaoxing is one of China's renowned ancient cities. Well connected by water transport, Shaoxing enjoyed a prosperous economy. In this photograph, Shaoxing ancient city is packed with houses, suggesting it was densely populated.

(Reference no.: AC59.A.1)



Caojiadu Station, Shanghai, 1850s.

By William Jocelyn

In the Qing dynasty, there was a unit in the military called “xun”, whereas the area guarded and patrolled by the Green Standard Army was known as “xundi (station)”. This photograph shows Caojiadu Station in the western part of Shanghai's Old City.

(Reference no.: AC35.19)



Longhua Pagoda, Shanghai, 1870s.

Said to be built during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), Longhua Temple is the oldest Buddhist temple in Shanghai. Outside the temple stands Longhua Pagoda, built in the 2nd year of the Taiping Xingguo era in the Song dynasty (977). The seven-storey high octagonal tower has been an attraction in Shanghai since its completion.

(Reference no.: AC2.A.38)



Wenchang Pavilion, Jiading, 1868.

The Confucian Temple in Jiading, Shanghai, was built in the Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279). Several nearby rivers converge in the front of the temple to form Huilong Pond, which spans several dozen mu. The area was a popular attraction for expatriates exploring Shanghai by boat. In this photograph, the vessel in the centre of the watercourse is a sightseeing boat for foreign travellers. Binxing Bridge by the Confucian Temple can be seen in front of the boat, whereas Wenchang Pavilion is on the right.

(Reference no.: AC47.30)



The Bund of Shanghai, 1880s.

The building with semi-circular balconies houses the first office of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, whereas the building adjacent to it is the Custom House. Further down the Bund is Central Hotel.




(Reference no.: 1144-SHA9.P.1)



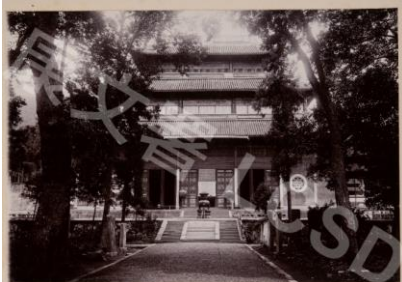
Panoramic view of the Bund of Shanghai, 1860s.

This is the earliest known panoramic photograph of the Bund in Shanghai. It shows the Shanghai Club building on the north side of the mouth of Yangjingbang Creek, suggesting it was taken after 1864. Yet, the Masonic Hall on the south side of the British



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|   | <p>Consulate, which was built in 1867, cannot be seen. This indicates the photograph was taken between 1864 and 1867.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1038.1)</p>  |
|    | <p>The Bund of Shanghai, 1885.</p> <p>This photograph was taken at The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation building, looking south. The first building visible on the right is Russell &amp; Co. It was later purchased by China's first modern bank, the Imperial Bank of China, for use as its business premises. Further in the background is Shanghai Club, a social establishment for British men in Shanghai.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC35.S.2)</p>  |
|   | <p>Huxinting Teahouse in Yu Garden, 1870s.<br/>By William Saunders</p> <p>Located in Yu Garden, Huxinting Teahouse is a renowned tourist attraction in Shanghai. Yu Garden was built as the private garden of Minister of Justice Pan En during the Jiajing era in the Ming dynasty (1522-1566) and subsequently abandoned. In the Qing dynasty, during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795), a group of Shanghai merchants bought the garden and rebuilt it. They handed over management of the garden to City God Temple. In the 5th year of Qing Xianfeng reign (1855), Huxinting was converted into a teahouse and opened to the public.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1137-SHA2.P.1)</p> |
|  | <p>Remains of the Main Hall of Lingyin Temple, Hangzhou, 1900.</p> <p>Hangzhou's Lingyin Temple was built in the Xianhe era of the Eastern Jin dynasty (326-334). Over the years, the temple had been destroyed and rebuilt several times. In 1860, the Taiping Army occupied Hangzhou. During the violent clashes with the Qing forces, the Main Hall of Lingyin Temple was destroyed in a fire. It was only rebuilt in 1910. This photograph shows the Main Hall in ruins prior to reconstruction.</p>  |

(Reference no.: AC59.A.3)

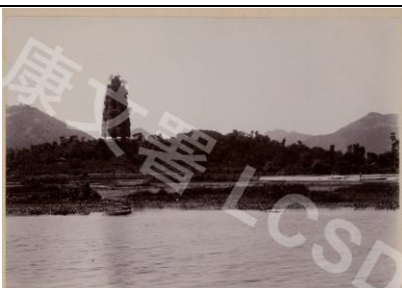


Main Hall of Lingyin Temple, Hangzhou, after reconstruction, 1910s.

By Jiushiwo Photo Studio, Hangzhou

In 1910, Sheng Xuanhuai funded the reconstruction of the Main Hall of Lingyin Temple, which had been in ruins for 50 years. At that time, it was hard to find large timber logs for the construction of Chinese-style halls in the country and the lumber had to be imported. The Main Hall was built with red pine imported from the America.

(Reference no.: AC40.14)



Leifeng Pagoda, Hangzhou, 1900s.

By Jiushiwo Photo Studio, Hangzhou

Leifeng Pagoda, a renowned attraction in West Lake, Hangzhou, was built during the Taiping Xingguo era in the Northern Song dynasty (976-983). During the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), the wooden structure of Leifeng Pagoda was sabotaged – only the brick skeleton remained. The residents of Hangzhou believed the bricks from Leifeng Pagoda could expel evil. Many people stole bricks from the pagoda, which finally collapsed in 1924.




(Reference no.: AC40.6)



White Pagoda in Slender West Lake, Yangzhou, 1900s.

Located in Lianxing Temple, the White Pagoda is also known as Lianxing Temple Pagoda. Legend has it that Jiang Chun, a salt merchant in Yangzhou, built the pagoda with salt overnight to please Emperor Qianlong during his visit to the south.

The story is certainly a mockery of the salt merchant, yet the pagoda and Five Pavilion Bridge located to its north were indeed built to welcome Emperor Qianlong on his inspection tour. The design of the pagoda is based on the White Pagoda in Yong'an Temple, Xiyuan, Beijing.

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|   | <p>(Reference no.: GC45.S.13)</p>  |
|    | <p>Queshi, Shantou, 1890s.<br/>By Mee Chang Photo Studio, Shantou</p> <p>Queshi was the first foreign settlement after Shantou opened its port to foreign trade. In the photograph, the United States Consulate, the British Post Office, the British Consulate and the mechanised sugar refinery operated by Jardine, Matheson &amp; Co. of Britain can be seen.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 982.S.1)</p>  |
|   | <p>Dashizi, Xiamen, 1870s.<br/>By Julian Hugh Edwards</p> <p>There was a landmark boulder in Shapotou of the Port of Xiamen, with an inscription documenting the construction of the fortress at Xiamen port in the 3rd year of the Tianqi era in the Ming dynasty (1623). Each word on the boulder, known as “Dashizi”, was two feet tall. As all vessels sailing in and out of Shapotou would pass by the boulder, the area was also known as “Dashizi Port”. In the subsequent urbanisation of Xiamen, the boulder was lost.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC68.A.4)</p> |
|  | <p>Nanputuo Temple, Xiamen, 1870s.<br/>By Julian Hugh Edwards</p> <p>Nanputuo Temple of Xiamen is one of China’s most renowned Buddhist temples. A temple had been built on the site as early as the Tang dynasty (618-907). After Taiwan was reclaimed during the reign of Qing Kangxi (1662-1722), general Shi Lang rebuilt the establishment as Nanputuo Temple, with the addition of Mahākaraṇā Hall (Hall of the Great Compassion) as a shrine for the Goddess of Mercy. The temple has been bustling since.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 77-AM6.P.1)</p>             |



Mahākaruṇā Hall (Hall of the Great Compassion) of Nanputuo Temple, Xiamen, 1870s.

By Julian Hugh Edwards

Mahākaruṇā Hall (Hall of the Great Compassion), a shrine dedicated to the Goddess of Mercy, is the centrepiece of Nanputuo Temple.

(Reference no.: 84-AM13.S.1)

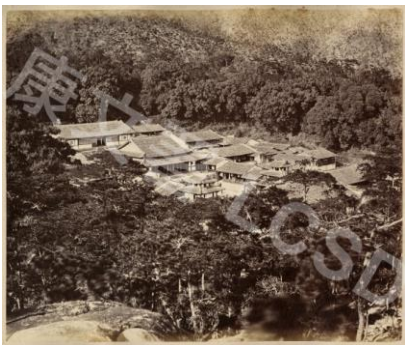


Black Pagoda and White Pagoda, Fuzhou, 1870s.

By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong

The pagoda on the left is the Black Pagoda on Wushi Mountain, whereas the White Pagoda can be seen further up the hill. Meanwhile, the three tall buildings on the right are the south gate of Fuzhou city, with the city wall extending from both sides of the gate. Viewed from this angle, the vicinity of the south gate is densely populated with a lot of houses. The area remains one of the busiest areas in Fuzhou today.

(Reference no.: AC3.16)



Bird's-eye view of Yongquan Temple, Fuzhou, 1870s.

By Tung Hing Photo Studio, Fuzhou

Located halfway up Drum Mountain in the east of Fuzhou city, Yongquan Temple is one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Fujian, hailed as the “Number One Temple in Fujian”. This bird's-eye view photograph shows the temple surrounded by lustrous foliage, as if in paradise.




(Reference no.: AC5.A.5)






Jinshan Temple, Fuzhou, 1870s.

By Tung Hing Photo Studio, Fuzhou

Jinshan Temple, dedicated to Mazu and the Trikala Buddhas (Buddhas of the Past, the Present and the Future), was built on a reef in the Wulong River outside Fuzhou city in the Song dynasty (960-1279). When the tide is high, the temple is only accessible

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|   | <p>by boat; when the tide is low, it can be reached by walking on the exposed reefs.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC5.A.32)</p>   |
|    | <p>Mingcui Pavilion, Nanping, Fujian, 1870s.<br/>By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong</p> <p>A small temple was built on Phoenix Coronet Rock along the river in the northern part of Nanping city during the Song dynasty (960-1279). It was expanded during the reign of Qing Kangxi (1662-1722) and renamed Mingcui Pavilion. With the eaves turned upwards at the corners in an angle unique to buildings in southern Fujian, the temple looked like a phoenix about to take off from the cliff. The pavilion offered a view of the gushing Jianxi Stream below and the towering mountains in the distance, attracting many writers and artists. The structure was subsequently demolished and rebuilt in the 1980s.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC3.28)</p> |
|  | <p>Xingcun under the Wuyi Mountains, 1870s.<br/>By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong</p> <p>Due to conducive geographical conditions and climate, the Wuyi Mountains produce quality tea, such as Da Hong Pao and Jin Jun Mei. All tea leaves picked in the mountains were transported to Xingcun by Chongyang Stream for distribution, driving its prosperity. This photograph shows the full view of Xingcun.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC4.51)</p>  |
|  | <p>Wuyi Mountains, 1870s.<br/>By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong</p> <p>The Wuyi Mountains have been a renowned tourist attraction since the Song dynasty (960-1279). Over the centuries, many travelogues have been written about this place. The landscape of the Wuyi Mountains is majestic. Nine-Bend Stream meanders through the mountains, changing the scenery at every bend. This photograph shows the scenery at the second bend: the mountain</p>   |

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|   | <p>on the left is Mirror-stand Peak, while that on the right is Jade Girl Peak.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC3.34)</p>  |
|                                    | <p>Heyi Gate, 1870s.<br/>By Major James Crombie Watson</p> <p>The construction of Ningbo's city walls began in the Tang dynasty (618-907). This photograph depicts Heyi Gate in the north. Since there was a salt barn in the city near Heyi Gate, it was also called Salt Warehouse Gate.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC38.32)</p>  |
|                                   | <p>Qianzhangyan Waterfall, Xuedou Mountain, 1870s</p> <p>The mountain streams running along the east and west sides of Xuedou Mountain in Ningbo meet outside Xuedou Temple. There, the watercourse continues and gushes from the cliff over 100 metres high. As the water of Qianzhangyan waterfall hits the rocks, a breathtaking picture of raining petals is created.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC47.29)</p>   |
|  <p><i>Pagoda in Ningpo.</i></p> | <p>Duobao Pagoda, Mount Putuo, Zhejiang, 1870s.</p> <p>In the 2nd year of the Yuantong era of the Yuan dynasty (1334), the abbot of Puji Temple on Mount Putuo in Zhejiang, with funds from the crown prince King Xuanrang and other feudal lords, built a stone pagoda in the southeast of the temple. Commonly known as the “Crown Prince's Pagoda”, it is one of the oldest structures on Mount Putuo today. The pagoda is located in a quiet garden. Every morning, the bells of Puji Temple could be heard clearly, making the pagoda one of the twelve views of Mount Putuo.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 956-NIN2.S.1)</p> |



Yuyao, Ningbo, 1870s.  
By Major James Crombie Watson

This photograph was taken on Longquan Mountain. The Yao River can be seen flowing through the city. A large three-arch stone bridge extends over the river. Built in the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), the stone bridge, known as Tongji Bridge, still exists today.

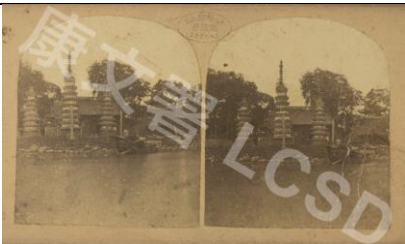
(Reference no.: 1011.20)



Huanglong Bridge, Yuyao, 1870s.

The Yao River divides Yuyao into the northern and southern sections. The two sections were connected by Tongji Bridge. Outside the east gate of northern Yuyao city, there was another three-arch stone bridge even larger than Tongji Bridge, namely Huanglong Bridge shown in this photograph.

(Reference no.: AC38.21)



Three Pagodas of Jiaxing, 1859.  
By Louis Legrand



Jiaxing, with its proximity to the Grand Canal, occupies an excellent geographical position. The canal's passage through Jiaxing is marked by three pagodas built in the Tang dynasty. Behind the pagoda was a temple given the name "Chachan Temple" by Emperor Qianlong during his visit to the south. The three pagodas and the temple were destroyed in 1971 and rebuilt in 1999. This photograph is the earliest image of the three pagodas discovered to date.

(Reference no.: SC18.3.1)



Yanyu Tower, Nanhu lake, Jiaxing, 1910s  
By Robbins & Foster

In the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), the mud obtained from dredging the moat was used to build a small island in Nanhu lake. Yanyu Tower, originally located on the shore of Nanhu lake, was moved there, and a rockery was built on the island with Taihu stones.

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|   | <p>During his six trips to the south, Emperor Qianlong visited the island eight times. He even built a Yanyu Tower on Green Lotus Island in Chengde Mountain Resort.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC33.A.12)</p>  |
|    | <p>Yellow Crane Tower, 1870s.<br/>By Pow Kee Photo Studio</p> <p>Yellow Crane Tower was originally located in Huanghu Jitou by the Yangtze River. Thought to be built during the Three Kingdoms period (220-280), it has been destroyed and rebuilt many times over the years. In the first year of the Yongtai era in the Tang dynasty (765), the magnificent Yellow Crane Tower was already an important attraction along the Yangtze River. In the 10th year of Qing Guangxu reign (1884), Yellow Crane Tower was once again destroyed in a fire.</p> <p>Today, the new Yellow Crane Tower stands on Snake Hill in the east of the original site.</p> <p>(Reference no.: MC13.S.1)</p> |
|  | <p>Yellow Crane Tower, 1870s.</p> <p>This is a close-up photograph of Yellow Crane Tower. The upturned ridges on each level form a beautiful arc and the tower looks like a yellow crane ready to take off.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 791-IC101.S.1)</p>   |
|  | <p>Han River joins Yangtze River, 1920s.</p> <p>The confluence of the Han River and the Yangtze River set the layout of the three towns of Wuhan and established Wuhan's significance in history. This photograph shows Baojia Alley Wharf at the confluence: masts of the cargo vessels berthed in the wharf line the shore. Native goods from the surrounding areas were distributed here. Not far from the wharf is the famous Hanzheng Street, the most important shopping street in the history of Wuhan. Many travellers still come here every day.</p>   |



(Reference no.: 962.17)



Wuxia Gorge, Yangtze River, 1871.

By John Thomson

Wuxia Gorge, with its beautiful landscape, is one of the three gorges of the Yangtze River. After taking this photograph, John Thomson, the photographer, said in admiration: "The river here was perfectly placid, and the view which met our gaze at the mouth of the gorge was perhaps the finest of the kind that we had encountered. The mountains rose in confused masses to a great altitude, while the most distant peak at the extremity of the reach resembled a cut sapphire, its snow lines sparkling in the sun like the gleams of light on the facets of a gem."

(Reference no.: AC12.51)



Mount Lushan Waterfalls, 1870s.

Mount Lushan is well-known for its beautiful scenery, particularly the waterfalls such as Sandie Waterfall and Shimenjian Waterfall.

(Reference no.: 1011.30)



Bell Tower and Drum Tower of Beijing, 1860.

By Charles Dupin

The central axis of Beijing, which runs from north to south at the centre of old Beijing, is exemplary of traditional urban planning in ancient Chinese cities. "Beijing Central Axis: A Building Ensemble Exhibiting the Ideal Order of the Chinese Capital" has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2024. The buildings standing in the background of this photograph are the Bell Tower (right) and Drum Tower (left) to the north of the central axis. This is the earliest known photograph of Beijing's Bell Tower and Drum Tower.

(Reference no.: SC4.7A)



Jingshan and the Forbidden City, 1860.

By Felice Beato

Jingshan is a man-made spectacle. It was built from the Jin dynasty (1115-1234) to the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368), as a landscape, with soil dug out for the construction of palaces. In the Ming dynasty (1368-1644), the capital was established in Beijing and the soil obtained from building the moat and other structures continued to accumulate. The artificial hill was not only the backdrop of the imperial garden, but also the essence of the Forbidden City's fengshui. Yet, ironically, the last emperor of the Ming dynasty hung himself in Jingshan.

(Reference no.: AC1.21)

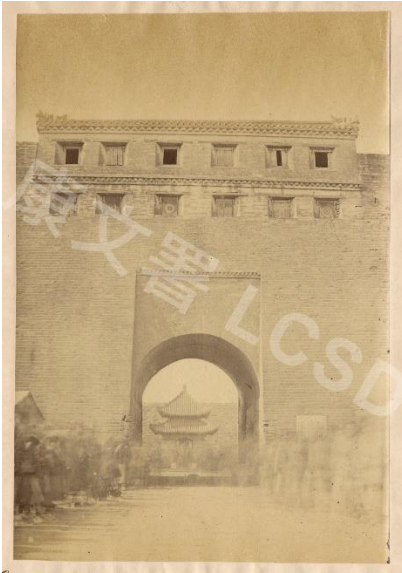


Meridian Gate, Forbidden City, 1860.

By Felice Beato

The Meridian Gate is the main entrance of the Forbidden City. Prior to the occupation of Beijing by the Anglo-French forces in 1860, no one had the chance to take photographs here. Therefore, this is said to be one of the earliest photographs of the Forbidden City in Beijing. In the photo, the square in front of the Meridian Gate is full of weeds, while paint is peeling from the buildings. This illustrates the decline of the Chinese empire at that time.

(Reference no.: AC1.19)



Pray for Snow Pavilion, Deshengmen, 1860s.

By John Dudgeon

In the second month of spring in the 12th year of Qing Qianlong reign (1747), the emperor hurried back to Beijing from Yuanmingyuan (Garden of Perfect Brightness) for the annual spring sacrificial rites held in the Palace of Earthly Tranquillity. When he passed by Deshengmen, he wrote a poem praying for more water from the sky as there was little snow in the past winter. Not long after, heavy snow fell in Beijing. A pavilion, which housed a stele inscribed with Emperor Qianlong's poem, was built in the barbican at Deshengmen. In this photograph, the pavilion can be seen through the gate at the barbican. Today, neither the stele nor the pavilion remains.

(Reference no.: GC2.S.59)



Tanhua Pavilion, Qingyi Garden (Garden of Clear Ripples), 1860.

By Felice Beato

Qingyi Garden was one of the imperial gardens built in Beijing during the reign of Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795). It was renamed Yiheyuan (Garden of Nourishing Harmony), following restoration in the late Qing dynasty. On the east side of Longevity Hill in the garden, Tanhua Pavilion, featuring an unusual design, stood at the foot of the hill. The layout of the building, in the shape of a hexagonal star, resembled a blooming cereus flower (tanhua). Unfortunately, in 1860, the Anglo-French forces looted Qingyi Garden before starting a fire that destroyed Tanhua Pavilion.




(Reference no.: AC1.26)





Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, Temple of Heaven, 1860.

By Felice Beato

The Temple of Heaven was built during the Yongle era in the Ming dynasty (1403-1424). Every year, in the first month of spring, the emperor prayed for abundant harvests in its main structure, the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests. Its form exemplifies respect for the heavens and the deities: it has a three-level tented roof adorned with blue glazed tiles, whereas the bottom level and foundation

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|   | <p>stone are both round, symbolising the heavens. This photograph was taken after the Anglo-French forces occupied Beijing in 1860. It is the earliest known photograph of the building.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC1.23)</p>   |
|    | <p>Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests, Temple of Heaven, 1900s.<br/>By Yamamoto Sanshichiro</p> <p>In 1889, lightning struck the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests. A fire broke out, destroying the entire building. The Qing government began to reconstruct the building in the following year, and the work took six years to complete.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC4.S.56)</p>   |
|   | <p>Great Hall of the Brightness, 1879.<br/>By Afong Photo Studio, Hong Kong</p> <p>The Great Hall of the Brightness, an imperial Taoist temple, was built in the Jiajing era of the Ming dynasty (1522-1566). In the Qing dynasty, the Great Hall of the Brightness remained the imperial Taoist temple and was used for praying for rain and snow.</p> <p>In 1900, the Boxers set up their headquarters in the Great Hall of the Brightness. Therefore, after the Eight-Nation Alliance occupied Beijing, the British forces burned down the Great Hall of the Brightness and its auxiliary buildings, along with some 120,000 printing plates for Taoist scriptures from the Ming dynasty.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC9.A.13)</p> |
|  | <p>Ruins of the stone boat in Qingyiyuan (Garden of Clear Ripples), 1860s.</p> <p>During the construction of Qingyiyuan in the Qianlong reign (1736-1795), a stone boat was built in the northwestern corner of Kunming Lake. The brick and wood structures on the stone boat were destroyed in the fire started by the Anglo-French forces in 1860. When Yiheyuan (Garden of Nourishing Harmony) was</p>   |

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|   | <p>restored during the Guangxu reign (1875-1908), the stone boat was also reconstructed. The Chinese boat was replaced by a Western paddle-wheel ship, and renamed Qingyan Fang (Clear and Peaceful Boat).</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC2.A.54)</p>   |
|    | <p>Ruins of Temple of Immense Gratitude and Longevity, Qingyiyuan (Garden of Clear Ripples), 1860s.<br/>By John Dudgeon</p> <p>Qingyiyuan was an important part of the Qing Imperial Gardens. Temple of Immense Gratitude and Longevity, located in front of Longevity Hill, was a key architectural cluster in Qingyiyuan. It was built by Emperor Qianlong in 1750 to celebrate the 60th birthday of his mother, Empress Dowager Chongqing.</p> <p>In October 1860, the Anglo-French forces looted Qingyiyuan and set fire to the garden. Many classic buildings, including Temple of Immense Gratitude and Longevity, were destroyed. When the Yiheyuan (Garden of Nourishing Harmony) was restored in 1888, the Hall and Gate that Dispels the Clouds were built on the site.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC7.A.12)</p>        |
|  | <p>Zhijing Pavilion, Qingyiyuan (Garden of Clear Ripples), 1860s.<br/>By John Dudgeon</p> <p>The design of Kunming Lake in Qingyiyuan demonstrated the “One Lake with Three Islands” concept originating in the Qin dynasty. There were three small islands in the lake, and one building on each island. In the early years of Qingyiyuan, a building known as Zhijing Pavilion, alluding to self-reflection, was built on the westernmost island. Zhijing Pavilion was a circular city with high towers. Since the pavilion was located in water, it escaped the fire set by the Anglo-French forces in 1860.</p> <p>Years later, Zhijing Pavilion was in a state of ruin due to lack of repair. During the restoration of Yiheyuan (Garden of Nourishing Harmony), it was demolished and the construction material was</p> |

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|   | <p>used for other purposes.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC7.A.5)</p>   |
|    | <p>Marco Polo Bridge, 1920s.</p> <p>Marco Polo Bridge, or Lugou Bridge, extends over the Yongding River. Built in the 29th year of the Dading era of the Jin dynasty (1189), it is the oldest stone bridge in Beijing today and is mentioned by Marco Polo in his travelogue. Meanwhile, the bridge embodies a very important historical incident for Chinese people, namely, the Marco Polo Bridge Incident on 7 July 1937. It lifted the curtain on China's full-scale war of resistance against Japan.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1027.136)</p>                |
|   | <p>Bronze ox gazing into the distance at Longevity Hill, 1910s.<br/>By Robbins &amp; Foster</p> <p>On the eastern shore of Yiheyuan (Garden of Nourishing Harmony), there was a bronze ox cast during the Qianlong reign, allegedly to calm flooding. Through the photographer's lens, the ox seems to be looking into the distance at Longevity Hill on the opposite shore. The mood of the photo is remote and distant.</p> <p>(Reference no.: AC33.A.97)</p>   |
|  | <p>Seventeen-arch Bridge, Qingyiyuan (Garden of Clear Ripples), 1870s.<br/>By John Dudgeon</p> <p>The Seventeen-arch Bridge was a long bridge connecting the eastern shore of Kunming Lake to the South Lake Island in Qingyiyuan. It was built in the Qianlong reign (1736-1795). Every year on the Winter Solstice, at around four o'clock in the afternoon, sunlight would pass through the arches, turning the arches and the water nearby golden yellow. This view, known as "Golden Rays through the Arches", attracts numerous avid photographers.</p> |

(Reference no.: AC7.A.11)



Twin Pagodas on Jade Spring Hill, 1875.

By Thomas Child

There were four pagodas in Jingming Garden, one of the Qing imperial gardens. All located on Jade Spring Hill, they are the northernmost Miaogao Pagoda, the tallest Jade Peak Pagoda, Huazanghai Stone Pagoda carved from white marble, and the southernmost Duobao Glazed-tiled Pagoda in Shengyuan Temple. In 1860, the Anglo-French forces also looted Jingming Garden and started a fire. Fortunately, the four pagodas survived. This photograph shows Jade Peak Pagoda in the distance and Huazanghai Stone Pagoda in the foreground.

(Reference no.: AC9.A.26)



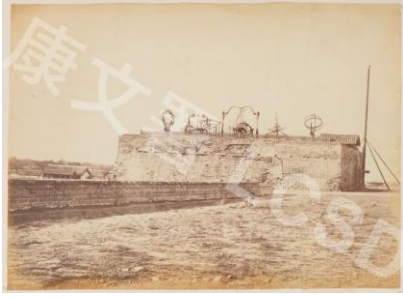
Full view of the Temple of Azure Clouds, 1876

By Thomas Child

The Temple of Azure Clouds, located in present-day Fragrant Hills Park in Beijing, was built in the 2nd year of the Zhishun era in the Yuan dynasty (1331). A eunuch in the Zhengde era of the Ming dynasty (1506-1521) and another eunuch Wei Zhongxian of the Tianqi era of the Ming dynasty (1621-1627) both had their eye on this place. They expanded the Temple of Azure Clouds for use as their final resting place, but neither of them had his wish fulfilled, for they were both convicted before they died.

After the Qing forces conquered China, the disciples of Wei Zhongxian buried his clothes in the Temple of Azure Clouds, and Emperor Kangxi ordered the tomb to be levelled. In the 13th year of Emperor Qianlong's reign (1748), the Temple of Azure Clouds was expanded once again. The Arhat Hall, along with the exquisite and resplendent Vajrasana Pagoda, were added.

(Reference no.: AC9.A.14)



Beijing Ancient Observatory, 1870s.

By John Dudgeon

The Ming dynasty established its capital in Beijing. In the 7th year of the Zhengtong era in the Ming dynasty (1442), a new observatory was built on the former site of the southeast corner watchtower on the Yuan Dadu city wall. It served as the national observatory in the Ming and Qing dynasties. During the reigns of Qing Emperor Kangxi (1662–1722) and Emperor Qianlong (1736–1795), Belgian missionary Father Ferdinand Verbiest and German missionary Kilian Stumpf designed and oversaw the production of eight astronomical instruments. A fusion of foreign science and technology with Chinese decorative art, the astronomical instruments were installed on the roof of the observatory, as shown in this photograph taken from the city wall.

(Reference no.: AC7.A.17)



Bird's-eye view of the Forbidden City, 1900.

By Gustave Plaisant

France was the first country to showcase its photographic technologies to the world, whereas French photographers were the first to take photos in hot air balloons.

In 1900, after Beijing was occupied by the Eight-Nation Alliance, the engineers of the French army's surveying and mapping unit took photos of Tianjin and Beijing in hot air balloons. They produced the earliest aerial photographs of the two cities. This photograph of the Forbidden City was taken by the French forces in a hot air balloon.

(Reference no.: GC11.A.2.2.1)





Bird's-eye view of Xiyuan and the church in Canchikou, 1900.

By Gustave Plaisant

In the photograph, Xiyuan, the Qing imperial garden, can be clearly seen in the backdrop, while the White Pagoda of Yong'an Temple stands on Qionghua Island. To the west of Xiyuan is the Catholic church in Canchikou, built in the Emperor Kangxi reign



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|   | <p>(1662-1722). The church once housed the “Hundred Birds Gallery”, a much-visited museum-like establishment showcasing over 3,000 animal specimens collected by a French missionary. When this photograph was taken, the clergy of the church had relocated to the Church of the Saviour as ordered by Empress Dowager Cixi. The lower left corner of the photograph shows the foundation of the Great Hall of the Brightness, which was burned down by the British forces.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC11.A.4.1.1)</p>   |
|    | <p>Great Wall of China, 1920s.<br/>By Shimazaki Yakuji</p> <p>The section of the Great Wall shown in this photograph is at Panlong Mountain near Gubeikou. Built along the mountain ridges, the winding Great Wall of China extends all the way to the summit in the distance. The scenery is indeed spectacular.</p> <p>(Reference no.: 1128.114)</p>  |
|  | <p>Cloud Platform at Juyong Pass, 1890s.<br/>By Yamamoto Sanshichiro</p> <p>The Cloud Platform at Juyong Pass in Beijing was built in the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) as a crossing street tower. The tower was subsequently destroyed, leaving only the foundation. Statues of Nio and Buddha were carved on the interior walls of the passage on the Cloud Platform. On one side are Dharani Sutra inscribed in Tibetan script, Sanskrit, Han Chinese, Phagspa script, Uyghur and Tangut script; the other side bears inscriptions of <i>A Record of Charitable and Pious Pagoda Building</i> in Tibetan script, Han Chinese, Phagspa script, Uyghur and Tangut script.</p> <p>(Reference no.: GC4.S.44)</p> |



View of Wang Hai Lou Catholic Church in Tianjin from a distance, 1890s.

The south and north canals of the Grand Canal merge in Tianjin and flows to Bohai Bay through the Hai River. The confluence is known as Sancha Estuary. As Sancha Estuary occupies a unique geographical position, a fort was built here in the Jin dynasty (1115-1234). As tribute water transport flourished, the fort gradually developed into the city of Tianjin. In 1869, the French Catholic church built Wang Hai Lou Catholic Church on the eastern bank of Sancha Estuary. In 1870, the church was destroyed in a fire during the Tientsin Massacre. This photograph shows the church after restoration.

(Reference no.: AC66.42)



Red Bridge, Tianjin, 1890s.

The Red Bridge in Tianjin was initially a wooden structure. In the 1880s, it was rebuilt as Tianjin's first steel bridge. In 1924, a flood broke out in Tianjin. As the embankment on one side was washed away, the Red Bridge collapsed.

(Reference no.: 1232-TIEN12.P.1)



Second-generation Jinhua Bridge, Tianjin, 1900s.

Under the support of Governor-General of Zhili Li Hongzhang, construction of steel drawbridges began in Tianjin in the 19th century. The first bridge, Jinhua Bridge linking Beimenwai Main Street and Hebei Main Street, was completed in 1888. In 1904, a new mechanised drawbridge, the second-generation Jinhua Bridge shown in the photograph, replaced the manually operated bridge.

(Reference no.: AC24.68)



Baotu Spring, Jinan, 1910s.  
By Hsiao Pung Photo Studio, Jinan

Jinan is called the City of Springs, due to the large numbers of springs it has. Baotu Spring tops the 72 springs in Jinan and was named “The Best Spring in the World” by Qing Emperor Qianlong. As Baotu Spring is the source of the Luo River, the building on the left of the photograph is called Luoyuan Hall (Hall of the Source of the Luo River).

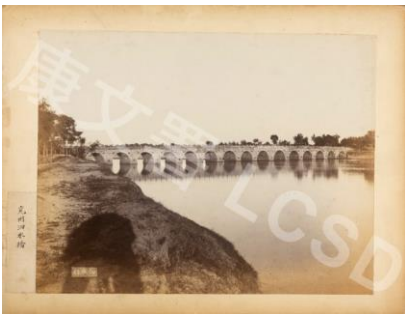
(Reference no.: 1129.1)



Jingshi Valley, Mount Taishan, 1910s.  
By Hsiao Pung Photo Studio, Jinan

Jingshi Valley is in Mount Taishan, with an inscription of the Diamond Sutra. The large characters each measures 50cm in diameter. Over centuries, the inscription has been rubbed on, stepped upon as well as hit by the wind and rain. Today, only half of the original 2,000 characters are visible, but the sutra rock remains the country's largest cliff carving.

(Reference no.: 1129.14)



Sihe Bridge, Yanzhou, 1910s.  
By Hsiao Pung Photo Studio, Jinan

A Ming dynasty stone bridge extends over the Si River in the southern part of Yanzhou in Shandong province. The 15-arch bridge, known as the “Rainbow of the State of Lu”, was part of the official road in the Ming and Qing dynasties. When the bridge was redeveloped in 1966, a concrete arch was added to either end of the bridge. The view depicted in this photograph became a thing of the past.

(Reference no.: 1056.20)



Yungang Grottoes, 1920s.

By Iwata Hidenori

The Yungang Grottoes, one of the four great grottoes of China, were built in the Northern Wei dynasty (386-534). A fusion of Chinese, Indian, Central and West Asian with Greek cultural elements, the grottoes are particularly important for the study of the development of Buddhist art in China. The collection of caves were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2001. In the photograph, the Yungang Grottoes are filled with marks of time gone by.

(Reference no.: 1068.P.1)