The East Asia Image Collection is an open-access archive containing thousands of digitized photographs, negatives, postcards, and slides of colonial Taiwan (1900-1945) and occupied Japan (1947-52). The Collection is built around a core of visual materials donated to Skillman Library Special Collections by the family of Gerald and Rella Warner. Images unique to this collection include the Warners’ unpublished slides and negatives, made from snapshots taken during their years of US State Department service in Asia (1932-1952). Rare materials include prewar picture postcards, high-quality commercial prints, and colonial era picture books. Each record in the East Asia Image Collection has been assigned subject headings, hyper-linked metadata, and, to the fullest extent possible, historiographical, bibliographical and technical data.

The images were scanned at high resolution, and are provided online with an interface that allows one to search, browse, sort, pan, zoom, crop, and compare images.

East Asia Image Collection
http://digital.lafayette.edu/collections/eastasia

Gerald Warner was born in 1907. He commenced his East Asia foreign service as U.S. vice consul at Tianjin (1931) and at Mukden (1934). Warner worked as language officer in Tokyo (1935-37) and became consul in Taipei in 1937. After three and a half years in Taiwan, in February 1941 he was appointed consul in Tokyo. Warner and his American colleagues were put under house arrest in Japan in December 1941 until November 2, 1942, when they were freed in a prisoner exchange. After Japan’s surrender, Warner returned to Asia as second secretary and consul at Chongqing. Warner retired from the Foreign Service in 1967 and died in 1989.

Access to the original material in the East Asia Image Collection, as well as the design and production for the digital collection, is coordinated by Special Collections and College Archives, David Bishop Skillman Library, Lafayette College. For more information about Special Collections, please visit the Lafayette College Library web site at http://www.library.lafayette.edu, and then select the “Special Collections” link.

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Information for Contributors

Each East Asia Image Collection entry consists of a photograph or postcard and several fields of text. This digital archive’s scholarly utility depends upon the participation of researchers from around the world to describe, identify, and comment upon these images. Descriptions combine quoted texts from Japanese sources, English translations, and detailed bibliographic information wherever possible.

The subject headings for all entries are hyperlinked; most entries have been assigned several categories to facilitate comparative study of particular facets of East Asia’s material culture across images. The entries are coded according to George P. Murdock’s updated Outline of Cultural Materials (OCM). Users can readily put these images into a wider ethno-historical context through reference to Murdock’s widely used set of categories. The citation field for each image provides a list, in descending chronological order, of publications that have reproduced, or preceded, each image. This field represents a “life history” of each image, a concrete illustration of the evolution of images into icons.

If you have information about an image in this collection, either to identify its contents, report a sighting in another printed version, or to suggest a revision to an entry, please consider collaborating on this project. Communications in Chinese, Japanese, or English are welcome. Please include your name, email address, title/position, and image number(s) to identify the images to which you refer. All contributors will be acknowledged in the appropriate entries. Please contact general editor Paul D. Barclay, associate professor of history, barclayp@lafayette.edu.