

A

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

Ind

116112

Country China.

578 23/101d

Locality Peking.

ENT

People Chinese.

Stock.

Name Painting on silk.

Peonies, cat, and butterflies

by Shen Chen-lin 沈 振 屈

1724

dated 丁 未 1907 振

of 116224

(over)

Collection Mrs. T. B. Blackstone Expedition,

Berthold Laufer, Collector 1908-1910.

Notes

Acc. 1114

Width 40 cm Length 80.5 cm Height

Price 3.50\$

The cat is leering with astonishment at a couple of butterflies. The Chinese have made the observation that the cat changes the form of her pupil in the course of a day, that it is round in the morning, and evening, and is gradually growing longer and thinner during the day, and assumes a thread-like shape towards noon. A cat with such a pupil serves to illustrate a hot summer-noon, with the addition of a cluster of peonies, wide open and dulled in hue; in the morning, the calyx of the peony wet with dew is contracted and of fresh colors, but it displays its petals at noon. The cat is further leering at a butterfly and besides its naturalistic import, the picture, by means of punning, has an allegoric meaning, "May you obtain wealth, honorable position and old age."

(This information taken from old labels)