Descriptive Summary
Title: Princess Der Ling’s collection of photographs of the Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi of China
Date (inclusive): 1903-1905
Collection number: 529
Creator: Der Ling, Princess.
Extent: 1 oversize box.
Abstract: Collection consists of 8 photographs of the Empress Dowager of China.
Language: Finding aid is written in English.
Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575
Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact UCLA Library Special Collections for paging information.
Restrictions on Access
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Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Princess Der Ling’s collection of photographs of the Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi of China (Collection 529). UCLA Library Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.
UCLA Catalog Record ID
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Biography
Daughter of Lord Yu Keng, a progressive and reform-minded Chinese official and sometime minister to Japan and France. Princess Der Ling was educated first in missionary schools and then in a French convent. After completing her education, she returned to China to become the first lady-in-waiting to the Empress Dowager. She lost her job when she became engaged to an American whom she subsequently married. Later she wrote several books about the Dowager Empress and her experiences in the Chinese court, including Two years in the Forbidden City, Imperial incense, Old Buddha, Kowtow, and Lotus petals.
Scope and Content
Collection consists of 8 photographs of the Empress Dowager of China, ranging in size from approx. 20" x 12" to 20" x 16". The first photograph shows her with her ladies-in-waiting, including Princess Der Ling. In the second photograph, Princess Der Ling is alone with the Empress Dowager; in all the rest of the photographs, the Empress Dowager is shown by herself.
Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library’s online public access catalog.
Subjects
Cixi, Empress dowager of China, 1835-1908 --Photographs.
Der Ling, Princess --Photographs.
Other Index Terms Related to this Collection
Der Ling, Princess.
Number 1. Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi checking her hair in a mirror in front of Pan Yuin De'en Palace (Winding Cloud Palace), with ladies-in-waiting.
   Physical Description: 15¾" × 19¾".
   Scope and Content Note
   From left: Empress Lung Yu, wife of Emperor Kuang Hsu; Guin Sho; Princess Der Ling, first court lady to Tzu Hsi; Dowager Empress Tzu Hsi; Second Eunuch Tsuea; Tsze Gurga, court lady, fourth daughter of Prince Cheng; Yuenda Nina, widow of one of Tzu Hsi's nephews; Lee Lee, grand-daughter of Lady Yu Keng; Lady Yu Keng, wife of Lord Yu Keng, Minister to Paris 1899 - 1903, and mother of Der Ling and Roong Ling; Roong Ling, second court lady and Princess Der Ling's sister.

Number 2. Princess Der Ling helping Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi down Peony Hill toward her palace.
   Physical Description: 19 ½" × 13".

Number 3. Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi, standing, adjusting hair piece whilst looking in hand-held mirror.
   Physical Description: 19¾" × 15¾".

Number 4. Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi, seated, in her one hundred butterfly robe.
   Physical Description: 19¾" × 12¼".

Number 5. Painting of a young Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi, wearing robe decorated with bunches of grapes, in a standing frame carved with dragons.
   Physical Description: 19¾" × 12¾".

Number 6. Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi, seated, looking down, with white jeweled shoes showing.
   Physical Description: 19¾" × 12¾".

Number 7. Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi, seated, wearing robes decorated with butterflies and flowers.
   Physical Description: 19 ¼" × 15¾".

Number 8. Dowager Empress Dzu Hsi, seated, wearing shoes heavily decorated with pearls and jewels.
   Physical Description: 19¾" × 15¾".