

A PUBLIC LECTURE

Western Collecting of Chinese Textiles and Dress: A Case-study of the National Museums Scotland

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This talk explores Dr Silberstein's recent British Academy Visiting Fellowship to research collections of Chinese dress and textiles in the National Museums Scotland. With the goal of examining nineteenth-century transformations of textile crafts and diversifying narratives of Chinese dress history, the project set out to survey the collection of 1000-odd objects. Here Dr Silberstein will introduce some of the most notable objects and examine the collecting agendas of their British donors in order to show how these industrialists, missionaries, anthropologists, and connoisseurs contributed to Western collections of Chinese textiles and dress, and in turn, how these collections were used to communicate ideas about China to museum audiences.

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