

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910828932503321
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Titolo	Britain's Chinese eye [[electronic resource]] : literature, empire, and aesthetics in nineteenth-century Britain // Elizabeth Hope Chang
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Stanford, Calif., : Stanford University Press, c2010
ISBN	0-8047-7587-7
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (251 p.)
Disciplina	303.48/24105109034
Soggetti	English literature - 19th century - History and criticism Aesthetics, British - 19th century Great Britain Civilization Chinese influences Great Britain Civilization 19th century China In literature China In art
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. [187]-227) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Garden -- Plate -- Display case and den -- Photograph.
Sommario/riassunto	This book traces the intimate connections between Britain and China throughout the nineteenth century and argues for China's central impact on the British visual imagination. Chang brings together an unusual group of primary sources to investigate how nineteenth-century Britons looked at and represented Chinese people, places, and things, and how, in the process, ethnographic, geographic, and aesthetic representations of China shaped British writers' and artists' vision of their own lives and experiences. For many Britons, China was much more than a geographical location; it was also a way of seeing and being seen that could be either embraced as creative inspiration or rejected as contagious influence. In both cases, the idea of China's visual difference stood in negative contrast to Britain's evolving sense of the visual and literary real. To better grasp what Romantic and Victorian writers, artists, and architects were doing at home, we must also understand the foreign "objects" found in their midst and what they were looking at abroad.

