

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910967372003321
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Titolo	Knowledge Is pleasure : a life of Florence Ayscough / / Lindsay Shen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Hong Kong, : Hong Kong University Press, 2012
ISBN	988-8180-20-7 988-220-414-7 1-283-87384-2 988-220-881-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (x, 161 p.) : ill. (some col.) ;
Collana	RAS China in Shanghai series
Disciplina	951.04092
Soggetti	Scholars - China Sinologists Women collectors - China Women photographers - China Women scholars - China Women translators - China BIOGRAPHY & AUTOBIOGRAPHY / Artists, Architects, Photographers
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Shanghailanders Guns, gardens and long-gone houses -- Images The tastemaker -- Words The 'sensuous realist' -- Gardens and the grass hut 'A liberal education' -- After China holding open the door.
Sommario/riassunto	Florence Ayscough -- poet, translator, Sinologist, Shanghaier, "sensual realist", avid collector, pioneering photographer and early feminist champion of women's rights in China. Ayscough's modernist translations of the classical poets still command respect, her ethnographic studies of the lives of Chinese women still engender feminist critiques over three quarters of a century later and her collections of Chinese ceramics and objets now form an important part of several American museums' Asian art collections. Raised in Shanghai in an archetypal family in the late nineteenth century, Ayscough was to become anything but a typical foreigner in China. Encouraged by the New England poet Amy Lowell, she became a much sought-after

translator in the early years of the new century, not least for her radical interpretations of the Tang dynasty poet Tu Fu published by the renowned literary critic Harriet Monroe. She later moved on to record China and particularly Chinese women using the new technology of photography, turn the Royal Asiatic Society's Shanghai library into the best on the China Coast and build several impressive collections featuring jars from the Dowager Empress Ci Xi, Ming and Qing ceramics. By the time of her death, Florence Ayscough left a legacy of collecting and scholarship unrivalled by any other foreign woman in China before or since. In this biography, Lindsay Shen recovers Ayscough for posterity and returns her to us as a woman of amazing intellectual vibrancy and strength.
