

Sampan life on Pearl River, Canton, China



Detail of women and children on the decks of long wide-bottomed wooden boats, called sampans. The boats were used for travel, work, and as dwellings for families living and working on the river. Wooden cabins are built into the center of the boats and long poles used to propel the boats can be seen on deck along with laundry, pots, buckets, and baskets. Women have long braids; women and children wear smocks and pants.

Identifier

NYSA_A3045-78_12927

Alternate Identifier

DMS ID Number: 156810

Call Numbers: Bc CX4

Date

circa 1920

Repository

New York State Archives

Source

New York State Archives. New York (State). Education Dept. Division of Visual Instruction. Instructional lantern slides. A3045-78, Neg. No. 12927.

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