



Katharine Carl	<p>Through the eyes of an artist, <i>With the Empress Dowager of China</i> provides a glimpse of life in the Chinese Imperial Court, unseen by any other Westerner. In 1903, Katharine Carl, an American artist, was invited to paint a portrait of Cixi, the Empress Dowager of China, for display at the 1904 Exhibition at St Louis, USA. For nine months from the 5th of August 1903 when the painting was begun, Miss Carl lived within the Chinese Imperial Court, residing at the Summer Palace, Winter Palace and Sea Palace. During those nine months, a total of four portraits of the Empress Dowager were completed. While living in the Chinese Imperial Court, Miss Carl had the opportunity to observe the customs, personalities, entertainments and politics of the Royal household, and in particular to observe the Empress Dowager, who Miss Carl found to be graceful, warm, intelligent and generous.</p>	Katharine Carl
With the Empress Dowager in China	<p>Although Katharine Carl did not plan to publicise her experiences, <i>With the Empress Dowager of China</i> was written as a response to articles appearing in the American and British press containing statements never made by her and other misrepresentations. Words were being put into her mouth, she was being put into a very difficult position, and corrections needed to be made. By writing an account of life in the Imperial Court she risked "offending the sensibilities of her Chinese friends" since any comments on the personalities of the Emperor or Empress Dowager were considered to be breaches of etiquette. Nevertheless, she did publish "a simple and truthful narrative of my experiences" in 1906.</p> <p>Read by Gail Timmerman Vaughan. Total running time: 07:56:58</p> <p>This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For Katharine Carl's St Louis Exposition portrait of the Empress Dowager of China resides in the collection of the Arthur M Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org.</p> <p><i>Katharine Carl's St Louis Exposition portrait of the Empress Dowager of China resides in the collection of the Arthur M Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC. . Copyright expired in U.S., Canada, EU. and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by Annise This design is in the public domain.</i></p>	With the Empress Dowager in China
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