Much of the knowledge of China written for consumption by the English-speaking world appeared first in pamphlets written by diplomats, missionaries, merchants, academics, and travellers working in or passing through China, and even by writers observing China from afar. There was hardly a topic that was not the focus of a published pamphlet, including language and literature, games and pastimes, architecture, natural history, opium, foot binding, philosophy, religion and mythology, international relations, and myriad other topics.

Raymond Lum, PhD
Librarian for Western Languages, Harvard-Yenching Library, Harvard University
Spanning three centuries (c1750-1929), this resource makes available for the first time extremely rare pamphlets from the Charles W. Wason Collection on East Asia, at Cornell University Library, one of the oldest and most distinctive collections of its kind, and a very rich source for research on China.

The Wason Pamphlet collection has been digitized in its entirety and in full colour. The resource is full text searchable, allowing for the collection to be comprehensively explored and researched.

In addition to the digital documents China: Culture and Society features a host of useful secondary resources including scholarly essays, a chronology, mini guides and a visual resources gallery which showcases the superb colour illustrations and cover art featured in the collection.

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