

# Bowring

Select the caption you wish to read from the index below or scroll down to read them all in turn

## Bowring

1 - Pennant

2 - Jacket

3 - Philosophical almanac

## **1 - Pennant**

Before 1863

Ch'ing Dynasty, China

The dragon is the emblem of the famous Ch'ing Dynasty that ruled China from 1644 to 1911. This flag may have come from the Second Opium War of 1856. It was partly Bowring's forceful style of diplomacy as Consul in Canton that brought about this conflict. Britain attempted to force China into legalising Britain's trade in opium.

Sir John Bowring collection

## **2 - Jacket**

Before 1872

China

People working outdoors during the summer months would wear comfortable undergarments like this one. It is made from rice straw which is twisted into string and knotted together to form an open weave design.

Sir John Bowring collection

### **3 - Philosophical almanac**

Published in 1851

Canton, China

In this document the engineer D.J. MacGowan described the principles of the electric telegraph to the Chinese. He attempted to explain how Chinese characters could be sent using the new technology. The document is dedicated to Sir John Bowring who was the Consul in Canton at the time.

Sir John Bowring collection