

An Age of Exploration: Western Explorers and Their Interactions with China's Southwestern Tribes

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Introduction: The Shan of Plymouth

- Priscilla and John Alden were one of the first recorded couples in the American colonies.
- A popular poem regarding their relationship called *The Courtship of Miles Standish* was even published in 1858 and was rather popular.

Before the door of a tiny house sat a woman spinning. A real **Priscilla**, somewhat strange in dress to be sure and with a mouth streaked with betel nut, but **Priscilla** just the same. And in his proper place beside her stood John Alden. A pair of loose, baggy trousers, hitched far up over one leg to show the intricate tattoo designs beneath, a short coat, and a white turban completed John's attire, but he grasped a gun almost as ancient in design as that of his Pilgrim fathers. Pris-



Priscilla and John Alden

Explorers in China

- This thesis focuses on understanding the exploration movement through three approaches.:
 - How this field of study came about through Orientalist thought and the ‘othering’ of different groups.
 - How the exchange of information developed certain narratives and stereotypes about China’s ethnic groups.
 - How the individuals in this field influenced each other’s writing and outlook on China.



Sources

- The sources for this group can be separated into three categories.
 - Early colonial explorers: Major E. B. Sladen and Major H. R. Davies.
 - Missionaries: Samuel Pollard, Samuel R. Clarke, and John M'Carthy.
 - Academic Explorers: Sir Reginald Johnston and Roy Andrews.
- People of different backgrounds and motivations and yet all part of the same movement.

