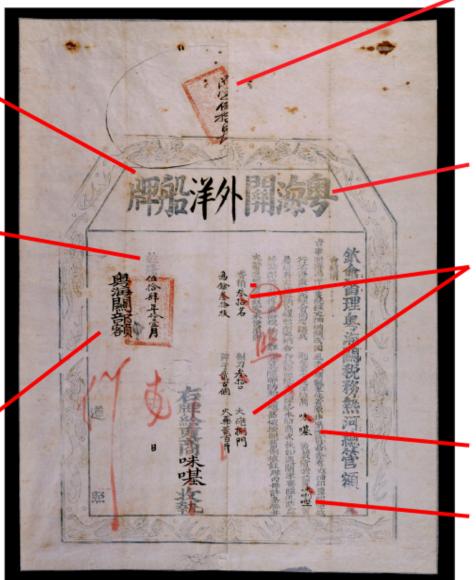
Exit Permit ("Chop") from Canton for the Ship "Astrea," 1789

外洋船牌 (waiyang chuanpai) Foreign Vessel Exit Permit

Date issued: the 54th year, 11th month, 1?th day of the rule of Emperor Qianlong (乾隆) 1? November 1789

Qing Maritime Customs Official's Stamp of Office



One half of an official stamp. The other half was printed on a slip of paper inserted at the time of stamping. The smaller slip of paper--the 考證 (kaozeng)--was delivered by a separate boat to Whampoa and matched with the stamp on the permit to verify its authenticity.

粵海關 (Yuehaiguan) Qing Maritime Customs Office

From top, reading right to left:

30 Crew Members 30 Fowling Pieces 30 Swords 200 cannon balls 8 cannon 200 [units?] gunpowder

Ship's Captain: [James] Magee

Destination port name United States

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Document Source: "Grand Chop of the Ship Astrea." 1789. Large broadside. Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA. Explanation based on: Van Dyke, Paul A. "The Canton Trade: Life and Enterprise on the China Coast, 1700-1845." Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2005. 32, 109.