

Chinese Americans in the American West

In the early 1850s, people began immigrating to the United States from China. The first waves of immigrants found jobs working in the gold mines, building railroads, operating restaurants and shops, and in agriculture. They faced racism, harassment, and discrimination and formed communities to help people find jobs, learn English, find places to live, worship together, and combat discrimination.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23073;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *A Family Portrait in San Francisco's Chinatown*

Date: early 1800s

Object ID: P.14024

Notes: Photograph of a mother and child posing for a family portrait in Chinatown, San Francisco.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23011;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *A Group of Young Chinese Boys*

Date: early 1800s

Object ID: P.14013

Notes: Photograph of a group of four boys in Chinatown, San Francisco.

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<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M534451;type=101>

Object name: Jar

Date: 1800s

Object ID: 94.70.5

Notes: Chinese Shiwan earthenware medicine steeping jar.

Object name: Robe

Date: late 1800s to early 1900s

Object ID: 94.236.1

Notes: Women's embroidered, pale green silk robe.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M577781;type=101>

Object name: Fan

Date: 1860s

Object ID: 2002.1.20

Notes: Canton Chinese fan made from wood, ivory, and paper. This is typical of the kind of fan made for export and was owned by the Vallejo family from Sonoma, California.

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<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M77146;type=101>

Object Name: Poster

Maker: Thomas Hill

Title: *Driving of the Last Spike (Gold) at the Joining of the Central and Union Pacific Lines - Promontory, Utah, May 10, 1869*

Date: circa 1881

Object ID: 14.C.1202

Notes: Leland Stanford, the Civil War Governor of California and one of the founders of the Central Pacific Railroad, commissioned California painter Thomas Hill to paint a monumental portrait of the ceremony at Promontory Point, Utah. The image mingled fact and fiction. Stanford directed who would be included among the portraits. People who were not present at the 1869 ceremony were included, while the Chinese workers who laid the last rails to Promontory Point were erased.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M579493;type=101>

Object Name: Painting

Maker: Mian Situ

Title: *Powder Monkeys, Transcontinental Railroad, Cape Horn, 1865*

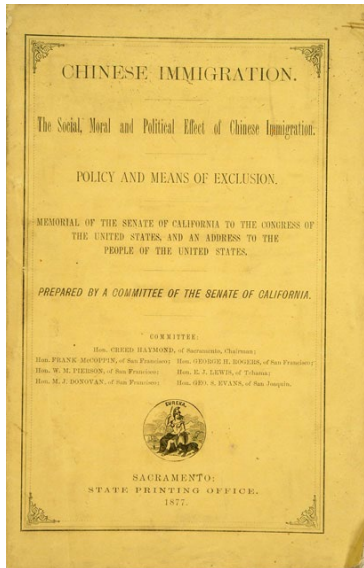
Date: 2001–2002

Object ID: 2002.3.1

Notes: Oil painting depicting Chinese railroad workers on the side of a mountain chipping away granite.

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Above and in the background, there are more workers—some are being lowered in baskets. On the right of the painting there is an explosion in the distance and a river winds down between two mountains.



<http://collections.theatry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=ocm16075850;type=106>

Object: Pamphlet

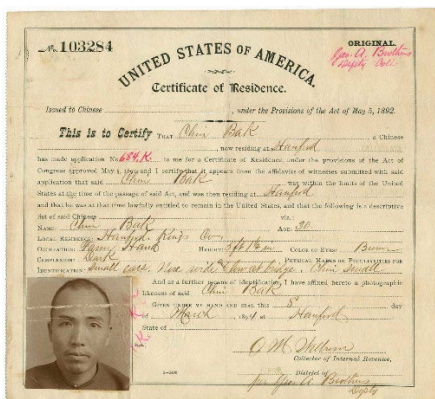
Title: *Chinese immigration the social, moral and political effect of Chinese immigration. Policy and means of exclusion.*

Maker: California State Legislature, Senate Special Committee on Chinese Immigration.

Date: 1877

Object ID: 94.93.1

Notes: This pamphlet lays out the act passed by the California State Legislature to exclude Chinese immigrants in 1877 prior the U.S. Congress passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.



<http://collections.theatry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M560754;type=105>

Object Name: Document

Title: "Certificate of Residence"

Date: 1894

Object ID: 87.59.356

Notes: Certificate of residence for Chin Bak, issued in Hanford, California, on March 1894. On September 19, 1892, California passed the Geary Act. The law extended the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 for ten

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years and required Chinese residents in California to carry photo identification proving they were legal immigrants.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M560883;type=101>

Object name: Drawing

Maker: Rudolf Cronau

Title: *A Chinese Teahouse, San Francisco*

Date: 1880s

Object ID: 93.99.3

Notes: Pen and ink drawing featuring four Chinese people seated at a table in a teahouse located in Chinatown, San Francisco.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M14579;type=102>

Object Name: Lantern Slide

Title: *Parade with Dragon through Old Chinatown*

Date: late 1800s

Object ID: LS.12344

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Notes: A lantern slide of a dragon in a parade through Old Chinatown in Los Angeles. Lantern slides are photographs made on glass and viewed with an early version of a projector.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17120;type=102>

Object Name: Lantern Slide

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *The Chinese Shell Vendor*

Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.12769

Notes: Photograph of a Chinese shell vendor in Carmel, California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23040;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Unidentified photographer

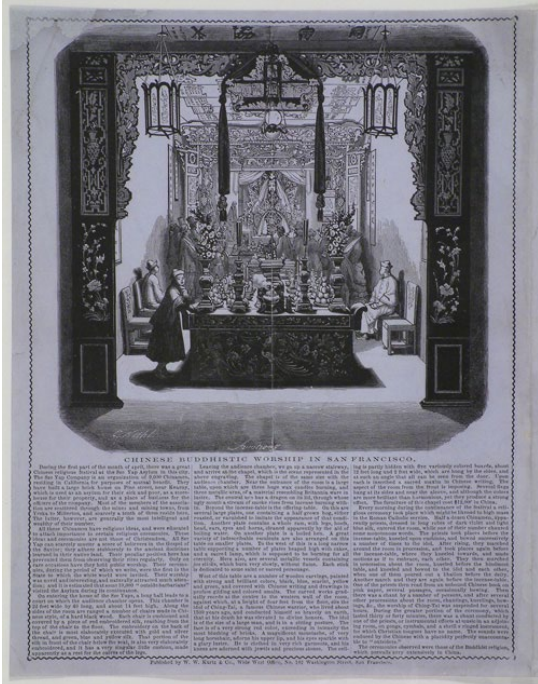
Title: *A Chicken Vendor in San Francisco's Chinatown*

Date: circa 1892

Object ID: P.14018

Notes: Photograph of a chicken vendor in Chinatown, San Francisco.

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<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M524666;type=105>

Object Name: Lettersheet

Maker: Charles Christian Nahl, published by W.W. Kurtz & Company

Title: *Chinese Buddhistic Worship in San Francisco*

Date: 1855

Object ID: 94.237.10

Notes: A lettersheet featuring the interior of a Chinese Buddhist temple in San Francisco. Printed below is an article about a religious festival held at the Sze Yap Asylum, headquarters for poor and sick members of the Chinese community in California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17107;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *Christian Helpers of Congregational Chinese Mission School*

Date: early 1900s

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Object ID: P.12766

Notes: Photograph of a group of Chinese men at the Mission School, San Francisco, California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17098;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *A Portrait of an Unidentified Chinese Man*

Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.12764

Notes: Photograph of an unidentified Chinese man in California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17110;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *A Chinese Family in California*

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Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.12767

Notes: Photograph of an unidentified Chinese family in California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M514609;type=101>

Object name: Jacket

Date: circa 1900

Object ID: 94.76.1

Notes: Chinese cotton jacket, worn by a Chinese railroad worker.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M517838;type=101>

Object name: Cake mold

Date: circa 1900

Object ID: 94.70.1

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Notes: Used to make sweets like moon cakes. Carrying on a centuries-old tradition, Chinese women offered these cakes to relatives and friends as part of mid-autumn festivities celebrating family unity.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M17102;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: H.E. Matthews

Title: *The Chinese Mission Home on Sacramento Street, San Francisco, California*

Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.12765

Notes: A photograph of the Chinese Mission Home in San Francisco, California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M31197;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Munsey

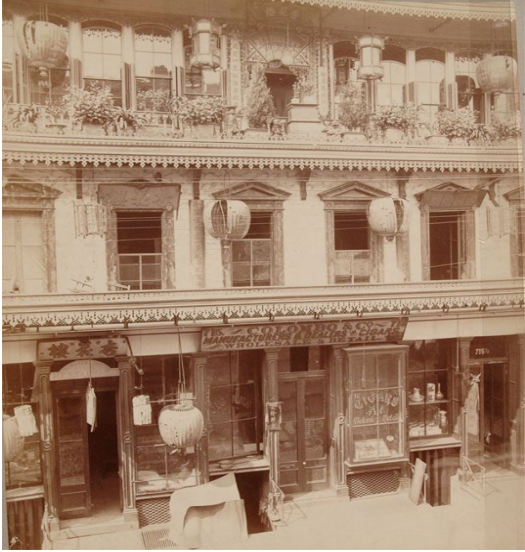
Title: *A "Joss House" in Old Chinatown Sections Los Angeles*

Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.15740

Notes: A Joss House is a place of worship.

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<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M23914;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Taber

Title: *A Chinese Restaurant on Dupont Street, San Francisco*

Date: early 1900s

Object ID: P.14160

Notes: Photograph of a street scene in Chinatown, San Francisco.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M46643;type=102>

Object Name: Photograph

Maker: Harry Vroman

Title: *Old Chinese Junk, Ning-Po*

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Date: circa 1913

Object ID: A.184.235

Notes: Photograph of Ning-Po, a Chinese junk vessel, Avalon, Santa Catalina Island, California.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M539813;type=101>

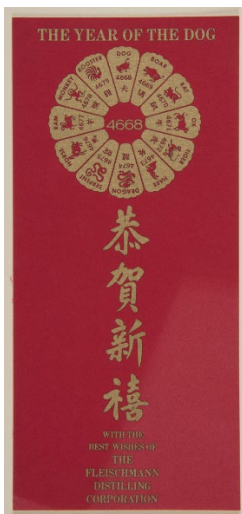
Object name: Mah-jhong (set)

Maker: Unknown artist

Date: 1920s

Object ID: 93.123.1

Notes: Chinese mah-jhong is a tile-based game developed in China in the 1800s.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M663097;type=102>

Object Name: Brochure

Title: "Year of the Dog"

Date: 1970

Object ID: 2016.0.30

Notes: Chinese calendar logo for Year of the Dog in year 4668 (1970).

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<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M277606;type=102>

Object Name: Lantern Slide

Maker: Unidentified photographer

Title: *Chinese Children in San Francisco*

Date: Late 1800s

Object ID: LS.3094

Notes: Lantern slide of Chinese children in San Francisco. Lantern slides are photographs made on glass and viewed with an early version of a projector.



<http://collections.theautry.org/mwebcgi/mweb.exe?request=record;id=M581008;type=101>

Object Name: Print

Maker: Hung Liu

Title: *Sisters*

Date: 2000

Object ID: 2002.41.3

Notes: A lithograph by artist Hung Liu.