Guide to the Collection of Chinese Theater Images in California

Processed by the Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library
Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library
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Guide to the Collection of Chinese Theater Images in California

Collection number: Consult repository

Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library  
San Francisco, California

Contact Information

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Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library staff  
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Online Archive of California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Collection of Chinese theater images in California,  
Date (inclusive): 1883-2004  
Date (bulk): (bulk ca. 1920-1983)  
Collection number: Consult repository  
Collector: Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library  
Extent: 401 items401 online items  
San Francisco, California 94102

Abstract: The Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library’s collection of images related to Chinese Theater in California ranges from 1883-2004, although the majority of the photographs document performers and productions from the 1920s to late 1940s. The photographs depict scenes from plays such as “Heavenly Kings” and “Princess Cheung Ping,” staged at the Great China Theatre, Great Star Theatre, and other venues, shots of actors and actress such as Mei Lan-fang, Dai Ngow Lok, Ma Shi-tsang, Kwan Duk Hing, Sew Jow Lee, and Hall Fay Jing in costume, in the studio, or on stage portraying various characters such as Kuan Kung, Chu Ko-liang, and Sun Yat-sen, interiors and exterior shots of different theater buildings, and ceremonies and banquets honoring performers such as Mei Lan-fang. A number of the photographs were taken by May’s Studio. The materials were selected from four main sources -- the Wylie Wong Collection, Lois Rather Papers, Jack Chen Papers, and the Library's own Chinese Theater Collection.

Language: Chinese.

Access

Entire collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Vary with material. Please contact the Librarian.

Preferred Citation

[Collection name], Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library

Acquisition Information
This collection was created by the Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library staff from 2003-2004 as part of the Digital Archive of Chinese Theater in California project.

**Project Information: Digital Archive of Chinese Theater in California**

This collection was created by the Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library staff from 2003-2004 as part of the Digital Archive of Chinese Theater in California project funded in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Service under the provision of the Library Services and Technology Act administered in California by the State Librarian and by the Zellerbach Family Foundation.

The goal of the project was to provide online access to rare and historic images of Chinese theater in California. Digitization was done in-house using an Epson 1640XL-SE flatbed scanner or a Minolta DiMage Scan Multi Pro film scanner and full-level MARC records were created for each item.

The materials are accessible through MPD's online catalog at [http://www.mpdsf.org/PAGES/LIBRARY/catalog.html](http://www.mpdsf.org/PAGES/LIBRARY/catalog.html).

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The Museum of Performance & Design, Performing Arts Library's collection of images related to Chinese Theater in California ranges from 1883-2004, although the majority of the photographs document performers and productions from the 1920s to late 1940s. The photographs depict scenes from plays such as "Heavenly Kings" and "Princess Cheung Ping," staged at the Great China Theatre, Great Star Theatre, and other venues, shots of actors and actresses such as Mei Lan-fang, Dai Ngow Lok, Ma Shi-tsang, Kwan Duk Hing, Sew Jow Lee, and Hall Fay Jing in costume, in the studio, or on stage portraying various characters such as Kuan Kung, Chu Ko-liang, and Sun Yat-sen, interiors and exterior shots of different theater buildings, and ceremonies and banquets honoring performers such as Mei Lan-fang.

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**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

**Subjects**
- Great China Theatre (San Francisco, Calif.)
- Great Star Theatre (San Francisco, Calif.)
- May's Photo (Firm : San Francisco, Calif)
- Ma, Shi-tsang
- Mei, Lanfang, 1894-1961--Photographs
- Chinatown (San Francisco, Calif.)
- San Francisco (Calif.)
- Actors--California--San Francisco--Photographs
- Actors--China--Photographs
- Actresses--California--San Francisco
- Chinese Americans--California--San Francisco--Photographs.
- Costume--China--Photographs
- Dance--China--Photographs
- Dresses--Photographs
- Fans--Photographs
- Female impersonators--Photographs
- Gardens--China--Photographs
- Nightclubs--California--San Francisco
- Opera, Chinese
- Soldiers--China
- Theaters--California--San Francisco

**Genres and Forms of Material**
- Photographic prints
- Portrait photographs