Chinese Business Documents, Records, and Publications 1879-1933

Collection number: Ms91

San Joaquin County Historical Society

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Chinese Business Documents, Records, and Publications
Date: 1879-1933
Collection Number: Ms91
Location: Erickson Vault
Extent: 2 boxes
Contributing Institution: San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum
11793 North Micke Grove Road
Lodi, CA 95240
Language of Material: Records written in Chinese
Abstract: This collection includes correspondence, receipts, ledgers, and other bound volumes that afford insights into commerce among members of California's Chinese community in San Joaquin and Yuba Counties during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It also contains a Chinese dictionary and a fortune telling book.

Access Information
Collection is open for research by appointment.

Conditions of Use
The library can only claim physical ownership of the collection. Users are responsible for satisfying any claimants of literary property.
Preferred citation: [Item name], Chinese Business Documents, Records, and Publications, Ms91, San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum, Lodi, California.

Historical Background
The Chinese presence in California dates back to the eighteenth century, but not until the era of California's Gold Rush did it include significant numbers. Overwhelmingly male and attracted by economic opportunities, those who arrived in the nineteenth century made their most visible marks as laborers in the gold fields, on railroads, and in agriculture. Others operated businesses that catered to the preferences of the Chinese community, which maintained its distinctiveness in the face of racism, ostricism, and discrimination embedded in white society and the legal structure of California and the United States.

Scope and Content
This collection is divided into three series: (1) Correspondence, Statements, and Receipts, (2) Unpublished Bound Volumes, and (3) Publications. Written in Chinese characters, the material spans a period from 1879 to 1933 and offers insights into activities of members of the Chinese community scattered from San Joaquin and Yuba Counties, in California, to the State of Washington. Subjects covered in the material include grocery sales, gambling, and prostitution.

Subjects
Chinese Americans--California--History--19th century.
Chinese Americans--California--History--20th century.
Series 1  Correspondence, Statements, and Receipts 1901-1933
Scope and Content Note
Business correspondence ranging in focus from gambling and the sale of lumber to prostitution in Stockton, Isleton, and Fresno, California; as well as Seattle and Walla Walla, Washington. Statements and receipts relate to grain and liquor deals in Nevada City, Marysville, San Francisco, and North San Juan, California.

Box 1, Folder 1  Correspondence 1911-1933
Box 1, Folder 2  Statements and Receipts 1901-1903

Series 2  Unpublished Bound Volumes 1879-1914
Scope and Content Note
Records of donations, gambling company stockholders' book, and ledgers and account books for gambling company and grocery stores in San Joaquin and Yuba Counties, California.

Box 1, Item 3  Donation book for religious event, author unknown, [North] San Juan, California 1900 (1970-250-221)
Box 1, Item 4  Gambling company account book, Tai Chang, location unknown 1893 (1970-250-320)
Box 1, Item 5  Gambling company account book, You Li, location unknown 1901 (1970-250-221)
Box 1, Item 6  Gambling company stockholders' book, Tai He, location unknown 1891 (1970-250-220)
Box 1, Item 7  Store ledger, [Xiang Tai, North San Juan, California,] vol. 3 1884 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 8  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 3 1885 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 9  Store ledger, [Xiang Tai, North San Juan, California] 1886 (1969-230-362)
Box 1, Item 10  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 2 1886 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 11  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 1 1887 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 12  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 2 1887 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 13  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 3 1894 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 14  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 1 1895 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 15  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 2 1895 (1970-250-219)
Box 1, Item 16  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California, vol. 2 1896 (1970-250-219)
Box 2, Item 1  Store ledger, Xiang Tai, [North] San Juan, California 1903 (1970-250-219)
Box 2, Item 2  Store ledger, unknown author, Erle, California 1894-1896 (1970-250-220)
Box 2, Item 3  Store ledger, unknown author, various California mining sites 1882 (1970-250-222)
Box 2, Item 4  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown 1879 (1970-250-222)
Box 2, Item 5  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown 1882 (1970-250-219)
Box 2, Item 6  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown 1883 (1969-230-362)
Box 2, Item 7  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown 1883 (1969-230-262)
Box 2, Item 8  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown, vol. 4 1883 (1969-230-362)
Box 2, Item 9  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown 1912 (1969-230-361)
Box 2, Item 10  Store ledger, unknown author, location unknown 1914 (1970-250-220)

Series 3  Publications undated
Scope and Content Note
Dictionary and guidebook for telling fortunes.

Box 2, Item 11  Dictionary (Kang Xi) undated (1970-250-218)
Box 2, Item 12  Fortune telling book undated (1970-250-218)