Guide to the Ah Louis Store Records M2072

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2018
Green Library
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URL: http://library.stanford.edu/spc
Language of Material: Chinese
Contributing Institution: Department of Special Collections and University Archives
Title: Ah Louis Store records
Creator: Louis, Ah, 1840-1936
Identifier/Call Number: M2072
Identifier/Call Number: 19422
Physical Description: 3 Linear Feet(5 boxes)
Date (inclusive): 1886-1890
Language of Material: Predominantly in Chinese with occasional English-language receipt/order request. Receipts on printed forms are in English, most accompanied by a Chinese note on the reverse.
Abstract: Business records from a general store run by Chinese immigrant Ah Louis in San Luis Obispo, California from 1874 to 1890.
Biographical / Historical
Ah Louis (1840-1936), or Wong On (黃安), was a Chinese-American businessman. He moved from Guangdong Province to California between 1856 and 1861. He was a key contractor of Chinese labor during construction of the Pacific Coast Railroad along the Central Coast of California. Ah Louis opened the Ah Louis Store in San Luis Obispo, an East Asian mercantile from which he also provided banking and postal services, in 1874.
Scope and Contents
Receipts related to Ah Louis's store in San Luis Obispo (including sales, orders, bank services, and wages, as well as rent, utilities, and freight bills), lotteries, letters as inventories and with notice of payments, and licenses for trades at the store. The materials were produced between the years 1886 and 1890.
Related Materials
Louis family papers (1879-2009) housed in Robert E. Kennedy Library at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, containing a more extensive collection of business records, as well as personal papers and photographs.
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Conditions Governing Access
Open for research. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.
Conditions Governing Use
These materials are believed to be in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use of public domain materials.
Preferred Citation
[identification of item], Ah Louis Store records (M02072). Dept. of Special Collections and University Archives, Stanford Libraries, Stanford, Calif.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Chinese -- California.
Chinese American businesspeople
San Luis Obispo (Calif.) -- History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 1</th>
<th>Goods 1886</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 2</td>
<td>Goods 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 1, folder 3-4</td>
<td>Goods 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
<td>Goods 1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6-7</td>
<td>Goods 1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
<td>Services 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 2, folder 2</td>
<td>Services 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 2, folder 3-4</td>
<td>Services 1888</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
<td>Services 1889</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
<td>Services 1890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
<td>English receipts for goods, rent, and utilities 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 2, folder 8</td>
<td>English receipts for goods, rent, and utilities 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>box 2, folder 9-10</td>
<td>English receipts for goods, rent, and utilities 1888</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 2, Folder 11 English receipts for goods, rent, and utilities 1889
Box 2, Folder 12 English receipts for goods, rent, and utilities 1890
Box 2, Folder 13 Labor 1890
Box 2, Folder 14 陈福大 1888
Box 2, Folder 15 陈福大 1889
Box 2, Folder 16 陈福大 1890
Box 2, Folder 17 有内客信 1886
Box 2, Folder 18 有内客信 1887
Box 2, Folder 19 有内客信 1888
Box 2, Folder 20 有内客信 1889
Box 2, Folder 21 有内客信 1890
Box 3, Folder 1 Other businesses 1888
Box 3, Folder 2  有内客信 1887
Box 3, Folder 3  有内客信 1888
Box 3, Folder 4  有内客信 1889
Box 3, Folder 5  有内客信 1890
Box 3, Folder 6  其他业务 1888
Box 3, Folder 7  外地 1889
Box 3, Folder 8  外地 1890
Box 3, Folder 9  灌服 1889
Box 3, Folder 10  与中国有关 1886
Box 3, Folder 11  与中国有关 1888
Box 3, Folder 12  与中国有关 1889
Box 3, Folder 13  与中国有关 1890
Box 3, Folder 14  彩票 1886
Box 3, Folder 15  彩票 1887
Box 3, Folder 16  彩票 1888
Box 3, Folder 17  彩票 1889
Box 3, Folder 18  彩票 1890
Box 3, Folder 19  收据 1888
Folder 19-20
Box 4, Folder 1-2  收据 1889
Box 4, Folder 3-5  收据 1890
Box 5 包装收据 1887-1890