Guide to the Postcards of Chinatown, San Francisco, California

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Postcards of Chinatown, San Francisco, California

Date: 1901-1987, undated

Collection Number: MS-R127

Extent: 0.2 linear feet (1 box)

Languages: The collection is in English.

Repository: University of California, Irvine. Library. Special Collections and Archives.

Irvine, California 92623-9557

Abstract: The collection comprises 159 postcards, primarily of Chinatown in San Francisco, California, from approximately 1901 to 1987. Subjects include individuals, families, restaurants, tea gardens, markets, bazaars, joss houses, shops, parades, and street scenes. The collection also includes a few postcards of Chinatowns in Los Angeles, New York City, and Victoria, British Columbia.

Access

The collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Preferred Citation


For the benefit of current and future researchers, please cite any additional information about sources consulted in this collection, including permanent URLs, item or folder descriptions, and box/folder locations.

Acquisition Information

Acquired, 2006.

Historical Background

Established in 1850, San Francisco's Chinatown is the oldest Chinatown in North America and contains one of the largest concentrations of ethnic Chinese people residing outside of Asia. From approximately 1850 to 1900, it was the port of entry into the United States for most Chinese immigrants from the southern Guangdong province. Chinatown covers approximately 24 to 30 blocks in downtown San Francisco.

Collection Scope and Content Summary

The collection comprises 159 postcards, primarily of Chinatown, San Francisco, California, from approximately 1901 to 1987. Subjects include individuals, families, restaurants, tea gardens, markets, bazaars, joss houses, shops, and parades. Images also include street scenes from Grant Avenue in the heart of Chinatown. The collection also includes two autographed postcards of film star Chingwa Lee and a few postcards of Chinatowns in Los Angeles, New York City and Victoria, British Columbia. Some of the postcards bear messages from people who visited Chinatown.

Indexing Terms

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

Subjects

Chinese -- California -- San Francisco -- Pictorial works.

Chinatown (San Francisco, Calif.) -- Pictorial works.

California -- Archives.

Genres and Formats of Materials

Postcards -- California -- San Francisco -- 20th century.

Box : Folder 1 : San Francisco 1901-1987, undated
1-5

Box : Folder 1 : 6 Los Angeles, New York City, and Victoria, British Columbia undated