



The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums)

By Dorothy Hoobler, Thomas Hoobler

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Dorothy Hoobler, Thomas Hoobler

The Chinese American Family Album is a scrapbook of family letters and diary entries, official documents, newspaper articles, and excerpts from literature of the past and present--a personal remembrance of an extended family of Chinese immigrants and their descendants. As we read, we begin to know this family almost as well as our own. The letters written by the new immigrants to the folks left behind in China allow us to feel the ache of leaving home and family behind. Clippings from newspapers and personal memories tell of the pain and fear and prejudice in the new country. We learn about the building of the transcontinental railroad and how Chinese immigrants were the backbone of the work force, tailing long hours under the worst conditions. We see Chinatowns spring up wherever the immigrants landed, and we see how the traditions and culture of China were both preserved and altered as the immigrants became Americanized.

But we also share the joy of first sighting the new homeland. We follow families through the generations and see how they are living now and what they have brought to our country. We read about famous Chinese Americans who have risen to the top of their fields, such as athlete Michael Chang, author Amy Tan, musician Yo-Yo Ma, and Senator Hiram Fong. And we see wonderful faces--husbands alone in the new world, families reunited, new babies, grandparents. The unique, carefully researched photographs make the participants in the Chinese American experience real people who have an impact on our lives.

Thomas and Dorothy Hoobler's *The Chinese American Family Album* makes the past experiences of these immigrants--and those of their sons and daughters in all the generations since--as real and immediate as the stories told by a favorite grandmother. They bring us in, like an embrace, to the all-encompassing, ever-growing, multicultural family of Americans.

The titles in the American Family Albums series tell the multicolored and often heroic stories of American immigrant groups, largely through their own words and pictures. Like any family album or scrapbook, the pages contain many period photographs and other memorabilia. These join with original documents--including selections from diaries, letters, memoirs, and newspapers--to bring the

immigrant experience vividly to life.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5 Up-This sourcebook on the Chinese immigrant experience is divided into six topics: the homeland, the voyage to America, arrival in America, first-generation life, the integration of succeeding generations, and Chinese Americans today. The authors introduce each chapter with a summary essay, then let the immigrants and their descendents speak for themselves in excerpts from oral reminiscences, written histories, and fiction spanning the years from the Gold Rush to the 1980s. Period photographs and drawings, maps, and sidebars enhance the text. The result resembles a well-organized, handsomely designed scrapbook. Many of the sidebars are devoted to famous Chinese Americans, from Anna May Wong to An Wang and Yo-Yo Ma. While the Hooblers are forthright in their description of the discrimination against Chinese Americans, past and present, they do not depict helpless victims, but vibrant and passionate human beings, devoted to their ancient civilization while trying to make their way in an alien and often hostile new world. Because it offers original source material, this title will complement and update Milton Meltzer's well-written *The Chinese Americans* (Crowell, 1980). A valuable resource for studies of immigration in general, and the Chinese Americans in particular.

Margaret A. Chang, North Adams State College, MA

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-10. The Hooblers have succeeded in producing a book that has the look of a combination photo album and family chronicle. The text is excerpted from the letters, journals, oral histories, and newspaper accounts of Chinese Americans who describe life in China, their travels to North America, the difficulties and prejudices encountered, the inevitable clashes between old and new cultures, and the jobs immigrants undertook to earn their keep and send money back to their families in China. The Hooblers describe the setting or introduce the writer but deliberately remain unobtrusive, allowing the immigrants to speak for themselves. Fascinating stories emerge about the gold rush, the building of the transcontinental railroad, the Chinese laundry businesses, and the need for a kindred society and mutual protection that led to the formation of Chinatowns and tongs throughout the U.S. To be copiously illustrated with vintage photographs not available for review, this is a most auspicious beginning for the *American Family Album* series focusing on various immigrant experiences. *Sheilamae O'Hara*

From Kirkus Reviews

A sympathetic depiction of the trials of Chinese immigrants in America, land of the "Gold Mountain." Quoting numerous people at length, the Hooblers illustrate the desperate conditions that drove many Chinese to respond to the blandishments of labor contractors. Other first-hand accounts illustrate the hard work, low pay, and discrimination they endured here and show how some prospered by sticking together in associations. Particularly poignant are stories illustrating how younger generations shucked off thousand-year-old traditions in the attempt to become more "American" while their parents were torn between traditional loyalties and pressure to adopt American ways. A final chapter portrays Chinese-Americans assuming an equal place in society since WW II while new immigrants still face milder versions of the same old problems. The many well-captioned archival illustrations and boxed articles featuring individual accomplishments add still more life and color to a particularly insightful model of modern documentary history. Timeline; extensive bibliography; endnotes; index. (Nonfiction. 12+) -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennifer Yost:

This The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums) are generally reliable for you who want to be considered a successful person, why. The explanation of this The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums) can be one of the great books you must have is definitely giving you more than just simple studying food but feed you with information that maybe will shock your before knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it all over the place and whenever your conditions throughout the e-book and printed kinds. Beside that this The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums) forcing you to have an enormous of experience including rich vocabulary, giving you test of critical thinking that we realize it useful in your day task. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

John Minnis:

This book untitled The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums) to be one of several books that best seller in this year, honestly, that is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit on it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it by means of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason for your requirements to past this e-book from your list.

Irene Gamino:

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Mary Gonzalez:

Is it a person who having spare time subsequently spend it whole day by simply watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums) can be the respond to, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are and so out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these guides have than the others?

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