



## ***Chinese Immigration into the Port of San Francisco, 1882–1957***

San Francisco was the most active destination port for immigrants arriving from China in the 19th and 20th centuries. There was no uniformity in the way the passenger manifests were compiled; consequently, many Chinese names may be misspelled, and some given names are recorded as surnames and vice versa.

### **Ship Passenger and Crew Arrival Lists, 1893–1957**

These microfilmed lists document people immigrating into the United States as well as those of returning citizens. The forms may include the person's name, nationality or race, age, marital status, final destination, place of birth, last place of residence prior to departure, and general state of health, and a brief physical description.

\_\_\_M1389, *Index to Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at San Francisco, CA, 1893–1934*. 28 rolls. Arranged alphabetically by surname.

\_\_\_M1410, *Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at San Francisco, CA, 1893–1953*. 429 rolls. Arranged by date of arrival.

\_\_\_M1411, *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at San Francisco, CA, December 1, 1954–February 1, 1957*. 20 rolls. Arranged chronologically by date of arrival, these records include inbound passenger manifests, crew lists, and statements of changes in crew.

\_\_\_M1412, *Customs Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at San Francisco, CA, January 2, 1903–April 1, 1918*. 13 rolls. Arranged by date of arrival.

### **Other Arrival Lists and Registers**

\_\_\_M1413, *Registers of Chinese Laborers Returning to the U.S. Through the Port of San Francisco, 1882–1888*. 12 rolls. The registers contain the name, age, occupation, last place of residence, physical description, date and ship of departure, date and ship of return, and date of original arrival in the United States. They are arranged by date of departure.

\_\_\_M1414, *Lists of Chinese Passengers Arriving at San Francisco 1882–1914*. 32 rolls. While similar to M1439, this publication only lists Chinese passengers, and includes non-citizens as well as citizens. It provides name, age, occupation, and sometimes last residence and a physical description. It is arranged by date of arrival.

\_\_\_M1439, *Lists of U.S. Citizens Arriving at San Francisco, 1930–1947*. 50 rolls. The lists consist of the names of American citizens arriving at San Francisco from abroad. Information provided includes name, age, sex, marital status, date and place of birth (if native-born), date and place of naturalization (if foreign-born), and address. The lists are not indexed. They are arranged by ship arrival date, then alphabetically by name of ship.

\_\_\_A3362, *Partnership Lists of Chinese Firms in San Francisco, CA, and Nationwide, 1893–1907; and Index of Chinese Departing from San Francisco, CA, 1912–1943*. 2 rolls. DP. The Index in this publication provides a roughly chronological list of Chinese immigrants departing from San Francisco. It only contains the person's name; there is no other information.

### **Related Immigration Records**

\_\_\_M1387, *Minutes of the Boards of Special Inquiry at the San Francisco Immigration Office, 1899–1909*. 2 rolls. The minutes are arranged chronologically in nine volumes. Volumes 2–9 are indexed by the last name of the defendant. This series is a compilation of the minutes of various boards attempting to discover whether a Chinese immigrant was either a contract laborer or likely to become a ward of the state. If the board decided against the immigrant, the immigrant was deported. None of the exhibits entered as evidence are reproduced; however, the minutes often include the date of the immigrant's arrival and, if they were deported, the date of their departure.

\_\_\_M1476, *Lists of Chinese Applying for Admission to the United States Through the Port of San Francisco, 1903–1947*. 27 rolls. These lists contain the applicant's name, occupation, immigration status, residence, and date of admission or denial from the United States. Each volume is indexed separately by last name. Once an individual is located, the index gives two numbers. The first number is the page in the volume on which the individual can be found, and the second number is the certificate number assigned to each individual in the register.

\_\_\_T458, *Subject Index to Correspondence and Case Files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, 1903–1952*. 31 rolls. This publication reproduces a subject index. To locate Chinese immigrants, look up "China" in the subject index (**roll 6**). Then, look for the immigrant in question in alphabetical order by last name, although there are cases where the immigrant is listed by first name. In many cases, the index will provide basic information on the immigrant, such as port and date of entry, date of birth, and whether or not they came alone or with relatives. In rare cases, there can be a very substantial abstract of the correspondence or case file in the index. The records to which the index refers are not on microfilm.

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