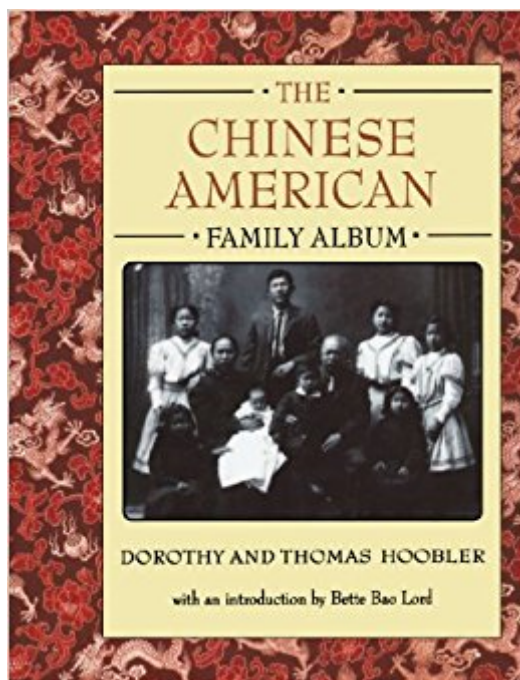


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# The Chinese American Family Album (American Family Albums)



## Synopsis

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, toiling 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.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1040L (What's this?)

Series: American Family Albums

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (May 28, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195124219

ISBN-13: 978-0195124217

Product Dimensions: 10.6 x 0.4 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #1,992,112 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > Asia](#) #158 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants](#) #193 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > History > United States > 19th Century](#)

Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 - 12

## Customer Reviews

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 Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is an excellent book for those interested in Chinese culture or immigration. The difficulties that were endured to make America "home" for so many in the world is truly amazing. The format includes individual memoirs, photos, engravings, and archival documents. There is a thread of historical backdrop woven throughout. Although not as gripping as a good novel using the character and situations presented within, it does have the voices of real people. Truth is often stranger than fiction and can be quite engrossing. I just ordered the Scandanavian American Family Album as much of our family tree has branches in those countries. I anticipate finding it even more engrossing due to ancestry. I recommend this book more highly for high school age and up, although many a junior high age person would enjoy it as well.

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