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San Francisco's Chinatown

Charles Caldwell Dobie



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The work was begun as a series of word pictures through illustrations to give a view of Chinatown. However, the scope was sufficiently vast that the author found himself going in the direction of history and interpretation. In his Foreword he notes: "... San Francisco's Chinatown always has been the most significant expression of this alien people dwelling in our midst." (Note that this was written in 1936, and the Chinese - after all of their major contributions to the development of America - were still referred to, at least by this author, as "aliens." His sources include the Templeton Crocker collection of books on the Chinese in California at the California Historical Society in San Francisco. He writes of the shrimpers at Hunter's Point, shops, poultry, the "Six Companies" and "Four Families' Society, Tong Balconies, alleys and shrines, temples, lanterns and gardens.

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