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# Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco

*Judy Yung*

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**Judy Yung : Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco:

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative as a Primary Source By Bobbie Burns I purchased this book to use as a source for writing a paper for a women's studies class. It was very useful. The letters were informative because they give a first person's view of events at a particular period of time.

Unbound Voices brings together the voices of Chinese American women in a fascinating, intimate collection of documents letters, essays, poems, autobiographies, speeches, testimonials, and oral histories detailing half a century of their lives in America. Together, these sources provide a captivating mosaic of Chinese women's experiences in their own words, as they tell of making a home for themselves and their families in San Francisco from the Gold Rush years through World War II. The personal nature of these documents makes for compelling reading. We hear the voices of prostitutes and domestic slave girls, immigrant wives of merchants, Christians and pagans, homemakers, and social activists alike. We read the stories of daughters who confronted cultural conflicts and racial discrimination; the myriad ways women coped with the Great Depression; and personal contributions to the causes of women's emancipation, Chinese nationalism, workers' rights, and World War II. The symphony of voices presented here lends immediacy and

authenticity to our understanding of the Chinese American women's lives. This rich collection of women's stories also serves to demonstrate collective change over time as well as to highlight individual struggles for survival and advancement in both private and public spheres. An educational tool on researching and reclaiming women's history, *Unbound Voices* offers us a valuable lesson on how one group of women overcame the legacy of bound feet and bound lives in America. The selections are accompanied by photographs, with extensive introductions and annotation by Judy Yung, a noted authority on primary resources relating to the history of Chinese American women.

"Dense, meticulously researched tome...the photographs are priceless." -- San Jose Mercury News  
"From the Inside Flap" A landmark contribution. . . . These rich materials including proverbs, immigration interrogations, poems, articles, photographs, social workers' reports, recipes, and oral histories add a new dimension to Asian American studies, U.S. women's history, Chinese American history, and immigration studies." Valerie Matsumoto, University of California, Los Angeles