

November 1, 2006

Dear Partners of the Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project,

With the new academic year now underway, we are pleased to report that we have successfully completed our fourth year (2005-2006) of the Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project. This letter serves as a progress report that summarizes our accomplishments for the past academic year. We are also pleased to announce that the project has been awarded a grant from Stanford University's Program on Urban Studies.

This letter report is being distributed electronically to those who have provided us with their email addresses; hard copies are also being sent to History San José, Past Forward, Inc., and Chinese Historical and Cultural Project. It will also soon be available on our website: www.stanford.edu/~cengel/SJCT.

Year Four (2005-2006 Academic Year) Overview

The past academic year was in many ways a quiet year for the Market Street Chinatown Project. The project's Principal Investigator, Dr. Barbara Voss, was granted sabbatical leave by her department, taking her away from her regular routine of teaching and laboratory and field research. Fortuitously, in Fall 2005 doctoral candidate Bryn Williams returned from his year-long intensive Chinese language study, and resumed his role as a graduate student researcher on the project. His continuing research on the collection is discussed in greater detail below.

One of our biggest tasks in the past year was moving the Market Street collection and associated records from our temporary laboratory in the Wilbur Annex to the new Stanford Archaeology Center. Barbara Voss, Stacey Camp, Erica Simmons, and Bryn Williams painstakingly packed, and then unpacked, the collections during June – November 2005. We are pleased to report that it appears that not a single artifact was damaged during this cross-campus move. Located in the center of the campus, the Stanford Archaeology Center is a state-of-the-art laboratory and teaching facility that, for the first time, has brought all of the archaeology faculty and students together under one roof. Our project laboratory now includes a well-lighted, spacious work room along with a dedicated storage room with seismically-braced shelving to protect the collections.

A major focus of our program in 2005-2006 was to promote greater dialogue among the international community of historians and archaeologists researching Overseas Chinese communities. To this end, Bryn Williams and Barbara Voss organized a symposium, "Overseas Chinese Archaeology," for the Society for Historical Archaeology Annual Meeting, held in Sacramento, California in January 2006. A complete list of paper titles and abstracts is provided

in Attachment 1. The symposium included scholars from throughout North America as well as from Hawaii, New Zealand, and Australia. Project partners were prominent in this day-long event: Rebecca Allen and R. Scott Baxter of Past Forward, Inc. presented papers in the symposium, and Connie Young Yu of Chinese Historical and Cultural Project served as a discussant. A selection of papers from the symposium, along with works by other authors, is currently in review for publication in a special thematic issue of the journal, *Historical Archaeology*.

That same evening at the conference banquet, Connie Young Yu represented Chinese Historical Cultural Project in accepting the Society for Historical Archaeology Award of Merit in recognition of CHCP's leading role in disseminating archaeological findings to the public, and using historical archaeology to interpret local history to the Chinese community and San Jose community at large.

In addition, 2005-2006 saw two other developments in our publication program. In September 2005, Barbara Voss's article, "The Archaeology of Overseas Chinese Communities," was published in the journal *World Archaeology* (Volume 37, Number 3). Bryn Williams and Stacey Camp submitted an article for publication in the forthcoming book, *Screening the Past: An Archaeological Review of Hollywood Productions*. Their chapter, titled, "Contesting Hollywood's Chinatowns," discusses how cinema has portrayed Chinatowns in sensationalized ways and how archaeology can provide an alternative vision of the past.

Dissertation Research

In July 2005, Bryn Williams returned from China after living in Beijing for half a year, and resumed research on his dissertation. He primarily spent the 2005-2006 academic year developing the research design for his dissertation. His research continues to focus on the analysis of materials from the Market Street Chinatown and now includes a comparative study of the Point Alones Village in Monterey, CA. His project analyses archaeological material from the Market Street Chinatown to study how Chinese identities were transformed in California. He is particularly interested in understanding differences and similarities in the ways that residents of the Market Street Community used Chinese and non-Chinese manufactured objects.

At the start of Summer 2006 Bryn resumed cataloging artifacts from the Market Street Chinatown. He focused on cataloging artifacts from the feature "85-35 Feature 13," a wood-lined trash deposit. By end of summer, all the glass and ceramic artifacts have been cataloged and Bryn had identified many interesting objects including an inkwell, medicine bottles, and a wide variety of lamps.

Bryn will be continuing his dissertation research in 2006-2007, cataloging a number of features in their entirety as well as many of the ceramic objects found through across the site. He is also preparing two papers that center around the Market Street Chinatown for conferences in 2007. One is an extension of Bryn's earlier research on masculinity and gender. The other is a discussion of how the concept of "the exotic" figured into interactions between Chinese and non-Chinese in the past, and how it continues to haunt archaeological research today.

New Project Funding from Stanford University Program on Urban Studies

In Fall 2006, Dr. Voss was awarded a \$41,000 grant from Stanford University's Program on Urban Studies to support continued research on the Market Street Chinatown collection. Her proposal, "Developing New Methodologies in Urban Archaeology: The Market Street Chinatown Project," is included Attachment 2 to this letter report. The funds are being provided from two sources: the Hellman Scholars Fund and the UPS Endowment. The funds will be disbursed to the project during over a three-year period (2006-2009).

The funds will be used primarily to purchase new computer equipment, to hire student research assistants, and to pay for specialist analyses of animal bone and plant remains. The first phase of funding, which begins this fall, will support archival research to better understand the internal spatial organization of the Market Street Chinatown. This will allow us to develop a more refined social context for the interpretation of archaeological materials. Doctoral candidate Stacey Camp, who has been involved in the Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project since 2003, is leading this research effort and will be visiting Bay Area archives in the coming months to identify documentary sources that can provide new information about the history of Market Street. We would welcome your suggestions and guidance regarding which archives may be particularly helpful!

Teaching and Student Research in 2006-2007

In Winter 2007, Dr. Voss will once again be teaching CASA 103/203: Laboratory Methods in Archaeology. As in previous years, students enrolled in the class will participate in cataloging materials from the Market Street collection and will develop and implement their own laboratory research projects using materials from the collection. As before, we hope to arrange for speakers from partner organizations to visit the class and for field trips to the Market Street site and the Ng Shing Gung museum.

In closing, thank you all for continuing to provide this opportunity to archaeological faculty and students at Stanford University. It's truly an honor to be working with the Market Street Chinatown collection. With new project funding and courses invigorating our continuing research, 2006-2007 promises to be an exciting year, and we look forward to the surprises and discoveries that the coming months will bring.

Sincerely,

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Attachments

Attachment 1 Abstracts of papers presented on “Overseas Chinese Archaeology” at the
2006 Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology

Attachment 2 Stanford Program on Urban Studies Grant Proposal

ATTACHMENT 1

Abstracts of papers presented in the symposium, "Overseas Chinese Archaeology" at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology January 13, 2006, Sacramento, California

Symposium Abstract

Organizers: Barbara Voss and Bryn Williams

For centuries, "huaqiao" or overseas Chinese have voyaged to foreign countries around the Pacific Rim and beyond, to explore, work, trade, and establish new communities. Papers in this symposium present current research at the historic sites of Overseas Chinese communities, workplaces, and residences in North America, New Zealand, and Australia. The presenters challenge conventional archaeological perspectives on the experience of Chinese immigrants and their interactions with non-Chinese. This research demonstrates the many ways in which the study of overseas Chinese communities is contributing to the historical archaeology of intercultural entanglements, migration, labor, capitalism, racism, ethnicity, gender, property, and urbanization.

PART 1

1-1. Introduction: Symposium on Overseas Chinese Archaeology

Rebecca Allen and Barbara Voss

Since its beginnings in the late 1970s, archaeological research of overseas Chinese communities has grown exponentially. Consideration of this rich corpus of research reveals that while overseas Chinese archaeology has generated extensive research on both urban and rural sites, the field has in large part remained on the sidelines of historical archaeology. It has also had little impact on the historical literature of the Chinese overseas experience, and on the self-perceptions of the Chinese descendant communities. More recent projects are beginning to reverse this trend, and further explore intersections between overseas Chinese archaeology and other archaeologies, history, and anthropology.

1-2. The Anti-Chinese Movement and the Chinese Response

R. Scott Baxter

In the latter half of the 19th century a strong anti-Chinese sentiment took hold in the U.S. Driven by a number of factors, the anti-Chinese movement expressed itself against Chinese immigrants through legislation, organized boycotts, violence, general harassment, and other means. In many modern accounts these Chinese immigrants are portrayed as passive victims in the actions carried out against them. Contrary to this, archaeological data and contemporary historical accounts indicate an aggressive campaign by the Chinese to counter these activities. Through

organized and individual efforts Chinese immigrants fought back in the legislature, the courts, their homes, places of business, and on the streets.

1-3. Peripheral Vision: Chinese settlement on the Mount Alexander Diggings, Victoria, after the Gold Rush (1860-1912)

Zvonka Stanin

The aim of the paper is two-fold. It presents a brief overview of one of Australia's major archaeological and historic research initiatives of the last ten years, the 'Studies in Victoria's Goldfield's Heritage: the Mount Alexander Diggings, 1851-1901' Project (MAD). A more detailed discussion concerns one of the major components of the MAD project; the integration of 19th century Chinese communities into the broader context of Diggings' history. Located in Central Victoria, the story of the Diggings is widely correlated with the 1850s Victorian Gold Rush; a phenomenon which resulted in unprecedented demographic, economic and social changes to the colony and is the source of many of the ideologies and habits – 'mateship', independence, discrimination - that shaped the Australian Federation of 1901 and which continue to haunt contemporary myth makers. Drawing on local historical texts and archaeological case-studies associated with the settlement of Chinese miners and market gardeners after the Gold Rush, the MAD study attempts to place the construction of peripheral narratives - of subtle co-operation, ingenuity - within the framework of larger themes.

1-4. How Wong Can We Be – Reconsidering Isolation

Roberta S. Greenwood

The last Chinese seaweed gatherer on the Central California coast lived alone for some 65 years in a vernacular structure cobbled together with scrap and salvage. The structure was lined with Chinese newspapers, and the familiar stonewares and porcelains were recovered in the adjacent gully. His experience has been interpreted as an example of non-acculturation attributed to isolation and lack of incentive. Recent architectural, archaeological, and archival data suggest instead that he was firmly integrated into social, economic, and political networks, while the cultural remains reflect deliberate choices, adaptive responses, self-sufficiency, and innovation.

1-5. Cultural Change Chinese Americans and the Wyoming Frontier

A. Dudley Gardner

Chinese immigrants who came to Wyoming in the 1800s encountered a climate and landscape vastly different than the one they knew in southern China. The homes they built and occupied reflected this reality. This paper will focus on the nature and construction of structures in southwestern Wyoming between 1867 and 1922. We will show how through our excavations and research we were able to identify Chinese habitation structures. We will also discuss how these buildings reflected the environmental realities of a high elevation desert and the cultural preferences of the Chinese emigrants.

1-6. Archaeology of Chinese Mortuary Rituals in Deadwood, SD

Christopher Leather

Archaeological investigations of the historic Chinatown in Deadwood, SD indicates this Chinese community practiced many of their ancient cultural beliefs. Cultural material recovered from a pit feature in mid Chinatown and the remains of a ceremonial burner in Mt. Moriah Cemetery suggest the Chinese performed their traditional mortuary rituals throughout the late 19th and into the early 20th century. The following presentation introduces the archaeological data combined with anthropological and historical sources to give a holistic insight into one of the central cultural values of this ethnic group on the American western frontier.

1-7. The Lawrence Chinese Camp Redevelopment Project

Rick McGovern-Wilson

The site of the former Lawrence Chinese Camp was purchased in early 2004 to protect it from potential subdivision and private development. Ownership was transferred to the Lawrence Chinese Camp Charitable Trust who have long-term plans to rebuild the 19th century camp, based on survey plans and historic photographs, and to establish a museum and research centre for the study of Chinese heritage. The New Zealand Historic Places Trust and University of Otago, in association with the LCCCT, have begun a programme of archaeological investigations to guide our interpretation and rebuilding of the site. This paper discusses the integration of archaeology, site reconstruction and cultural tourism in a project that has many potential spin-offs.

1-8. The Asian American Comparative Collection

Prescilla Wegars

The Asian American Comparative Collection (AACC) is a unique resource containing artifacts, slides, and documentary materials essential for understanding Asian American archaeological sites, economic contributions, and cultural history. Located in the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Idaho, Moscow, the AACC serves as a clearinghouse of information for people researching Asian American topics. For example, archaeologists can often identify fragments of Asian artifacts by comparing them with whole objects in the AACC. The AACC offers lectures; a quarterly newsletter; and a Web site, <http://www.uidaho.edu/LS/AACC/>. A recent exhibit, "Exposing Anti-Asian Racism & Stereotypes," used artifacts and documents from the AACC.

1-9. Discussant

Connie Young Yu

PART 2

2-1. Attribution, Context, Significance: How Race and Class Shape What Matters in Historical Archaeology

Barbara Voss

What matters in historical archaeology? Which sites, deposits, features, and artifacts are considered to be important resources for archaeological research? Archaeological investigations of urban Overseas Chinese communities in San José, California, expose assumptions about race and class that have shaped methodologies in historical archaeology. Conventional measures of attribution, context, and significance implicitly universalize cultural practices related to property ownership, use, and discard that are in fact historically-specific and correlated with Euro-American, middle class ideals. A different sense of what “matters” emerges when the cultural practices of Overseas Chinese communities become central to method and theory building in historical archaeology.

2-2. Life in Lacey Place: An examination of assemblages from the homes of Chinese residents in Melbourne’s Chinatown.

Anne-Louise Muir

In 1999, an excavation of Lacey Place in Melbourne’s Little Bourke Street precinct revealed the footings of five late nineteenth century houses. The material culture from these dwellings, and historical research, revealed that many of the residents of Lacey Place had been of Chinese origin. They included single men, a married couple and a family with five children. Using the ceramic component of the assemblages from these homes and the historical record, ideas of identity, such as ethnicity and gender, will be explored, as well as how these may manifest themselves in material culture assemblages.

2-3. Looking for Gender in Chinatown

Bryn Williams

During the last 150 years, overseas Chinese and their communities in the western United States have described and viewed in gendered terms. How are these gendered depictions created and maintained? What implications do these depictions have for archaeological research? To answer these questions I first examine some of the

mechanisms of this gendering process – especially as they are made salient in popular culture. I then examine how archaeological research with Chinese communities draws from and is implicated with this gendering process, using research from the Market Street Chinatown of San Jose, CA to re-interpret some of these depictions.

2-4. Becoming Kiwi Chinese: A 140 Year History of the Overseas Chinese in Otago

Edward W. Tennant

The Chinese first arrived on the Otago goldfields in 1865, in response to an invitation by the regional council. At first, small numbers of Chinese came from the Victoria goldfields in Australia, but were quickly joined by large movements of Cantonese. Since then an established Chinese community has found its voice in Otago. The Kiwi Chinese - descendants of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth Chinese - have become increasingly socially active and interested in their past. This paper explores Kiwi Chinese history in Otago through the use of archaeological investigations, historical accounts, and recent theories of hybridization/creolization.

2-5. The Chinese Experience in Deadwood

Rose Fosha

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills affirmed frontier capitalist ambitions and swelled populations of many loosely organized mining camps. The prospect of fortune lured prospectors and entrepreneurs whose wanderlust established the gulch town of Deadwood, Dakota Territory in 1876. Deadwood became a cosmopolitan town supporting immigrant populations, including the Chinese. Five years of archaeological investigations is providing significant data on the Chinese experience. The excavations together with historical research are presenting insight into the Chinese culture, a visible and integral society interacting with the dominant non-Chinese western frontier community.

2-6. Excavations at a Colonial Chinese Fish Curing Site in Victoria's South Gippsland Region

Alister Bowen

From approximately 1850 to 1900, Chinese people played a crucial role in the development of Victoria's fishing industry. Evidence from the excavation of a 1860s Chinese fish curing site in Victoria's South Gippsland region has provided new information concerning the local colonial fishing industry and aspects of the Chinese involvement in it. In pursuing a livelihood from fish, the Chinese fished, bought fish, cured fish, constructed substantial infrastructure, and contributed significantly to sustaining the Victorian Colonial fishing industry.

2-7. The Luck of Third Street: Excavations of the San Bernardino, CA, Chinatown

Julia G. Costello

In 2001 field excavations were completed at the site of the San Bernardino, California, Chinatown, yielding about 10,000 items. Seventeen discrete features were excavated, spanning the time period from about 1880 to the 1930s. Gambling activities in the early twentieth century were represented by an abundance of related artifacts in one of the privies including a horde of more than 1,300 Asian coins, the largest ever found on an excavation in North America. Interpretation of Chinatown life include topics of demographics, the Kuan Yin Temple, ceramic serving and storage vessels, pig roasting ovens, parasites from the privies, and foodways.

2-8. Discussant

Paul Mullins

ATTACHMENT 2

STANFORD PROGRAM ON URBAN STUDIES GRANT PROPOSAL

Developing New Methodologies in Urban Archaeology: The Market Street Chinatown Archaeology Project, San Jose, California

Barbara L. Voss, Assistant Professor, Cultural and Social Anthropology

This proposal seeks funding to address two pressing research needs in the archaeology of urbanism. The first, topical objective is to investigate Chinese immigrant urban life, specifically the integral role that “Chinatowns” played in 19th-century urban development in the American West. The second objective is to develop new methodologies for the archaeological investigation of high-density, low-income, and ethnically diverse urban neighborhoods. These two research objectives are complemented by educational initiatives that include an Urban Studies seminar, an archaeological laboratory methods course, thesis opportunities, and paid internships for student researchers.

The Market Street Chinatown Archaeological Project

From 1861-1887, the Market Street Chinatown, located in downtown San Jose, California, was the center of the Chinese immigrant population in the greater southern San Francisco Bay Area. As was typical of Chinese urban neighborhoods in the American West, Market Street was a thriving regional center of Chinese-American culture and simultaneously a fragile refuge from anti-Chinese racism and violence. In May 1887, during a period of heightened hostility against San Jose’s Chinese residents, the Market Street Chinatown was destroyed by an arson fire. Its former residents organized new communities in other parts of the city. Today, their descendants are a strong cultural presence in the region.

The archaeological remains of the Market Street Chinatown were unearthed in the 1980s during a vast urban redevelopment project. The quarter-million artifacts recovered from the site are widely described as the most significant Overseas Chinese archaeological collection ever recovered in North America. Unfortunately, the artifacts were never analyzed or reported. The Market Street Chinatown Archaeological Project (www.stanford.edu/~cengel/SJCT) was initiated in 2002 to catalog, analyze, and publish this remarkable collection. I am the Principal Investigator of this collaborative research and educational project, which brings Stanford University into partnership with local heritage groups (History San Jose, Chinese Historical and Cultural Project) and a city agency (San Jose Redevelopment).

Chinese Immigration and Urban Development in the American West

Chinatowns have often been characterized as insular, bounded ethnic “islands” in seas of urban life. Research on the Market Street Chinatown suggests the contrary: rather than being incidental by-products of immigration, Chinatowns were integral to the development of urbanism in the American West. Chinatowns were central nodes of inter-ethnic economic, labor, market, and cultural urban networks involving both Chinese and non-Chinese participants. Understanding the development of 19th-century cities requires attention to the historical development, spatial organization, and cultural practices of Chinese urban communities.

The Market Street Chinatown is an ideal case-study, one that draws on a rich body of historical, archival, oral history, and archaeological evidence. Research on the historic neighborhood and its archaeological remains proceeds on three scales. The regional scale situates the Market Street Chinatown within the emerging City of San Jose. The neighborhood scale traces the historical development and spatial organization of the Market Street Chinatown as a planned urban community. The micro-scale reconstructs the realities of urban life within the community itself through research focused on transportation, sanitation, health, diet, material culture, religion, and the arts.

Toward A New Methodology for the Archaeology of Urban Life

The project is also developing new archaeological methodologies that facilitate investigations of the rich complexity of inner-city urban tenement districts such as the Market Street Chinatown. Because of methodological issues related to association and attribution, historical archaeology has been biased towards the study of middle-class neighborhoods with single-family homes, with a concomitant neglect of densely populated, tenement-style urban neighborhoods. When Chinatowns and other low-income, high-density historic districts are investigated by archaeologists, they are often treated as undifferentiated neighborhoods, with little attention to the diversity internal to the community.

I am developing a methodology for the study of the Market Street Chinatown that uses archival and oral history research to identify spatially-differentiated regions within this densely-populated historic neighborhood. Student research assistants and I will develop a GIS database to spatially layer historic data related to building function, occupant income, household composition, district of origin, occupation, and other relevant historical information. I expect that analysis of these data will reveal patterns in the community's internal spatial organization that will allow consideration of economic and cultural variability among urban Chinese immigrants. More broadly, this methodology promises to transform the archaeological methods used to investigate modern cities.

Curriculum Development and Other Educational Components

The Market Street Chinatown involves four interrelated educational components. The project's collaborative partnerships provide students with on-going opportunities to interact not only with their professor but also with museum and cultural resource management professionals, urban planners, and community descendants.

1. Archaeology of the Modern City (CASA 112/URBANST 112). This undergraduate seminar is a substantial reconceptualization of a previously-offered course (Archaeology of Cities); the updated and revised curriculum more directly meets the curricular needs of Urban Studies students through a focus on the archaeology of urban life during the 17th through 20th centuries.

2. Laboratory Methods in Historical Archaeology (CASA 103/CASA 203). In this undergraduate/graduate course, students learn laboratory analysis skills and theory through hands-on work with the Market Street Chinatown archaeological collection. Students develop and implement independent laboratory research projects on materials from the collection, and publicly present their findings through a conference-style panel and through electronic publication on the project website.

3. Paid Research Assistantships. The majority of UPS Endowment funding will be used for paid undergraduate and graduate research assistantships conducting archival and laboratory research on the collection. These positions provide students with in-depth professional research training and experience.

4. Independent Student Research and Theses. The Market Street Chinatown Archaeological Project is an incubator for independent research, internships, and theses. To date, the collection has been the subject of two master's theses (completed) and one dissertation (in progress); student participants have presented their research at regional and national scholarly conferences and published their findings in peer-reviewed journals.

Project Schedule

Funding will be used to support research during the next three years (09/06 – 08/09)

Phase 1: Archival research and GIS analysis. Detailed archival studies and GIS analysis of maps, property records, census records, and immigration files. Includes funding for student research assistant wages, computer hardware and software, reproduction fees, and translation services.

Phase 2: Archaeological Laboratory Research. Archaeological cataloging and analysis of selected features from the Market Street Chinatown archaeological collection. Includes funding for student research assistant wages, archaeobotanical and zooarchaeological analyses, and supplies.

Phase 3: Reporting and Dissemination. Funds for website development, for production and distribution of annual research reports, and for student researcher travel to professional conferences.