

## □ THE CHINESE IN CANADA AT THE CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION □

### THE YANG — THE OUTER WORLD

The ancient concept of heaven, the principles of Yin and Yang, and contemporary Chinese Canadian developments will be featured in an exhibition in the new building of the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Hull.

Situated on the Ottawa River, just opposite the Parliament Buildings, the Museum will open its first exhibitions in 1989. There, the clash of cymbals, the kick of Kung Fu, and the lion dance will be among the elements of Chinese culture featured in the new building. These external representations of Chinese culture will be balanced and supported by the inner world of family and philosophy.

Dr. Ban Seng Hoe, a scholar and lecturer on Asian Studies, researched, curated and collected the artifacts in this exhibition. He is collaborating with Sandra Gibb, coordinator and interpreter, and designer J.P. Camus to celebrate the Chinese presence in Canada. Dr. Hoe has gathered valuable artifacts and facts from coast to coast to highlight the history and cultural tradition of this ethnic group, and to document its influence on Canada.

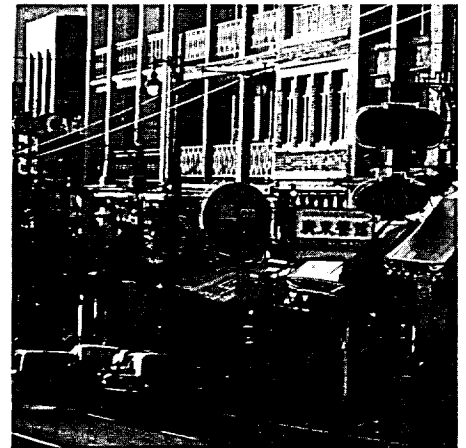


The Chinese are Canada's oldest Asian ethnic group. Arriving in the mid-to late 19th century, they faced hardship, isolation and discrimination. Many were attracted by the Gold Rush in the Fraser Valley and their labour was essential in completing the British Columbia part of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Chinese laundries and restaurants

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appeared in many towns in the early days of the West. But anti-Chinese petitions to Parliament resulted in a headtax of, first \$10, and later \$500, to curb Chinese immigration to Canada.

Between 1923 and 1947, Chinese were barred from entry to Canada, leaving wives and children of earlier



*Vancouver Chinatown.*

immigrants stranded. Disenfranchised, the Chinese were unable to protest. Excluded from most professions, they worked as labourers to survive, doing housework, hand laundry, lumbering, fishing, market gardening and coal mining. Many "married bachelors" suffered from lack of family life. They formed clan and lineage associations and other institutions which then provided a network for Chinese to interact among themselves as well as to deal with the external society. After 1947, when the franchise was finally given and policies to discourage racial discrimination came into effect, the Chinese were able to overcome the earlier barriers to social mobility. The current reality of Chinese Canadians is one of great opportunity and great diversity.

### THE YIN — THE INNER WORLD

A familiar facade representing Chinatown will greet the visitor to the museum. The colourful imagery of Chinese culture will invite the visitor to glimpse its inner meaning. Demonstrations of Tai Chi, Kung Fu and folk medicine embody the concept of complementaries — Yang/Yin, white/black, young/old, life/death — the Tao (the