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Proposal for a digital local history project

Topic: Chinese immigrants in Harlem in the 1920s & 1930s

Questions: What businesses did Chinese immigrants establish in Harlem, and why?

Sources:

- The Mayor's Commission on Conditions in Harlem Business Census (in Municipal Archives in NYC) identifies all the businesses in Harlem in 1935, providing information on the location, type of business and the race of its owner. It provides information on 241 Chinese-owned businesses, more than 200 of which are laundries and two dozen are chop suey restaurants. The census also provides information on who else operated similar businesses to help put Chinese businesses in context.
- Sanborn Maps (NYPL/ Library of Congress) includes details of individual buildings in Harlem. It provides information on the locations of Chinese businesses, including the nature of the buildings and their surroundings which will help in understand the nature of the business they did.
- Manhattan Tax Photos (1939-1940), available online at <http://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/NYCMA~5~5> includes public domain images of every building in Harlem. It provides images of Chinese businesses to complement the information in the Sanborn maps, and to provide additional information on the character of individual businesses, such as character, signage etc.
- Harlem's Black Newspapers -- the New York Amsterdam News & New York Age (available online through Proquest & Newspapers.com) -- include information on Chinese businesses and reactions to them. They provide coverage of businesses and the business climate in Harlem, reports on specific businesses, and on events in businesses, including crimes, that include details of the business locations, owners, and how they interacted with the community.

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Omeka site:

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- [PAGE] Chinese immigrants in Harlem: Beyond Chinatown
- [PAGE] Map of Chinese businesses in Harlem
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 - [SUB-PAGE] Laundry work & who did it
 - [SUB-PAGE] Chinese laundries in Harlem: where were they?
 - [SUB-PAGE] Specific example #1 (with map detail & photo)
 - [SUB-PAGE] Specific example #2 ((with map detail & photo)
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 - o [SUB-PAGE] Chinese Chop Suey restaurants
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 - [SUB-PAGE] Chop Suey restaurants in Harlem: where were they?
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