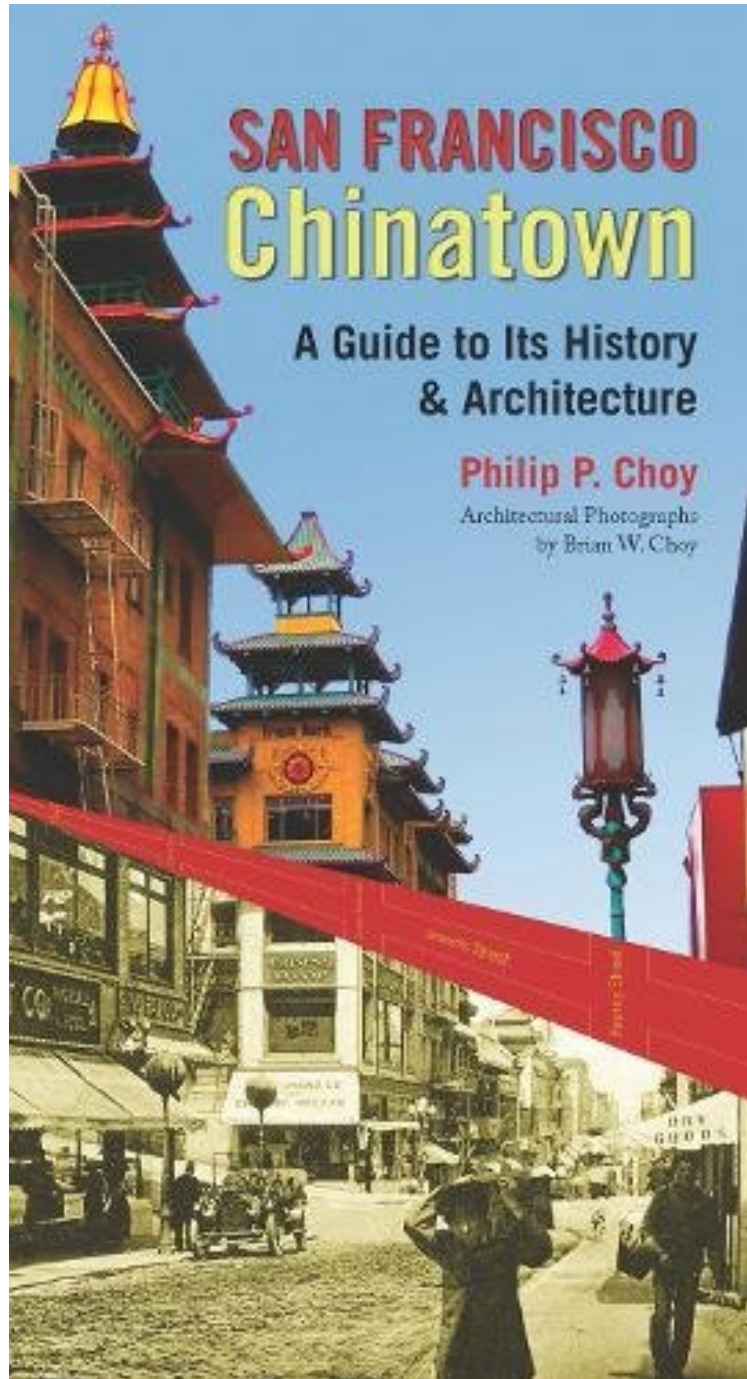


[FREE] San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History and Architecture

# San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History and Architecture

*Philip P. Choy*

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**Philip P. Choy : San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History and Architecture** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History and Architecture:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Philip Choy's Guide to San Francisco's Chinatown: It's Changing and Remember It Thru This BookBy addictHaving heard Philip Choy speak at several dinners and having his autographed books with his unique signature. I certainly enjoyed this book. Mr. Choy, both an architect and historian, is well-versed about San Francisco. He is a spry individual with so much knowledge about the Chinese-American experience. Since there were no books about the Chinese in Sacramento, Mr. Choy assisted the Chinese American Council of Sacramento write a book about the history of the capitol city of the state of California. Many local families submitted old photos and remembrances of Sacramento and the surrounding area. I live close to a street named for one of my friend's family who were early farmers in Sacramento. Anything Mr. Choy does, he does with elegance and panache. He has such verve and enthusiasm in his talks. His writing does not contain his enthusiasm as much as his presentations. Since I am a native Northern Californian, I frequently go to Chinatown. During the years, the famous Chinese restaurants have been closing as other generations do not desire to go into the business. I recently heard that the Four Seasons will close this fall. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Get to Know ChinatownBy HKGood basic street guide to SF Chinatown from a local historian and a local publisher. However the author has a few errors sprinkled throughout that sharp eyed and knowledgeable natives will spot. Also there are some odd interpretations of the Chinese immigrant experience that is not necessarily true for all Chinese. Some of the author's romanization of Chinese names and words also do not conform to pinyin or any other phonetic systems. A major omission was a complete map of Chinatown -- a then and now street layout. Better fact checking and editing/proofing would help in a revised edition. This one isn't perfect but is still useful. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Insightful overview of an area steeped in historyBy Sarah SimpsonChoy's book gave me both the specific details and overall sociology of Chinatown's architecture that I was looking for. The photographs are helpful. His take on architecture is accessible and informative. Being a native of the area, he knows Chinatown well, and his knowledge of the area and its residents comes through.

Winner of the American Book AwardSan Francisco Chinatown is the first book of its kindan "insider's guide" to one of America's most celebrated ethnic enclaves by an author born and raised there. Written by architect and Chinese American studies pioneer Philip P. Choy, the book details the triumphs and tragedies of the Chinese American experience in the U.S. Both a history of America's oldest and most famous Chinese community and a guide to its significant sites and architecture, San Francisco Chinatown traces the development of the neighborhood from the city's earliest days to its post-quake transformation into an "Oriental" tourist attraction as a pragmatic means of survival. Featuring a building-by-building breakdown of the most significant sites in Chinatown, the guide is lavishly illustrated with historical and contemporary photographs and offers walking tours for tourists and locals alike. "A stunning new guidebook. . . History buffs will be amazed by the wealth of lore, legend and radiant fact." San Francisco ChronicleA Los Angeles Times summer reading pick"San Francisco Chinatown illuminates the untold history of the enclave. . . to consider the political, historical, and cultural implications of Chinatown's very existence." San Francisco Bay Guardian "Part history book and part tour guide, San Francisco Chinatown is definitely niche, but wonderfully so. In it, Choy quickly outlines the history of San Francisco as a whole, then jumps into a section by section investigation of the city's famous Chinatown . . . San Francisco Chinatown whets ones appetite to learn more about Chinese-American history." Evelyn McDonald, City Book ReviewRetired architect and renowned historian of Chinese America Philip P. Choy co-taught the first college level course in Chinese American history at San Francisco State University. Since then he has created and consulted on numerous TV documentaries, exhibits, and publications. He has served on the California State Historic Resource Commission, on the San Francisco Landmark Advisory Board, five times as President of the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA), and currently as an emeritus CHSA boardmember. he is a recipient of the prestigious San Francisco State University President's Medal.

"Philip P. Choy's San Francisco Chinatown: A Guide to Its History and Architecture is just what local and out-of-town tourists have wanted and needed. . . . History buffs will be amazed by the wealth of lore, legend and radiant fact." San Francisco Chronicle"San Francisco Chinatown illuminates the untold history of the enclave... to consider the political, historical, and cultural implications of Chinatown's very existence." San Francisco Bay Guardian"Choy's book is easily read while walking, and fits easily into a jacket pocket. His descriptions are typically no more than two pages and are always accompanied by a large photo . . . I emphasize these qualities because the most important feature of a guidebook is that it is useable. And Choy has met this test." Beyond Chron