

CHINESE MEXICANS

Transpacific Migration and the Search for a Homeland,

CHINESE mexicans

Transpacific Migration
and the
Search for a Homeland,
1910–1960



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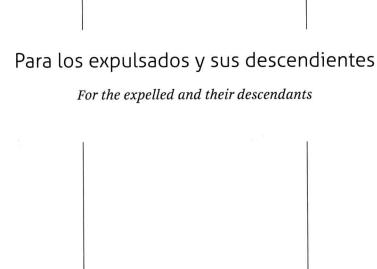
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Note on Names and Terms

I use "Chinese Mexican" throughout the book to denote new cultural formations and to emphasize the Mexicanness of the expelled, who "became Mexican" in China. Retaining the original spellings from Spanish-language sources, I use the names Chinese men adopted in Mexico to integrate into local society; when available, I also give their Chinese names as they appeared in the sources. As a result of the legacy of Spanish colonialism, Mexican women have historically kept their paternal surnames and added their husbands' paternal surnames to the end of their names; at times, the patriarchal "de" (of or belonging to), signaling the tradition of coverture, is used between the two surnames. Children's surnames are commonly given in reverse order to privilege that of the father. For example, the wife of Chinese migrant to Mexico Felipe Chan is known as Rosa Murillo de Chan, and their eldest child's name is Ramón Felipe Chan Murillo. Upon widowhood, some women have traditionally added "viuda de" (widow of) to their names to indicate their new status.

When discussing the crisis of "Chinese refugees from Mexico" in the United States, I refer to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). The Bureau of Immigration and the Bureau of Naturalization fused in 1932 and became the INS. The agency was under the Department of Labor during the 1930s.

I use the common pinyin transliterations of proper Chinese names in the book; pinyin is the romanization system adopted by the People's Republic of China. There are, however, a few instances in which I have kept nonstandard usages as they appeared in Spanish-language archival material. I use "Chee Kung Tong," for example, and indicate the standard "Zhi Gong Tang" spelling in parentheses. I have used the original spelling, along with the standard, to acknowledge the importance of that organization to Chinese migrants in Mexico, who were mainly from southern provinces. In other instances, I use the names for villages in China given by Mexican women in their letters to consuls when the exact origins of these

places were difficult to locate. Conversely, I have used the standard, updated spellings for places such as "Chungsan" (Zhongshan), "Kongmoon" (Jiangmen), and "Nanking" (Nanjing). In the past, "Canton" referred both to the city known today as Guangzhou and to the southern province of Guangdong. While I have used the standard spellings of these places, I have kept the commonly used adjective "Cantonese."

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