麥禮謙

HIM MARK LAI

讓歷史告訴未來

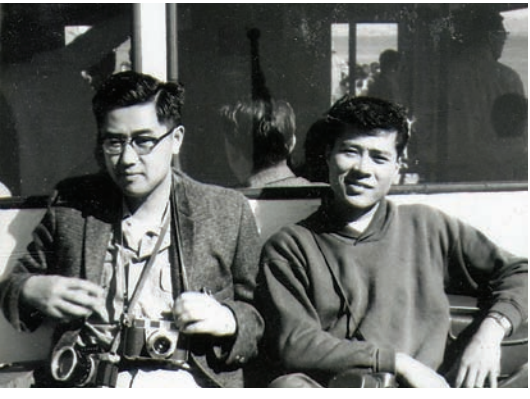
——美國華人歷史學家麥禮謙

黃運基撰
BY MAURICE CHUCK

一個人在美國土生土長，英文是他的第一語言，所以用英文寫作也就是自然而然、順理成章的事；但是，他又能用中文寫作，不僅僅是寫一兩篇文章而已，而是寫了洋洋四十萬言的巨著，這就十分不尋常了。一個人學業有成并在他的專業領域取得了不起的成就不足為奇；但是，他卻一股腦兒鑽進美國華人歷史的研究工作，數十年如一日，並且碩果累累，令人矚目，這就非同小可了。一個人對自己祖籍國的錦繡河山感興趣，要暢遊大江南北，長城內外，乃是理所當然的事；但是，他卻更加醉心於祖籍國的歷史和文化，並且在古稀之年仍為華裔青年回祖籍國組織“覓祖尋根”之旅，向他們提供有關歷史地理資料并且幫助他們在參考資料中找尋認定每個華裔青年祖籍鄉的地理位置。這個人對祖籍國感情之深厚，對“尋根”的真正意義的關切，盡在他的言行中。正因如此，數十年來，他在華人歷史學會和中華文化中心扮演了積極的、不可替代的角色，感人至深。

這個人就是麥禮謙。

我認識麥禮謙已經 58 年了。在這漫長的歲月裡，回眸時光隧道的另一端，從上世紀 40 年代末我們青年時期在華僑民主青年團 (簡稱“民青”) 一起度過了激勵我們一輩子的集體生活，到現在的耄耋之年，我們在這塊土地上見證了太多太多的風雲變幻。50 年代的麥卡錫主義；60 年代的黑人民權運動；影響數以千計華人家庭的、移民局推行的“坦白”運動；70 年代的反對越南戰爭；美中關係的跌宕起伏；唐人街的風雨陰晴……。我們都在這些年代留下了心跡和足跡。在紀錄片《唐人街檔案》裡，我們一起現身說法，把我們的心跡和足跡告訴美國人民和我們這一代與未來世代的華人青年，讓他們明白那個以捍衛民主



Top:

Laura Lai, right, receives a Mun Ching award. Him Mark Lai is seated at left.

Bottom:

On a trip to Angel Island.

為名扼殺民主的年代，是怎樣一個瘋狂的、令美國蒙羞的年代。

我常常在想：麥禮謙為什麼如此痴心於研究美國華人歷史？我在他的巨著《從華僑到華人——二十世紀美國華人社會發展史》，以及《加州華人史綱》(合著)、《美國華人左派組織歷史概論》、《美加圖書館庫藏北美洲中文報聯合目錄》(合著)、《埃崙詩集》(合著)、《哈佛美國族裔百科全書》美國部分、《關於美國華人的中文資料提要》、《中華會館系統發展史》、《美國華人報業史》、《夏威夷華人報業發展史》、《第二次大戰後美國加拿大華文報業發展史》、《第二次大戰前駐美國民黨發展史》、《海外華人百科全書》美國部分(新加坡出版)、《美國中文學校發展史》、《華僑華人百科全書教育科技卷》美洲中文學校部分(北京出版)等等著作中，找到了答案。他為我們揭開了一個歷史的窗口，使我們了解旅美祖輩被歧視、被欺負、被壓榨的過去，我們仍在拼搏的現在，並通過居美華人代代相傳艱苦奮鬥創業的軌跡，讓我們的後代繼往開來地創造他們更美好的明天。

麥禮謙幾十年來默默耕耘，從未稍懈。十多年前，在慶祝麥禮謙七十大壽的宴會上，廣州暨南大學華僑華人研究所的張興漢教授曾送給麥禮謙一首賀詩，概括地表達了他對麥禮謙研究華僑歷史的讚譽：客居金山數十年，赤子情深繫故園；為覓先僑滄桑史，足跡踏遍美利堅。

在這裡，不能不特別一提麥禮謙的夫人張玉英。數十年來，她不只關心麥禮謙日常的起居飲食，她還是他的得力助手。玉英一直是麥禮謙最安全可靠的司機，因為他不駕車，為了搜集華僑史料，凡是華僑足跡到過的地方，都由玉英開車載著他跑遍了。許多朋友都說，他們夫婦倆是“最佳拍檔”。玉英則笑著說：“這叫奉命行事！”其實，“最佳拍檔”沒錯，“奉命行事”也對。

麥禮謙說過：“如果將來我能夠寫一些有價值的華僑歷史書，一半的功勞是屬於玉英的！”聽得出來，他的語氣充滿了真摯之情。

讓歷史告訴未來。我們在麥禮謙的著作中了解到，我們不再是像我們的祖輩那樣被“賣豬仔”來到“金山”，僅僅是為建築中央太平洋鐵路而流血流汗的“苦力”了。麥禮謙的著作還告訴我們，在築路過程中不少華工慘死在崇山峻嶺，沿途白骨累累，許多死者誰也無法確定他們的身世。這是一八六三年至一八六九年的事。然而，這些被有良知的美國新聞記者評價為“美國真正的開路先鋒”的華工們，他們究竟受到怎樣的待遇呢？他們在白人種族主義者的眼中，只不過是“賤工”而已。他們在美國歷史上的貢獻，非但沒有受到應有的重視，反之，他們被利用完之後，便掀起了“排華潮”，要把中國人趕盡殺絕。華工把中央太平洋鐵路完成接軌工程後的第二年，即一八七〇年的七月八日及十五日，舊金山的白人種族主義者，先後集會，組織所謂“加州排華大會”，並與當年的共和、民主兩黨的政客互相勾結，專幹排華勾當。一八七一年十月間，洛杉磯的中國人，突遭白人圍攻，被縊死者二十一名，被槍擊死傷者不計其數。而被捕的排華暴徒，卻獲判無罪釋放。

讓歷史告訴未來。一八七六年，白人種族主義者乾尼氏煽動舊金山市民，組織沙地黨，以驅逐中國人為其黨綱，四處暴動殺害中國人。一八八五年至一八八六年間，華盛頓、俄勒岡、懷俄明等州，亦先後掀起排華暴動，夜襲中國人居所，焚燒打劫，慘遭殺害和打傷的中國人數十名。中國人連出庭作證，維護自身權益的權利也被剝奪，為當年美國這個所謂“民主自由”的國度的法律所不容。一直到一九四三年，幾達一百年之後，中國人才正式獲准有權歸化入籍！這就是歷史。這就是麥禮謙告訴我們的歷史！

讓歷史告訴未來。華裔先輩們不僅是美國建築鐵路的開路先鋒，也是美國處女地的開拓者。美國初期工農業的發展，華裔是一股不可忽視的原動力。但是，所有這一切豐功偉績，在美國史冊上卻隻字不提，一筆抹殺了。麥禮謙告訴我們，歷史是一個客觀存在，抹殺不了也不容歪曲的。

讓歷史告訴未來。麥禮謙曾經在他的著作、并在不同的場合說過，居美華人是美國人民的一部分，美國是他們的家，他們不是“過客”，他們的問題是美國的問題，他們的鬥爭，也是美國人民在蛻變中的美國社會的共同鬥爭。這是說，居美華人和美國其他族裔一道，二百多年來在共同的鬥爭中創造了美國歷史，在今後的長遠歲月中，也將和美國人民一道，不斷地在鬥爭中改變美國社會。美國既是居美華人的家，就必須有當家作主的精神，以主人翁的身份投身於美國的政治主流中去。麥禮謙的《從華僑到華人》一書，即以此為“經”，從一七八〇年代早期來美華人參與美國西部的拓展為起點，以華僑團體的形成及其作用，華僑經濟、文化、教育的發展為“緯”，透過大量史實闡述了美國華僑華人二百多年的業績。

讓歷史告訴未來。麥禮謙對華僑歷史的研究，不僅使世世代代的華人懂得“從華僑到華人，從落葉歸根到落地生根”的真正的歷史涵義，也讓美國各族裔懂得美國今天的成就，華人的貢獻功不可沒！

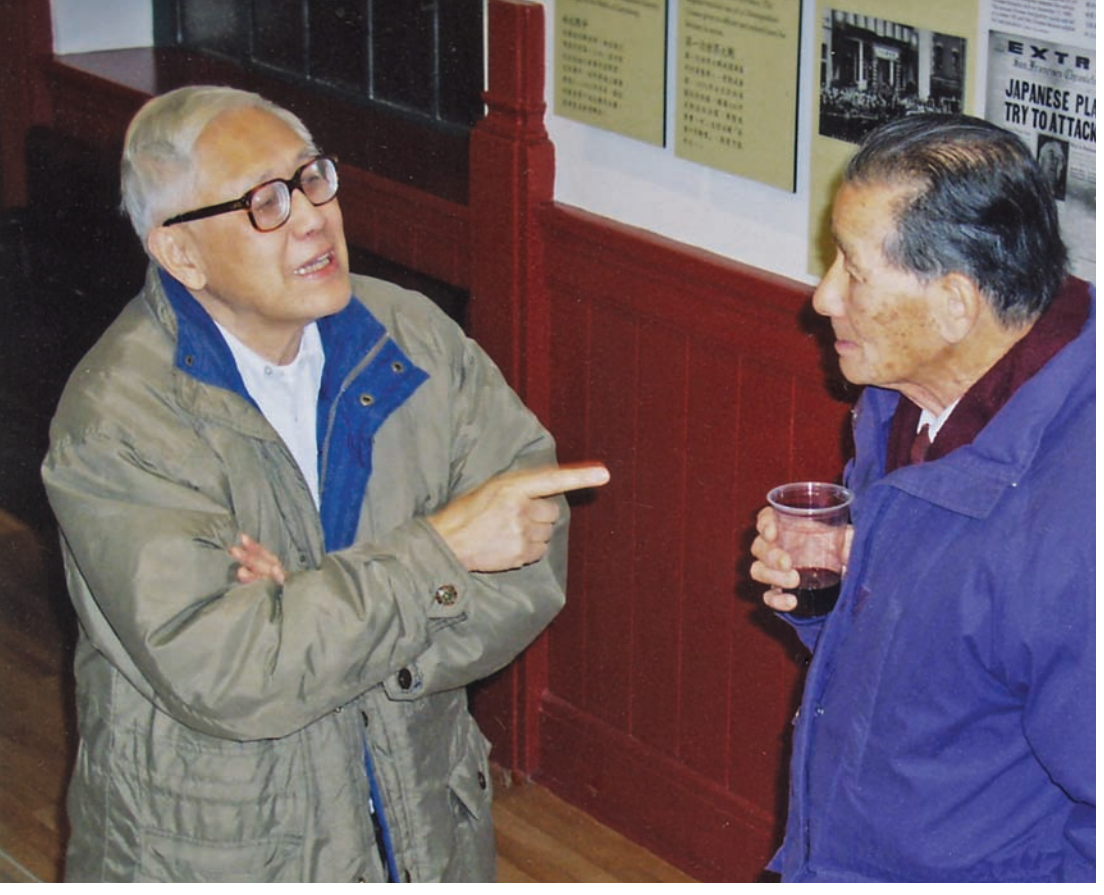
HIM MARK LAI
A Tribute to the Dean of Chinese American History

BY L. LING-CHI WANG
University of California, Berkeley

王靈智撰
加州大學柏克萊

To understand and appreciate the significance of Him Mark Lai's contributions to the scholarship of Chinese American history, we need to go back to the dark ages of the pre-1960s. During this time, Chinese were systematically excluded by a series of anti-Chinese laws enacted by the U.S. Congress beginning in 1882 and American historians, including historians of American immigration, added insult to injury by routinely erasing their exclusion and subordination from the history of the U.S. I am not suggesting that nothing about the Chinese in the U.S. was written before the 1960s. There were, in fact, quite a lot of writings, most of which were either one-sided, like history written exclusively from the view of the excluders, or topical, like Chinese exclusion or assimilation of second-generation Chinese Americans. Willard B. Farwell (1885), Wu Shang-ying (1954), and Gunther Barth (1964) are classic examples representing the former, while Mary R. Coolidge (1909), Eliot G. Mears (1928), Elmer C. Sandmeyer (1939), Rose Hum Lee (1961), and Delber L. McKee (1977) the latter.[1] In both types, we learn very little about Chinese American history and community. Polemicists and apologists alike denied Chinese American subjectivity and at times, humanity; Barth blamed the lack of conventional sources of their history on the"illiterate or poorly educated sojourners."

Such was the state of Chinese American historiography before the arrival of Him Mark Lai in the mid-1960s and the advent of Chinese and Asian American studies in 1969, a scholarly enterprise to which he has made ground-breaking and lasting



contributions. Let me highlight a few major ones. First and foremost is his rescuing, collecting, cataloguing, preserving, and sharing of conventional historical sources in both Chinese and English, the sources callously either ignored or dismissed as non-existent by both Chinese and non-Chinese historians alike. For over four decades, he has searched for and collected them. Out of his labor of love came two important compilations: *Chinese Newspapers Published in North America, 1854-1975*, with Karl Lo (1977) and

1 Barth, Gunther P., 1964, *Bitter Strength: A History of the Chinese in the United States, 1850-1870*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Coolidge, Mary Elizabeth Burroughs Roberts Smith, 1909, *Chinese Immigration*, New York: H. Holt and Company. Farwell, Willard B., 1885, *The Chinese at Home and Abroad. Together with the Report of the Special Committee of the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco, on the Condition of the Chinese Quarter of that City*, San Francisco: A.L. Bancroft & Co. Lee, Rose Hum, 1960, *The Chinese in the United States of America*, Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press. McKee, Delber L., 1977, *Chinese Exclusion versus the Open Door Policy, 1900-1906: Clashes over China Policy in the Roosevelt Era*, Detroit: Wayne State University Press. Mears, Eliot G., 1928, *Resident Orientals on the American Pacific Coast; Their Legal and Economic Status*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Sandmeyer, Elmer Clarence, 1939, *The Anti-Chinese Movement in California*, Urbana: University of Illinois Press. Wu Shang-ying, 1954, *Meiguo Hua qiao bai nian ji shi: Jianada fu [One Hundred Years of Chinese in the United States and Canada]*, Hong Kong.

Him Mark Lai and Philip P. Choy honored at a CHSA banquet as our Grand Historians

A History Reclaimed: An Annotated Bibliography of Chinese Language Materials on the Chinese of America (1986). Since their publication, no credible historians of Chinese America can afford to ignore them. Thanks to his generosity, most of these materials and a lot more can now be found and accessed in a special Him Mark Lai collection in the Asian American Studies Library of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley.

Secondly, not satisfied with the ways the Chinese American experience has been depicted in mainstream history-writing, he collaborated with Thomas Chinn and Philip Choy and published the first comprehensive history, *A History of the Chinese in California: A Syllabus* (1969) and with Philip Choy, *History of the Chinese in America: An Outline* (1972), an outline of a course they co-taught at San Francisco State University in 1969. Both works provided the first framework for understanding the Chinese American experience and an agenda for pursuing further research. Finally, in 2004, he published a seminal study on key organizations and institutions in Chinese America, *Becoming Chinese American: A History of Communities and Institutions*. The book is based on nearly four decades of meticulous research into Chinese-language sources. Social scientists and historians, dating back to Rev. William Speer in the 1850s, have long written about these critically important institutions in Chinatown from the

point of view of outsiders, and most of these works were formalistic and static. It is Him Mark's book that gives flesh and blood, heart and mind to these institutions.

Thirdly, even though he was not among the original founders of the Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) in 1963, he very quickly became the pillar and leader in moving the society in the direction of professional history, hosting periodic conferences and publishing volumes of collected research, the most important of which has been the journal series entitled, *Chinese America: History & Perspectives*, beginning in 1987. The series has become an important forum and outlet for pioneer studies on various aspects of Chinese American history and life and needless to say, an important resource of serious students of Chinese American history.

Last, but not least, is his mentorship of generations of Chinese American historians. Virtually all authors of major studies of Chinese American history in the past thirty years, such as Victor and Brett Nee (1972), Shih-shan Henry Tasi (1983), Ruthanne Lum McCunn (1988), L. Eve Armentrout Ma (1990), Renqiu Yu (1992), Charles McClain (1994), Judy Yung (1995 & 1999), Madelein Hsu (2000), Nayan Shah (2001), Xiaojian Zhao (2002), Erika Lee (2003), Lynn Pan (2006), to mention just a few, acknowledged their indebtedness to his generosity in sharing of his sources and knowledge and to his untiring guidance and assistance.

Him Mark Lai is passionate about Chinese American history. He has spared no expense in crisscrossing the U.S., from Chinatowns in all major cities to small towns and ghost towns in remote rural areas, to collect materials relevant of Chinese American life, past and present. What he collects, he shares with fellow historians. He is an engineer by vocation. But, in his life, his true passion is with Chinese America, its history and its destiny in the U.S. Chinese American studies has blossomed into a very rich and productive field today because he has been both its source and inspiration. He is, indeed, the dean of Chinese American history!

2 Hsu, Madeline, 2000, *Dreaming of Gold, Dreaming of Home: Transnationalism and Migration between the United States and South China, 1882-1943*, Stanford: Stanford University Press. Lee, Erika, 2003, *At America's Gates: Chinese Immigration during the Exclusion Era, 1882-1943*, Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. Ma, L. Eve Armentrout, 1990, *Revolutionaries, Monarchists, and Chinatowns: Chinese Politics in the Americas and the 1911 Revolution*, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. McClain, Charles J., 1994, *In Search of Equality: The Chinese Struggle against Discrimination in Nineteenth-Century America*, Berkeley: University of California Press. McCunn, Ruthanne Lum, 1988, *Chinese American Portraits: Personal Histories 1828-1988*, San Francisco: Chronicle Books. Nee, Victor G., and Brett de Bary Nee, 1972, *Longtime Californ': A Documentary Study of an American Chinatown*, New York: Pantheon Books. Pan, Lynn, ed., 2006, *The Encyclopedia of Chinese Overseas*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Shah, Nayan, 2001, *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Tsai, Shih-Shan Henry, 1983, *China and the Overseas Chinese in the United States*, Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press. Yu, Renqiu, 1992, *To Save China, To Save Ourselves: The Chinese Hand Laundry Alliance of New York*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Yung, Judy, 1995, *Unbound Feet: A Social History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*, and 1999, *Unbound Voices: A Documentary History of Chinese Women in San Francisco*, Berkeley: University of California Press. Zhao, Xiaojian, 2002, *Remaking Chinese America: Immigration, Family, and Community, 1940-1965*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press.

人民劇场
主办.
中国广州粤剧团菠新公

麥禮謙小傳

區維業撰
BY WEIYE OU

麥禮謙一九二五年十一月一日出生於舊金山，五歲進入由南海福蔭堂開辦的南僑學校啟蒙學習中文，六歲進入舊金山華埠的襟馬多 · 士德頓小學，開始在公立學校接受英文教育，一九四七年在柏克萊加大獲機械工程學士學位。他在高中時曾在舊金山全市中學生歷史問答比賽中獲得冠軍。

六十年代初，麥禮謙在加州大學夜校進修歷史課程，得斯坦福 · 萊曼教授啟發，開始注意美國華人歷史。加入美國華人歷史學會後，他的美國華人史研究取得累累碩果，不但發表著述，主持設計了數個有關華國華人歷史的展覽會，而且在舊金山州立大學和柏克萊加大講授美國華人歷史課程。

麥禮謙於一九七三年加入舊金山中華文化基金會，以他的歷史專長直接服務華人社區。他為文化中心主持設計了《甘苦滄桑兩百年》等介紹華國華人歷史的展覽，而且遠赴中國展出。他擔任中華文化中心"尋根"活動的輔導員多年，指導土生華裔青少年到中國僑鄉尋根問祖。

麥禮謙從一九五三年起被貝克特爾建築工程公司聘為機械工程師，設計火力及核能發電廠，於一九八四年退休，專心從事歷史研究。他曾三次擔任美國華人歷史學會會長，並先後擔任舊金山中華文化基金會董事和會長。

A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY of Him Mark Lai

區維業撰
BY WEIYE OU
TRANSLATION BY PIERA KWAN

Him Mark Lai was born in San Francisco, California on November 1, 1925. At the age of five, he began Chinese school, attending San Francisco Chinatown's Nom Kue School (南僑學校), founded by the Nom Hoy Fook Yam Society (南海福蔭堂). At age six he began public school at Commodore Stockton Elementary School, now Gordon J. Lau Elementary. Attending the University of California, Berkeley, he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1947. While he pursued a vocation in engineering, Him Mark Lai early on showed a great aptitude in history, winning, while yet in high school, First Prize at a San Francisco city-wide history contest.

In the early 1960s, Him Mark Lai took night courses in history at the University of California, Berkeley extension program, and, inspired by the instructor, Stanford Lyman, became interested in pursuing Chinese American history. He joined the Chinese Historical Society of America, and began the work that would accumulate vast amount of research data on Chinese American history. His research again and again bears fruit. Not only has he published many historical articles and books, he has curated several exhibits, and has taught courses in Chinese American history at San Francisco State University and the University of California, Berkeley.

Focused on using his historical knowledge to serve the community, Him Mark Lai in 1973 also joined the Chinese Culture Center. For the CCC he developed an exhibit, *Two Centuries of Struggle and Achievement: The Chinese of America 1785-1980* 《甘苦滄桑兩百年》 which then traveled to China. For many years, Him Mark Lai has acted as the historical and geographical advisor for CCC's "In Search of Roots" Program, enabling many young native-born Chinese Americans to find out about their family history and genealogy in China.

Beginning in 1953, Him Mark Lai was also employed as a Mechanical Engineer for the Bechtel Corporation, in the field of nuclear and fossil-fuel plants. In 1984 he decided to retire in order to concentrate his energies full time to historical research. Him Mark Lai has served on the board and three times as President of the Chinese Historical Society of America, and on the board and as chair of the Chinese Culture Foundation of San Francisco. He continues to contribute to the preservation and interpretation of Chinese American history and culture.

Him Mark Lai, right, with Phil Choy and members of a CHSA field trip to explore the Chinese-built stone walls of Napa. (Kem Lee photo)

中国北京
中国华侨历史学会

尊敬的美国华人历史学会：

欣悉贵会将与其他华人社团，以及设有华人和亚美研究科目的大学，在10月28日，假旧金山唐人街皇后餐馆，为麦礼谦先生举行隆重的庆祝活动，庆祝他四十余年来热忱致力于华社和美国华人华侨历史研究所取得的成就和荣誉。我会谨致此信，向麦礼谦先生表示热烈的祝贺和崇高的敬意。

麦礼谦先生是我们中国华侨历史学会的顾问。我们最早建立联系并开始学术交流与合作，缘于他参与主持的美国华人历史图片展览——“甘苦沧桑两百年：1785——1980。”自1980年起，该展览先后在美国七个城市巡回展出。为了将这一展览介绍到中国，麦先生于1985年把全部300余幅图片的文字说明译成中文，并将该展览赠送我会。此后，我们一起将这个展览推广到上海、北京、广州、中山、台上和香港展出，成为宣传美国华人历史的一大盛事，也是我会与贵会之间的一段佳话。

从那时起，我们一直与麦礼谦先生保持着良好关系。有一段时间，麦先生通过向我会邮寄《时代报》，向我们介绍他在报上连载的有关美国华人研究的成果和华社动态。我们也经常邀请他参加在中国举办的华侨华人问题学术研讨。，他积极参加我会的活动，我们也看到了他越来越丰硕的研究成果。他的中文著作《美国华侨简史》、《从华侨到华人：二十世纪美国华人社会发展》、《十九世纪美国华人报业史》，以及英文著作《美国华人社会与中国政治》、《埃伦诗》、《美国华侨华人研究概论》和《中华会馆及会馆系统发展史》等等，是我们学会许多成员研究海外华人不可或缺的参考书。

麦礼谦先生的研究成果资料翔实，观点鲜明，见解独到。他的中文著作使中国学者获得了不少英文信息，拓宽了研究视野；也使美国华裔社区和海外华文教育界获得了了解自身历史的知识启迪与传乘中华文化的精神财富。他的英文著作则使美国主流社会能够更多了解华人社会，从而促进多元文化的交流与互动。

我们同时了解到，麦礼谦先生还做了两件非常有意义的事。一件是他从1991年起积极组织华裔青年回到故乡寻根访祖。我们相信，这不仅能够帮助美籍华裔增强文化自信，有益于华社的发展；也是增进中美两国人民相互了解和友好往来的一个渠道，有益于中美两国关系的健康发展。另一件是他将100箱华侨史档案资料捐赠给了加州大学柏克莱分校的少数民族与亚裔研究系图书馆。我们认为，麦礼谦先生的研究和资料，不仅为其他研究者提供了丰富的借鉴和参考，而且这些研究和资料本身也是美国华人历史中的宝贵财富。

麦礼谦先生的贡献将永远为我们所敬仰。

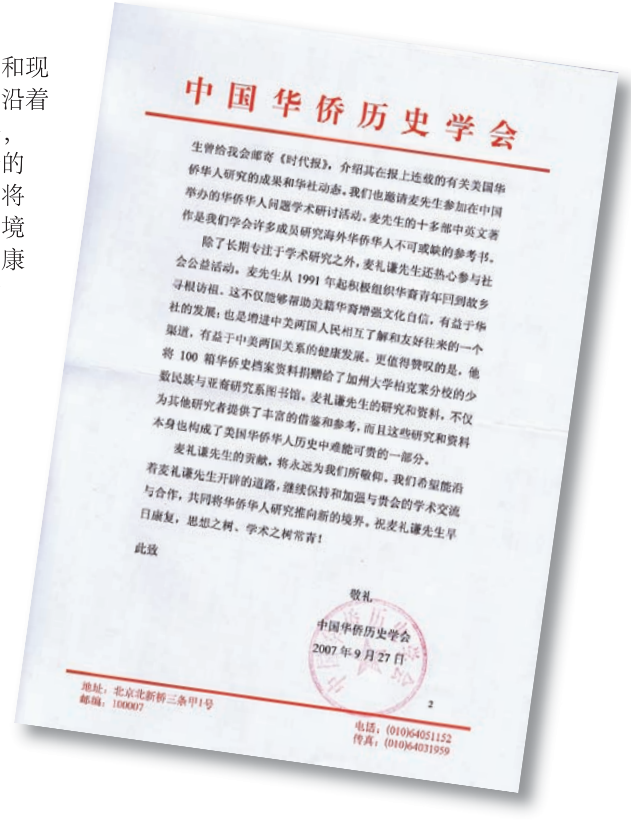
我们中国华侨历史学会是一个成立于1981年的全国性学术团体，宗旨是广泛团结海内外华华人研究者和热心于华侨华人事物者，积极开展学术研究和交流，增

进人们对华侨华人历史和现状的了解。我们希望能沿着麦礼谦先生开辟的道路，继续保持和加强与贵会的学术交流与合作，共同将华侨华人研究推向新的境界。祝麦礼谦先生早日康复，思想之树学术之树常青。

此致
敬礼

中国华侨历史学会

2007年9月27日



中国华侨历史学会

生曾给我会邮寄《时代报》，介绍其在报上连载的有关美国华侨华人研究的成果和华社动态。我们也邀请麦先生参加在中国举办的华侨华人问题学术研讨活动。麦先生的十多部中英文著作是我们学会许多成员研究海外华侨华人不可或缺的参考书。

除了长期专注于学术研究之外，麦礼谦先生还热心参与社会公益活动。麦先生从 1991 年起积极组织华裔青年回到故乡寻根访祖。这不仅能够帮助美籍华裔增强文化自信，有益于华社的发展；也是增进中美两国人民相互了解和友好往来的一个渠道，有益于中美两国关系的健康发展。更值得赞叹的是，他将 100 箱华侨史档案资料捐赠给了加州大学柏克莱分校的少数民族与亚裔研究系图书馆。麦礼谦先生的研究和资料，不仅为其他研究者提供了丰富的借鉴和参考，而且这些研究和资料本身也构成了美国华侨华人历史中难能可贵的一部分。

麦礼谦先生的贡献，将永远为我们所敬仰。我们希望能沿着麦礼谦先生开辟的道路，继续保持和加强与贵会的学术交流与合作，共同将华侨华人研究推向新的境界。祝麦礼谦先生早日康复，思想之树、学术之树常青！

此致

敬礼

中国华侨历史学会

2007 年 9 月 27 日

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National Society for the Study of the History of Chinese Overseas
Beijing, China

To the Chinese Historical Society of America:

With great pleasure we learned of your joint plan with other organizations of the Chinese community and universities that have programs studying Chinese Americans to hold a party in San Francisco on October 28th honoring Mr. Him Mark Lai and celebrating his achievement over the past forty years in the service to the Chinese community and in the study of the history of Chinese Americans. We write to send Mr. Him Mark Lai our hearty congratulations and to show him our highest respect.

Mr. Him Mark Lai is a Consultant to the National Society for the Study of the History of Chinese Overseas. Our cooperation goes back to 1985, when he co-directed the China tour of the exhibition *Two Centuries of Struggle and Achievement: The Chinese of America 1785-1980*. The exhibition had been shown in seven U.S. cities. To make its China tour possible, Mr. Him Mark Lai donated to us all the photos and illustrations, totaling more than 300, with his translations. The tour covered Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Taishan,

Zhongshan, and Hong Kong, making the history of Chinese Americans known to more people and leaving many good memories of us working together.

Our friendship with Mr. Him Mark Lai has persisted ever since then. There was a period when he regularly mailed us the *San Francisco Journal* which carried his articles on Chinese American studies. Many times he came over to participate in our conferences. The works that represent the abundant fruition of his research: *A Brief History of Chinese Americans*, *From Overseas Chinese to Chinese Americans*, *Nineteenth-century Chinese American Journalism*, *Chinese Politics and the Chinese Community in America*, *The American Chinese: History and Community*, *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*, *A Survey of the Studies of Overseas Chinese in America and Chinese Americans*, and *Chinese Benevolent Associations in America*, constitute an invaluable part of references in our field that no scholar can afford to ignore.

The research of Mr. Him Mark Lai is distinguished by the solid support that he draws from primary sources, by his unambiguous interpretation and judgment, and by the unique viewpoints that he holds about history. His writings, both in Chinese and in English, have played important roles. To scholars in China, they have provided insights and information that were originally available in English. To the Chinese communities in America, they have thrown light on their shared heritage from the past. To those engaged in teaching the Chinese language and culture in America, they have enriched their knowledge about the historical background of their subjects. To the mainstream of American society they have been an eye-opener about Chinese Americans and thereby contributed to muti-cultural communication.

Since 1991, Mr. Him Mark Lai has been responsible for organizing "In Search of Roots" trips for young Chinese Americans that brought them back to their ancestors' towns and villages. These trips have strenghthened the younger generations' cultural self-confidence and have benefited the relationship between the two countries. He has also donated archives, 100 cases in all, to the library of Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley. These materials, rich in primary sources and references, form a valuable asset to the study of the history of Chinese Americans.

Him Mark Lai's contributions will be remembered forever.

Started in 1981, the Society of the History of Overseas Chinese has been working towards promoting the research and understanding of both the past and present conditions of overseas Chinese populations. We have always been interested in increasing and enhancing academic exchanges between scholars in different countries. It is our hope that our cooperation, started by Mr. Him Mark Lai, will continue to prosper. We wish Mr. Him Mark Lai will soon recover, and that his health will stay green as his academic work.

With best wishes,
National Society for the Study of the History of Chinese Overseas
September 27, 2007

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

October 28, 2007

Him Mark Lai
965 Clay Street
San Francisco, CA 94108

Dear Mr. Lai,

I am delighted to send my best wishes in celebration of your 82nd birthday and in recognition for your immeasurable contributions to San Francisco's Chinese American community. You are an outstanding citizen and role model.

I would like to join your friends and family as they honor your work as an historian, writer, and community activist. Your contributions have encouraged young Chinese Americans to better appreciate and understand their ancestral history.

Your efforts are an example of what makes our nation great. I extend my warmest wishes in celebration of your 82nd birthday.

Best wishes,

Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

CELEBRATING HIM MARK LAI

THE DEAN OF CHINESE AMERICAN HISTORIANS

為表揚麥禮謙對美國華人歷史的貢獻

Sunday, October 28, 2007
Empress of China
838 Grant Avenue, San Francisco

2007年十月二十八日
席設皇后酒樓, 三藩市都板街 838號

With special preview of the Him Mark Lai Digital Archive Project, an upcoming world-wide online resource sharing Him Mark Lai's scholarship, from collections of research materials to ground-breaking articles, books, and film.
www.HimMarkLai.org

屆時將會預展麥禮謙數碼檔案內部分研究資料及他的著述著作,並放映他與胡垣坤參與製作有關美國華人歷史的電視片。
www.HimMarkLai.org

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