

CALIFORNIA HISTORY ROOM ARCHIVES
MONTEREY PUBLIC LIBRARY
COLLECTION DESCRIPTION AND INVENTORY

COLLECTION INVENTORY

WING CHONG COMPANY SQUID INDUSTRY RECORDS, 1924-1936

Folder No. Folder Title & Description of Contents

1. **Dried Squid Shipping Records. H. B. Mills, San Francisco, to Wing Chong Co., Monterey.** Invoices, export order, telegrams, payment notices, certificates of weight and measure for shipping of dried squid to H. B. Mills, San Francisco, for export.
2. **Monterey Sardine Fishermen's Organization: Bills & Invoices for Squid, 1932.** [MSFO letterhead invoices.] Invoices for squid and hoisting of catch purchased by Wing Chong.
3. **Wing Chong Co. Invoices and Sales Slips, 1921-1933, for squid drying operation and market.** Invoices from several local businesses, including Danna's Market, New Monterey; Monterey Municipal Wharf; Bruno's Fish Market, Pierce and Towle Hardware; Carmel Canning Company. Also includes cover letter and bill from Dr. J. P. Sandholdt for industrial injuries of employees working in the squid drying fields. [Various letterheads.]
4. **Wing Chong Co. Cancelled Checks 1924-1932.** Contains checks drafted by Wing Chong Co. for the Monterey Sardine Fishermen's Organization in payment for squid. Also, includes one check made out to K[nut] Hovden, July 25, 1924.
5. **Wing Chong to Work Lumber Co.: Invoices for materials to construct "squid [drying] fields," 1932.**
6. **Wing Chong Co., Bills of Lading for Squid Shipments to Hong Kong, 1931-1932.** Includes cover letters, bills of lading for the shipping and export of dried squid to the Chong Sheing Co., Hong Kong. Wing Chong shipped squid to San Francisco export companies (primarily Stanton & Berry or Wah King Trading Co.). The export companies typically shipped on the Dollar Steamship Lines. A typical shipment might include 54 boxes of dried squid. [Wing Chong and other letterheads]
7. **Wing Chong Co., Bills of Lading and Shipping Records, 1934, 1936.** Includes correspondence and shipping records.
8. **Title sheet: "Good Quality Dried Squid -- Wing Chong Co., Monterey, Calif., U.S.A." [photocopy]**

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9. **Toy Fong Co. Employee Numbered Tokens [Badges]**. Ten employee tokens.
[See Toy Fong Co. Workmen's Record Book.]

CANNERY ROW SQUID INDUSTRY RECORDS, 1924-1936

Record Books:

1. **Toy Fong Company. Workmen's Record Book.** Toy Fong Co. was a squid drying operation. Entries are listed in Chinese with the employee name written in English [pencil] next to Chinese entries. Entries record shifts, pay, and employee badge number. Of special interest is the record of Harold "Gabe" Bicknell (Badge No. 354). "Gabe" was well known on Cannery Row for his activities. In a letter to Pascal Covici, John Steinbeck wrote that he had based Mack in Cannery Row on "Gabe."
2. **Hoy Fung Squid Record Book, April 1930.** Chinese entries. [Book made in China.]
3. **Moo Feng Squid Co. Record Book, May 1932.** Chinese entries.
4. **Workmen's Book, 1932.** Chinese.
5. **Squid Record Book.** [ledger made in China]

Some Monterey Businesses of the 1930s documented in the collection:

Vito Bruno Fish Market, 15 Municipal Wharf, Monterey.
Danna, John. Meats, 523 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey.
Monterey Sardine Fishermen's Organization, No. 9, Municipal Wharf, Monterey.
Pacific Biological Laboratory, 800 Ocean View, Monterey.
Pierce & Towle, Fishing tackle, sporting goods, hardware. 410 Alvarado St., Monterey.
Sandholdt, John. M. D. 543 Lighthouse Ave., Monterey.
Wing Chong Co. Chinese merchandise. 811 Ocean Ave., Monterey.