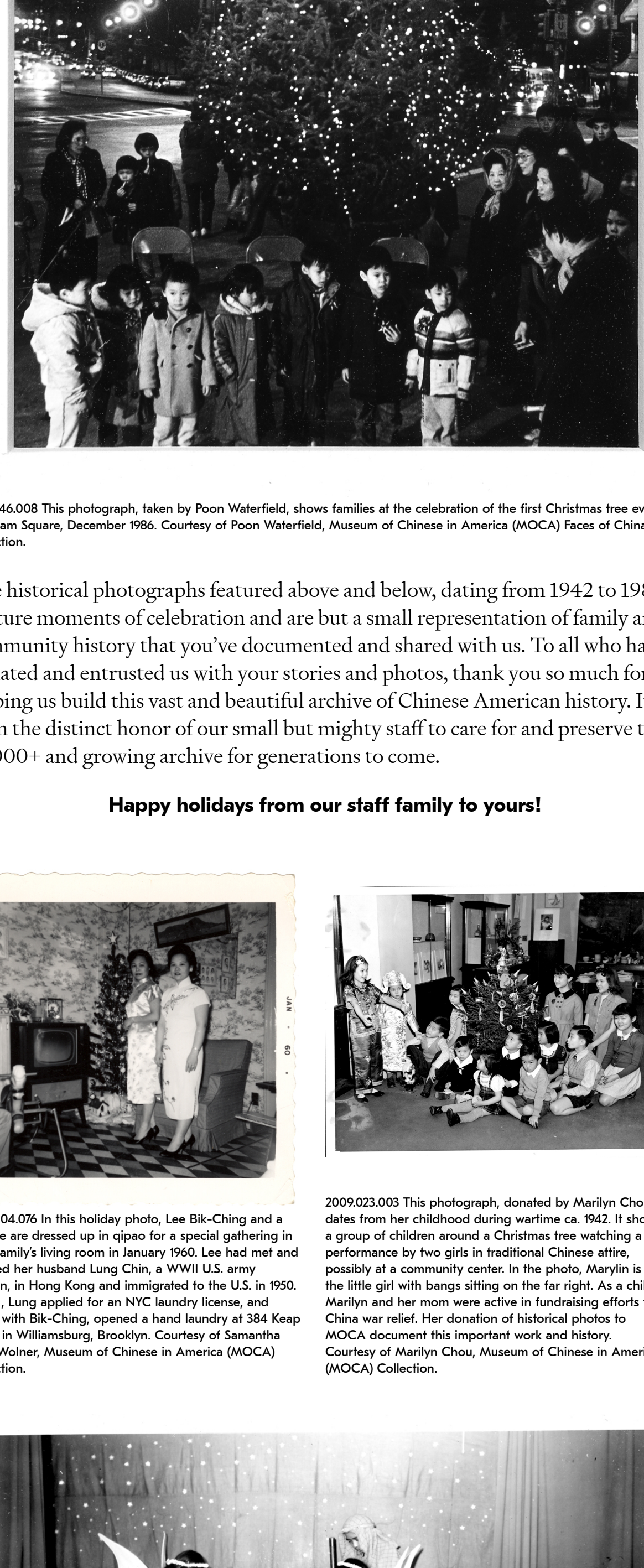


MOCA Collections

Newsletter

A monthly update on archival initiatives, work, and news by MOCA's Research and Collections Center

December 2022



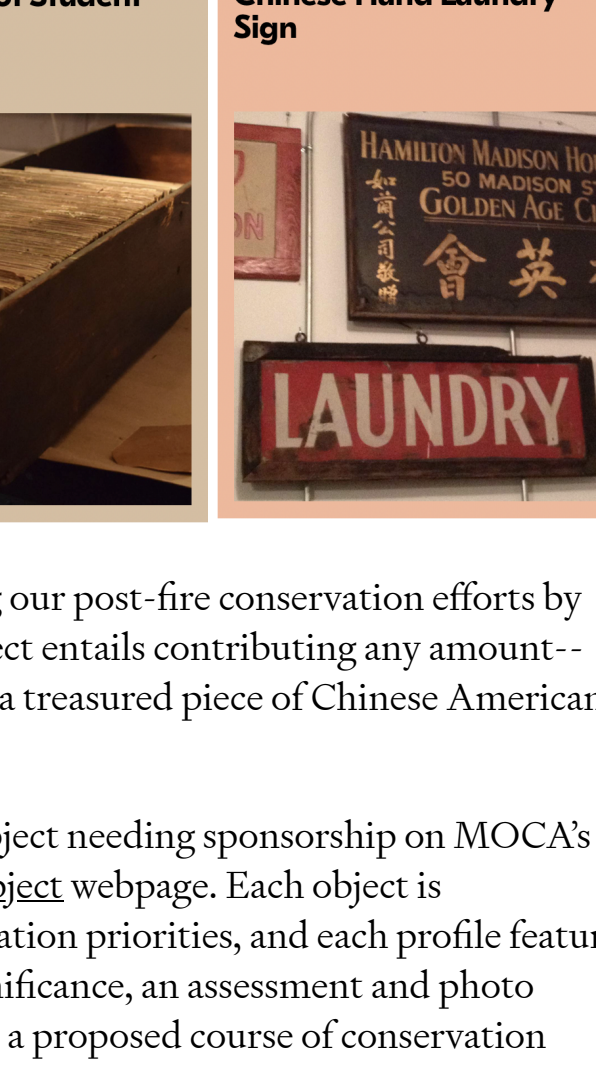
2011.046.008 This photograph, taken by Poon Waterfield, shows families at the celebration of the first Christmas tree ever in Chatham Square, December 1986. Courtesy of Poon Waterfield, Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) Faces of Chinatown Collection.

The historical photographs featured above and below, dating from 1942 to 1986, capture moments of celebration and are but a small representation of family and community history that you've documented and shared with us. To all who have donated and entrusted us with your stories and photos, thank you so much for helping us build this vast and beautiful archive of Chinese American history. It has been the distinct honor of our small but mighty staff to care for and preserve this 85,000+ and growing archive for generations to come.

Happy holidays from our staff family to yours!



2013.004.076 In this holiday photo, Lee Bik-Ching and a relative are dressed up in qipao for a special gathering in their family's living room in January 1960. Lee had met and married her husband Lung Chin, a WWII U.S. army veteran, in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. in 1950. In 1951, Lung applied for an NYC laundry license, and along with Bik-Ching, opened a hand laundry at 384 Keap Street in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. Courtesy of Samantha Chin-Wolner, Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) Collection.

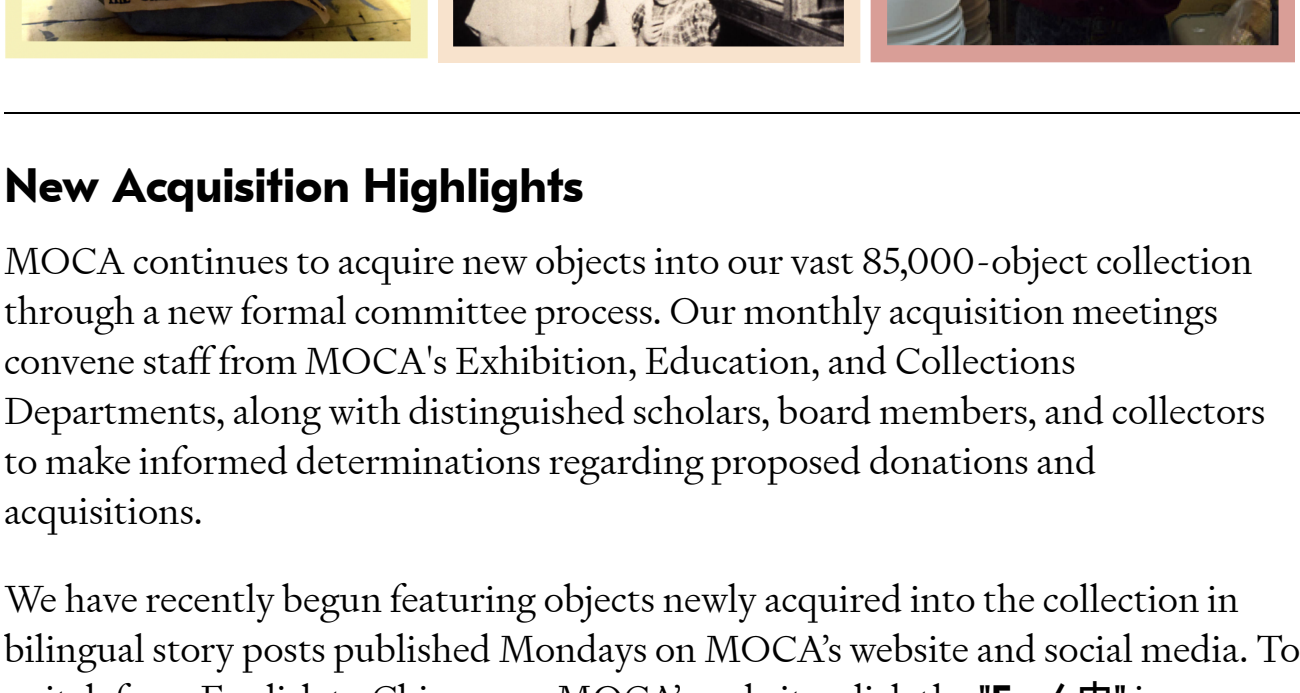


2009.023.003 This photograph, donated by Marilyn Chou, dates from her childhood during wartime ca. 1942. It shows a group of children around a Christmas tree watching a performance by two girls in traditional Chinese attire, possibly at a community center. In the photo, Marilyn is the little girl with bangs sitting on the far right. As a child, Marilyn and her mom were active in fundraising efforts for China war relief. Her donation of historical photos to MOCA document this important work and history. Courtesy of Marilyn Chou, Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) Collection.



2004.080.008 In this 1946 photograph, Fannie Lui, dressed as Mary, performs in a nativity scene for Christmas along with three other children. Fanny grew up in a big family as one of eight kids during the Depression era and wartime in New York Chinatown. As founding members of Grace Faith Mission, one of Chinatown's three churches, performing in these Christmas pageants was a significant memory and part of childhood for Fanny and her siblings. Courtesy of Fannie Lui, Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA) Collection.

Sponsor an Object



This holiday season, consider supporting our post-fire conservation efforts by sponsoring an object! Sponsoring an object entails contributing any amount—large or small—to help fund the repair of a treasured piece of Chinese American history that was damaged during the fire.

On Fridays, we post a profile for a new object needing sponsorship on MOCA's Facebook, Instagram, and Sponsor an Object webpage. Each object is selected based on exhibition and conservation priorities, and each profile features research into the object's history and significance, an assessment and photo documentation detailing its damage, and a proposed course of conservation treatment.

MOCA offers **Chinese-language translations** for all of our Sponsor an Object webpages. Readers can easily navigate from English to Chinese pages by clicking the **"En / 中"** icon on the menu bar at the top of MOCA's webpages.

To thank sponsors who donate at specified levels, we include acknowledgment of sponsorship in the object's catalog record, on an official certificate of sponsorship, and/or on exhibition display labels, depending on level of contribution. If you can support our conservation efforts by contributing any amount towards the repair of an object, please visit our **Sponsor an Object** page.

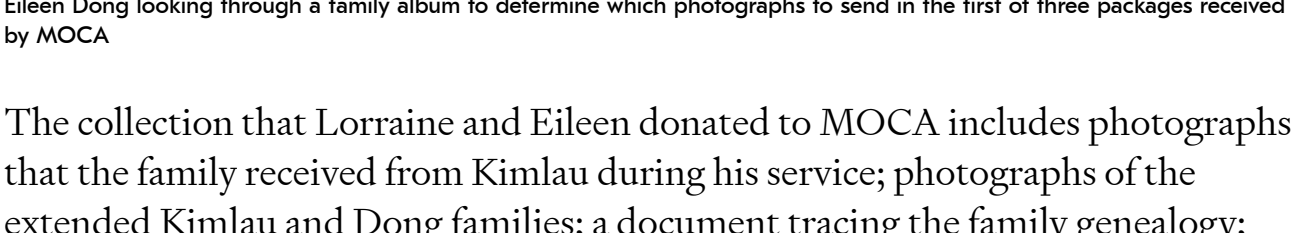
Please click on an icon above to learn more about **objects that still need additional sponsorship** to reach the total conservation cost goal.

Sponsor an Object from MOCA's Collection

Weekly Collection Stories

On Tuesdays, MOCA Collections publishes a new object story highlighting hidden gems within MOCA's collections. To read these engaging snapshots of Chinese American history, visit MOCA's **Weekly Collection Stories** page or follow **@mocanyc** on Facebook and Instagram. Stories on MOCA's website are published in both English and Chinese, and readers can easily switch between languages by clicking the **"En / 中"** icon on the menu bar at the top of MOCA's webpages.

Click on an icon below to navigate to one of our most recent object stories:



New Acquisition Highlights

MOCA continues to acquire new objects into our vast 85,000-object collection through a new formal committee process. Our monthly acquisition meetings convene staff from MOCA's Exhibition, Education, and Collections Departments, along with distinguished scholars, board members, and collectors to make informed determinations regarding proposed donations and acquisitions.

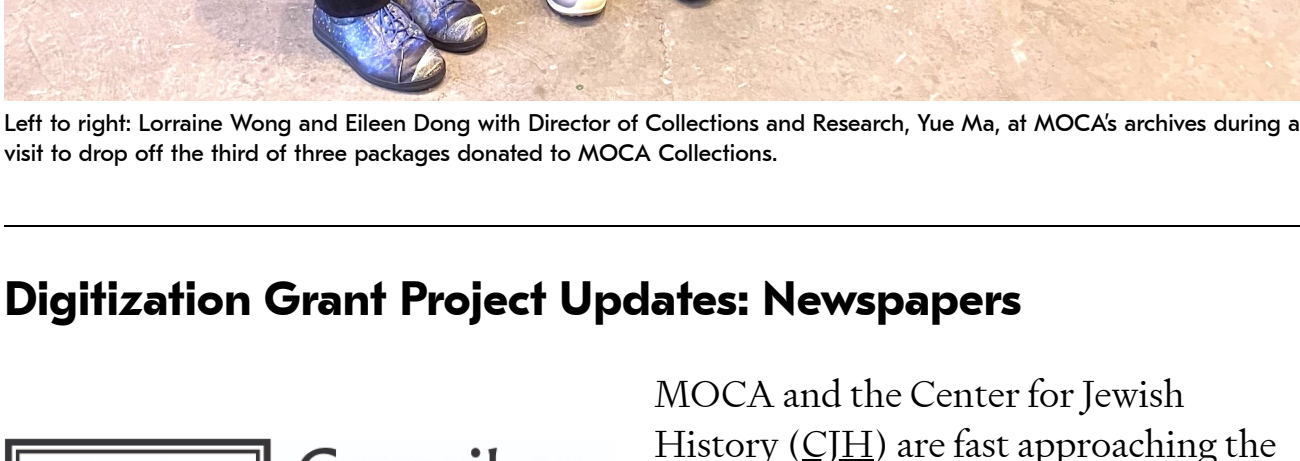
We have recently begun featuring objects newly acquired into the collection in bilingual story posts published Mondays on MOCA's website and social media. To switch from English to Chinese on MOCA's website, click the **"En / 中"** icon on the far right of the menu bar at the top of the page.

Please visit our **New Acquisitions** page to read more, or click on an icon below to navigate to our latest highlights:



Kimlau Cousins Donate Collection to MOCA

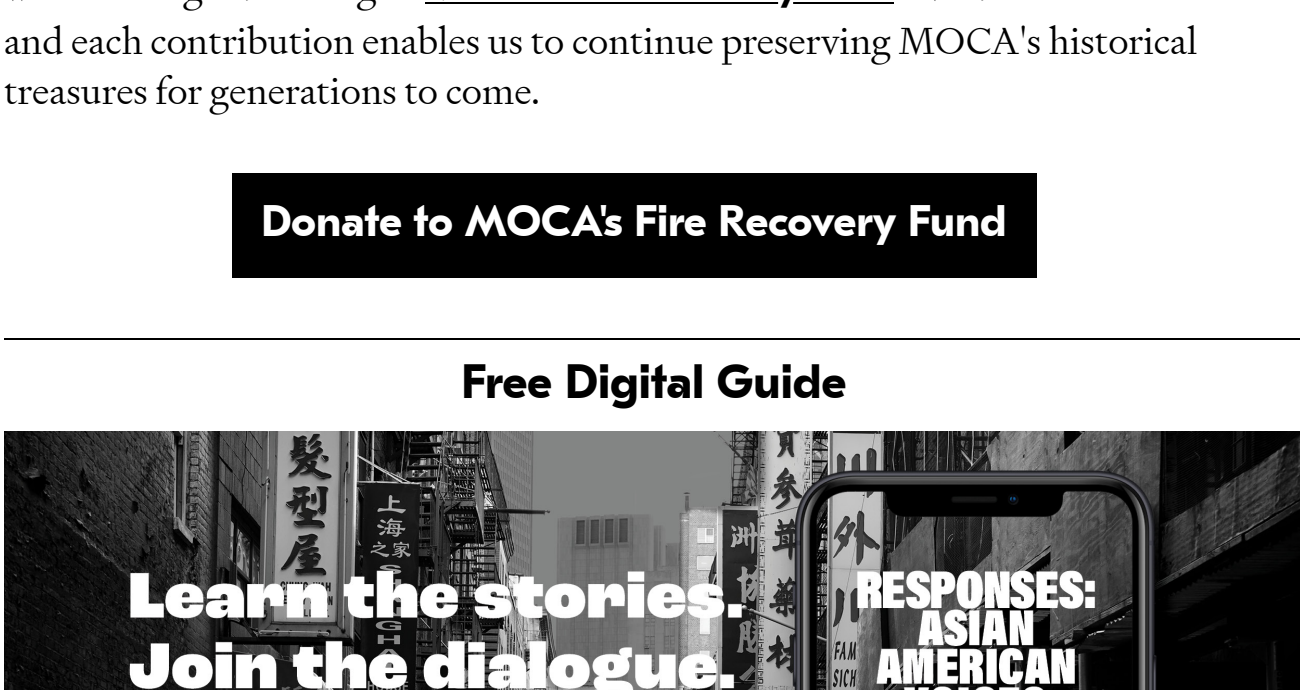
These past few months, MOCA Collections had the honor of receiving from Lorraine Wong and Eileen Dong a donation of documents and photographs of their celebrated cousin and WWII hero, **Lieutenant Benjamin Ralph Kimlau** (1918-1944).



Lt. Benjamin Ralph Kimlau with cousins Mildred, Eleanor, and Eileen (center), ca. 1940s

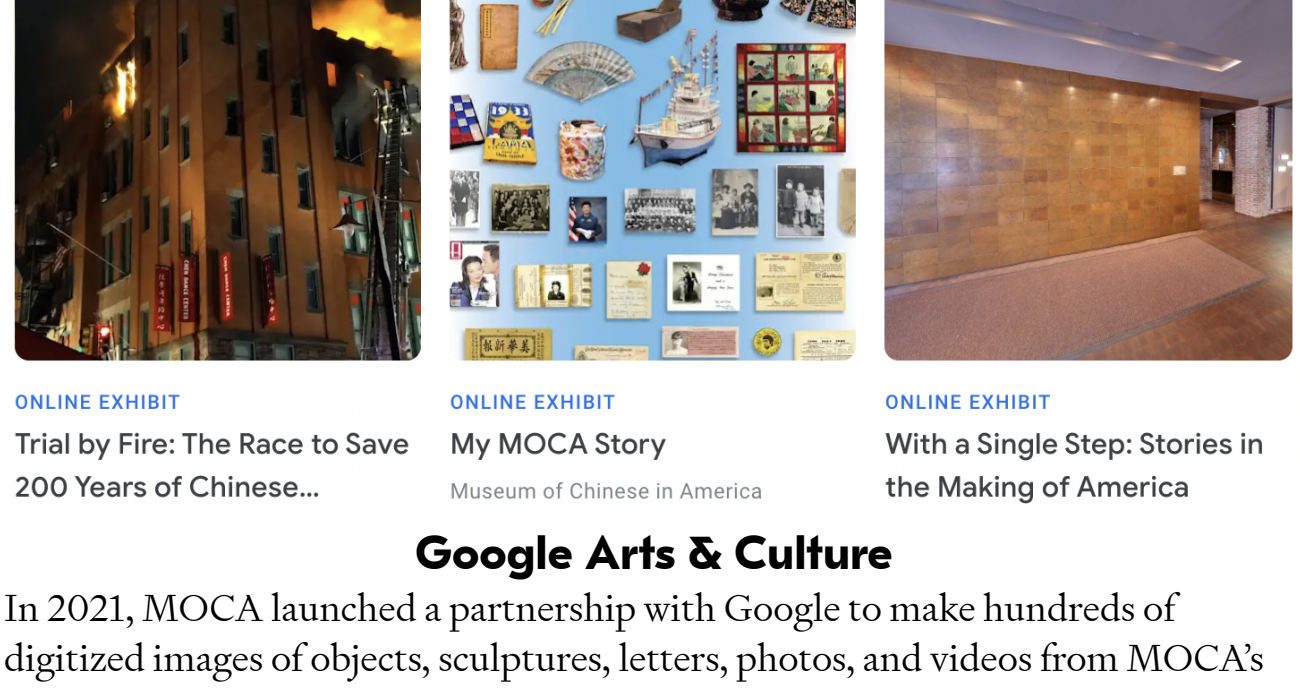
Lt. Kimlau, a Chinese American bomber pilot assigned to the 380th Bombardment Group of the Fifth Air Force ("the Flying Circus"), fought valiantly and was killed in battle while flying a critical mission in service of his country during World War II.

In his memory, fellow Chinese American World War II servicemen from New York founded a local post of the American Legion in 1944—the Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291—dedicated to promoting patriotic programs and community service initiatives within Chinatown. In 1961, the Post raised funds to erect the Kimlau Memorial Arch, designed by architect Poy Gum Lee, which now stands at the center of Kimlau Square.



Eileen Dong looking through a family album to determine which photographs to send in the first of three packages received by MOCA

The collection that Lorraine and Eileen donated to MOCA includes photographs that the family received from Kimlau during his service; photographs of the extended Kimlau and Dong families; a document tracing the family genealogy; and materials related to the Kimlau memorial and other post-humous honors.



Left to right: Lorraine Wong and Eileen Dong with Director of Collections and Research, Yue Ma, at MOCA's archives during a visit to drop off the third of three packages donated to MOCA Collections.

Digitization Grant Project Updates: Newspapers



Council on Library and Information Resources

MOCA and the Center for Jewish History (CJH) are fast approaching the tail end of a joint 3-year grant from the **Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)** to digitize MOCA's collection of *China Daily News*, *Chinese American Times*, and *Fly To Freedom* paper sculptures made by Chinese from the Golden Venture.

MOCA recently received the last batch of high resolution scans of *China Daily News* from our partners at CJH, whose expert staff and state-of-the-art large format scanners help us digitize larger newspapers that our in-house flatbed scanners cannot accommodate. Our staff are currently working on the time-consuming task of cataloging each individual issue—resizing the original scans to create thumbnails that our database can handle, filling out issue and date information, and translating article titles from Chinese to English to facilitate broader bilingual remote access and search. CJH staff will soon be making a visit to the archives at MOCA to help create 3-dimensional scans of our extensive collection of paper sculptures.

Consider Supporting the Work of MOCA Collections

The small staff at MOCA's Collections and Research Center do vital work to care for and offer access to an extensive collection of 85,000+ objects documenting and supporting research on Chinese American history. Please consider supporting our work through donating to **MOCA's Fire Recovery Fund**. No donation is too small and each contribution enables us to continue preserving MOCA's historical treasures for generations to come.

Donate to MOCA's Fire Recovery Fund

Free Digital Guide

Discover more about the Museum in our bilingual digital guide on **Bloomberg Connects**, the free arts and culture app. Explore our permanent collection, get a behind-the-scenes look at our *Responses* exhibition, and more with exclusive audio content and commentary. Download the app [here](#).

Download Free Bloomberg Connects App

ONLINE EXHIBIT
Trial by Fire: The Race to Save 200 Years of Chinese...

ONLINE EXHIBIT
My MOCA Story
Museum of Chinese in America

ONLINE EXHIBIT
With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America

Google Arts & Culture

In 2021, MOCA launched a partnership with Google to make hundreds of digitized images of objects, sculptures, letters, photos, and videos from MOCA's collections available for free on the Google Arts & Culture digital platform.

MOCA's special virtual exhibition titled ***Trial by Fire: The Race to Save 200 Years of Chinese American History***, available exclusively on the platform, tells the story of the Fire's original cause against the clock to retrieve, rescue, and repair its archives. *Trial by Fire* is an original MOCA exhibition written, researched, and compiled from the Museum's daily social media posts, and primary sources such as videos and images, public records, and news reports that documented the first critical weeks of the fire, its aftermath, and recovery effort afterward.

In addition, over 200 digitized high-resolution images from MOCA's collections are available for the first time on the platform, as well as digital exhibits of ***With a Single Step: Stories in the Making of America***, MOCA's permanent exhibition, and the ***My MOCA Story*** video project, a crowdsourced social-media storytelling project launched by MOCA at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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MUSEUM OF CHINESE IN AMERICA

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