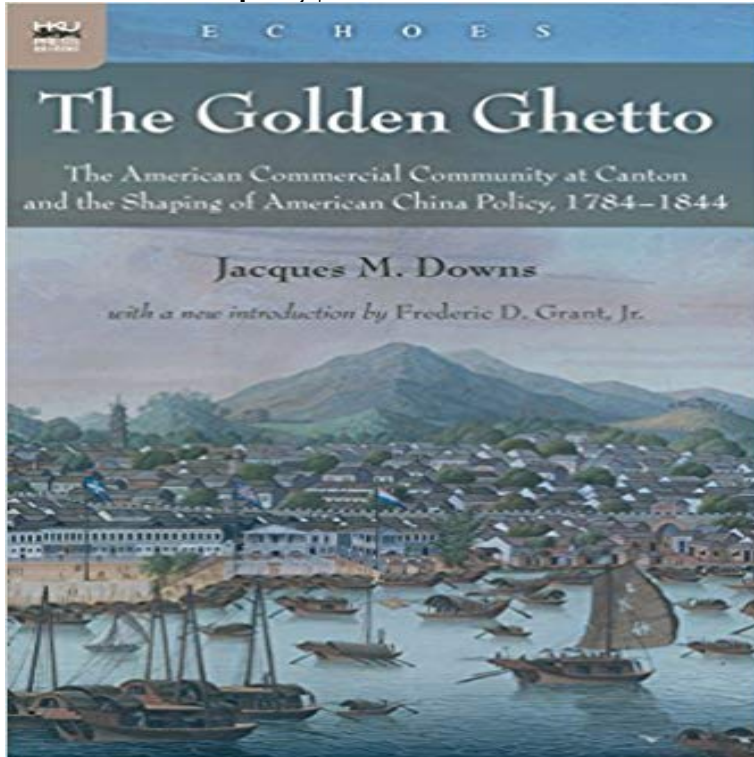


The Golden Ghetto: The American Commercial Community at Canton and the Shaping of American China Policy, 1784-1844 (Echoes series)



Before the opening of the treaty ports in the 1840s, Canton was the only Chinese port where foreign merchants were allowed to trade. The Golden Ghetto takes us into the world of one of this city's most important foreign communities—the Americans—during the decades between the American Revolution of 1776 and the signing of the Sino-US Treaty of Wanghia in 1844. American merchants lived in isolation from Chinese society in squalid, albeit usually celibate luxury. Making use of exhaustive research, Downs provides an especially clear explanation of the Canton commercial setting generally and of the role of American merchants. Many of these men made fortunes and returned home to become important figures in the rapidly developing United States. The book devotes particular attention to the biographical details of the principal American traders, the leading American firms, and their operations in Canton and the United States. Opium smuggling receives especial emphasis, as does the important topic of early diplomatic relations between the United States and China. Since its first publication in 1997, *The Golden Ghetto* has been recognized as the leading work on Americans trading at Canton. Long out of print, this new edition makes this key work again available, both to scholars and a wider readership. Jacques M. Downs (1927-2006) was professor of history at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine. Downs's seminal work profiles fifteen major and several minor American firms, solo-practitioners, and traders affiliated with British firms in Canton before 1844. He not only documents and analyzes American business history, but also provides fascinating vignettes of the social history of Americans in the East, their housing, taste, lifestyles and regattas—even their social indiscretions. Jonathan Goldstein, research associate, Harvard University Fairbank

Center for Chinese Studies; author of Stephen Girards Trade with China 17871824: The Norms versus the Profits of Trade Its wonderful to have this richly detailed classic available to the widening circle of students of the Canton trade, in China and around the world. John E. Wills, Jr., author of 1688: A Global History and editor of China and Maritime Europe, 15001800 The fullest exposition on the subject thus far and as the final word on extant, previously untapped, English-language sources. Eileen Scully, in The China Quarterly

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