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The Chinese Exclusion Laws: Primary Source Documents

Application and Transcript for Immigrant Soo Hoo Lem Kong, age 10

Citation: Record Group 85, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, San Pedro Office. Chinese Exclusion Act Case Files, Box 128, Folder 14036/638-B. Held by the National Archives & Records Administration – Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel).

**DECLARATION OF NONIMMIGRANT ALIEN
ABOUT TO DEPART FOR THE UNITED STATES
AMERICAN CONSULAR SERVICE**

AMERICAN CONSULATE, General, Hong Kong. December 30, 1930.
(Place) (Date)

I, Soo Hoo Lem Kong, a { citizen } of The Republic of China.
{ subject } (Country)

bearer of { passport } No. ---, dated October 28, 1930.
{ affidavit } (Other document)

made issued by my father, Soo Hoo Quin, before Notary Public Irwin Merrill Lowe.
(Nationality and title of issuing authority)

am about to go to the United States accompanied by ---
(Names of persons included in declarant's passport, photographs of whom are attached thereto)

I was born January 17, 1923. Sin Lau village, Chek Hom, District unknown,
(Date) (City) (Province) China. (Country)

My occupation for the last two years was student (1929).

and at present is unoccupied.

~~My fixed domicile which I have no intention to abandon is~~
(Strike out in case of applicant under Section 3 (1) or 3 (6) of Immigration Act of 1924)

I desire to proceed to the United States for the purpose of studying.

to remain for unknown months, and my address in the United States will be c/o Wing Wah Lung Co., No. 711 Oxnard Blvd., Oxnard, California.

My references are my father, Soo Hoo Quin, at the above address.
(In the United States)

Soo Hoo Sze Kai, Siu Chong Wing firm, 218 Queen's Road Central, Hongkong
(Local)

~~My relatives in the United States are~~
(State names, addresses, and relationship to applicant. Strike out in case of applicant under Sec. 3 (1) or 3 (6) of Act of 1924)

I have never been refused an immigration or passport visa at any American Consulate.

I do not intend to emigrate to the United States and I consider myself as a nonimmigrant under the provisions of the Immigration Act of 1924 on the following grounds: Because I am the minor son of a domiciled Chinese merchant and admissible under Section 3 Subd. 6 of the Immigration Act of 1924.

and offer for inspection the following documents in support of my claim: affidavit cited above

I have informed myself of the provisions of the Act of February 5, 1917, particularly of the exclusion provisions of Section 3 of that Act, and of the Immigration Act of 1924, and am aware that the latter provides:

"The admission to the United States of an alien excepted from the class of immigrants * * * shall be for such time and under such conditions as may be by regulations prescribed, including, when deemed necessary, the giving of bond with sufficient security to insure that, at the expiration of such time or upon failure to maintain the status under which admitted, he will depart from the United States."

I have also informed myself of the provisions of the Deportation Act of March 4, 1929, and am aware that Sections 1 (a) and 2 of that Act provide as follows:

Sec. 1 (a): "That if any alien has been arrested or deported in pursuance of law, he shall be excluded from admission to the United States whether such deportation took place before or after the enactment of this Act, and if he enters or attempts to enter the United States after the expiration of sixty days after the enactment of this Act, he shall be guilty of a felony and upon conviction thereof shall, unless a different penalty is otherwise expressly provided by law, be punished by imprisonment for not more than two years or by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or by both such fine and imprisonment."

Sec. 2: "Any alien who hereafter enters the United States at any time or place other than as designated by immigration officials or eludes examination or inspection by immigration officials, or obtains entry to the United States by a willfully false or misleading representation or the willful concealment of a material fact, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than one year or by a fine of not more than \$1,000, or by both such fine and imprisonment."

I realize that if I am one of a class inadmissible to the United States under any of the provisions of the immigration laws of the United States, or if my classification as a nonimmigrant alien is not approved upon arrival in the United States, I may be deported or detained by the immigration authorities, and I am prepared to assume the risks of such deportation or detention.

I solemnly swear that the foregoing statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

司徒廉江

(Signature of declarant)

Soo Hoo Lem Kong.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 30th day of December, 1931

[Signature]
Perry W. Lester,
Vice Consul of the United States of America.

[SEAL]

Fee \$ 1- United States
Gold eq. 3 3.50
Hong Kong 1.00, paid
by fixing stamp to the
original
duplicate
copy of this document.

Fee No. 2156

Passport visa granted January 7, 1931

Passport visa No. 31

as nonimmigrant under Section 3 (6) of the Act of 1924 (Minor Son of a Domiciled Chinese merchant).
(Classification)

Consul's findings on exempt status

American Consulate No. 228
at Hong Kong (City) (Country)

Passport visa refused _____, 19__

Reasons:

SEEN

For the journey to the United States

of Soo Hoo Lem Kong

via China and Japan

[Signature]
Vice Consul

Date January 7, 1931.

Also valid for presentation at United States ports at any time during twelve months from date provided passport continues to be valid for



(By Chairman)

- Q. State all your names? A. Soo Hoo Lem Kong, boyhood name; no other name.
- Q. When and where were you born? A. I was born on CR-11-12-1 (Jan. 17, 1923); in the Sheung On Lay, - Sin Lau village, HPD, China.
- Q. How old are you at the present time, Chinese reckoning? A. 10.
- Q. Of what country are you a subject, or citizen? A. China.
- Q. Under what status do you seek admission to the U.S.? A. I don't know.
- Q. Have you answered truthfully all questions shown opposite your name on this manifest Form 500 B? A. Yes.
- Q. You have the right to have present with you during this hearing, a relative or friend, under certain conditions to be stipulated by this board; do you desire to avail yourself of this right? A. No.
- Q. What witnesses will appear here to testify in your behalf? A. I don't know.
- Q. Is this your signature and photo? (referring to Exhibit "A") A. Yes.

(Note: There is also made part of the record and marked Exhibit "B" precis of American Vice Consul, Hong Kong, dated Jan. 7, 1931, in re. Soo Hoo Lem Kong, minor son of a domiciled Chinese merchant, to which is attached under seal, original copy of affidavit of Soo Hoo Quin, alleged father, before Irwin Merrill, Lowe, Notary Public, Ventura, Calif., on Oct. 28, 1930, which bears endorsement of concession of exempt status of affiant by Acting Dist. Director of Immigration, Los Angeles, Cal., Nov. 1, 1930, file #31160/25. Affidavit of Soo Hoo Quin bears photo of affiant and alleged minor son Soo Hoo Lem Kong, the photo of the latter being a good likeness of the applicant before the Board.)

- Q (By Chairman) Whose photos appear on this document (referring to affidavit attached to Exhibit "B")? A. My father, Soo Hoo Gwing, and my own.
- Q. What are your father's names, his age, date and place of birth, occupation, and present whereabouts? A. Soo Hoo Gwing, boyhood name; Soo Hoo You Gwing, marriage name; do not know his age; don't know his place of birth; is now doing business in the Wing Wah Lung Co., Oxnard City, U.S.
- Q. Name and describe your father's parents? A. My paternal grandfather Soo Hoo Sing Toon, died long ago I have never seen him; my paternal grandmother Dea Shee, is very old and I don't know her age; bound feet, now living in our home village.
- Q. Did your father ever have any brothers or sisters? A. I don't know.
- Q. Name and describe your mother? A. Fong Shee, do not know her age, natural feet, now living in home village.
- Q. Name and describe your mother's parents? A. My maternal grandfather Fong Dip Moon; now living in his home village, name of which I do not know; my maternal grandmother's name I do not know, she is living with my maternal grandfather.
- Q. Did your mother ever have any brothers or sisters? A. I don't know.
- Q. Do you know how many times your father has been married? A. Twice.
- Q. What was the name of his first wife? A. Woo Shee.
- Q. When and where did Woo Shee die? A. I don't know; I have never seen her.
- Q. What is the name of your father's second wife? A. Fong Shee.
- Q. Do you know when and where he married Fong Shee? A. No.
- Q. Did your father have any children by his first wife, Woo Shee? A. Yes, one boy and one girl;

(1) Soo Hoo Wah Gong, he is 20 yrs. old, don't know date of his birth; born in our home village; single; now here with me.

(2) Soo Hoo Fung Jin; age 18 yrs.; born in home village; where she is now

- Q What children has your father had by his wife Fong Shee? A. Two boys, no girls:
(1) myself.
(2) See Hoo Lem Sheek, is 3 yrs old, do not know date of birth; born in home village; now living at home, with my mother.
- Q Have you ever had any brothers or sisters, who died? A. I dont know.
- Q Have you any recollection of your father? A. Yes, I remember him.
- Q Do you think you would recognize him if you saw him now? A. Yes.
- Q When and where did you last see your father? A. I looked down to the wharf from the boat when I arrived here .
- Q Did your father talk to you on the boat? A. No.
- Q Who told you that was your father standing on the dock? A. No, I recognized him.
- Q Who was with your father when he was standing on the dock when you arrived at this port? A. I dont know.
- Q Did your father talk to you after you came off the boat? A. No.
- Q Did your brother talk to your father when you arrived on the boat? A. No.
- Q Who came with you on the boat from China? A. My brother, See Hoo Wah Gong
- Q Anybody else come with you and your brother? A. Nobody else.
- Q When and where did you last see your father in China? A. I dont remember.
- Q Then you have no recollection of your father in China? A. Yes, I saw my father at home, I do not remember when it was.
- Q What happened when on the occasion you last saw your father in China, did he leave your home at that time, or did you leave? A. He was leaving for the U. S.
- Applicant excused.