

communities of Greenwich Village, Long Island and Tampa underscore some key differences as well as the enduring commonalities shared by the descendants of the 4.5 million adventurers who, leaving Italy between 1879 and 1924, established in their adopted American homeland a communal life centered on the family, enriched by the teachings and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and largely predicated upon the values of *campanilismo* or village life.

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Wen-Shing Tseng and David Y. H. Wu, eds. *Chinese Culture and Mental Health*. (Orlando, FL: Academic Press, 1985) 412 pp., \$49.50; \$29.95 paper.

Tseng and Wu have performed a creditable task in editing this book that involved twenty-nine delegates from the Conference on Chinese Culture and Mental Health (Hawaii, 1982). Their purpose was to have “insiders” produce a definitive work on the Chinese culture and its interaction with the mental component of health. The Chinese are described in the preface as “having a history of at least 5000 years of civilization,” with China comprising “. . . one quarter of the world’s people,” but having people of the Chinese culture who live in various geographical areas, including “. . . Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Australia, Canada, and the United States.”

As one who is “outside” both, the Chinese culture and the field of mental health, I hesitated to review Tseng and Wu’s book. However, I am pleased that I proceeded, as I found it to be a reference that will be invaluable for teaching community health and interpersonal skills for medical students. I expect that persons from a variety of disciplines will find it equally as useful.

The organization of the book is such that it can be read as a whole or in sections or even by separate chapters. Overall, the book conveys the feeling that it was written with the reader in mind. The impression given is that skillful educators are at work. The editors encouraged repetition but not redundancy, they provided essential detail, and knew precisely how to time them both.

The format of the book enhanced the educational goal. The editors authored the opening and closing chapters in which they provided cogent introduction and conclusions, respectively. Their use of four organized questions probably helped the writers as much as it helps the reader. The book has thematic continuity; the editors provide additional continuity by providing introductions for each of the six sections rather than let the twenty-six chapters stand alone.

For a book that contains so much that is basic to wholesome introspection, the title is an austere one. The book is more than Chinese

culture and mental health. It is about education as a system (Chapters 12 and 20) and as a value (recurrent theme); intra-cultural, child development practices (Chapters 9-12); and sociopolitical considerations as related to designating official languages in Singapore (Chapter 13) or gaining dominance in Hawaii (Chapter 15). Although the book includes discussions of psychopathologic conditions and treatment thereof, it is decidedly about health more than illness. Thus, while there is no error in assigning the chosen title, it simply does not stimulate the potential reader and summarize the content to be encountered.

The editors' inclusion of a glossary containing transliterations of characters of the Chinese alphabet provides little meaning for the reader who does not understand the language. A more effective tool would have been maps or other figures depicting demographic characteristics of the various areas where Chinese ethnic groups are located.

If the authors had included the academic discipline or job title of the contributors, the reader would have been assisted in understanding the dynamics of the interdisciplinary collaboration which the editors applauded. One cannot make very valid conclusions on the academic biases of the author by simply knowing where they work.

With only a few exceptions, chapters are well-documented, using as appropriate, well-known sources from the broader area of ethnic and cultural studies. The various methods of investigation of the studies performed or reported by the authors ranged from qualitative descriptive to quantitative longitudinal techniques.

To assess the strength of the index, I selected a few words, checked the index entry against my recall of treatment of the topic. The words I selected were "acupuncture," "education," and "women." Education was adequately indexed; acupuncture and women were quite inadequately referenced in the index.

This book may be an important contribution to the field of ethnic studies, concentrating on the Chinese as an entity, but I believe it holds even more importance as a tool for teaching broad consideration of ethnic and cultural factors. The concepts of intra-group studies as used in the book provide a framework for understanding that the cultural heterogeneity within a group as distinct and historical as the Chinese mitigates against determinations on the basis of simply racial group or ethnic identity. The discussions of intra-group variability suggest more examination of the tendency of researchers, politicians, and educators among others in the U.S. to label and categorize people and their behaviors by such meaningless apparitions as "minority group opinion" and "Hispanic health." Tseng's and Wu's book can be used to illustrate that the Chinese, although holding some common cultural bonds, are very diverse and hold multiple ethnic and cultural identities. The book could be used as a case study to discuss that a label such as black is even less synonymous with ethnicity but is only an indicator of a composite of such factors.

Although my view of the content of the book is from that of an “outsider,” I feel confident in judging that it makes a valuable contribution to the broad concern of ethnic and cultural understanding. It is a scholarly work that should be read and referenced by many.

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Jules Tygiel. *Baseball's Great Experiment: Jackie Robinson and His Legacy*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983) xii, 392 pp., \$16.95.

The relationship of black Americans to baseball has never been explained completely, Jules Tygiel believes, because previous accounts have failed to place the events and personalities “into a social or historical context.” To rectify this, he has researched meticulously (thirty-two pages of notes and references) the well-known Jackie Robinson story and widened his focus to deal with black Americans and their baseball athletes from 1945 to 1970. His thesis is that Jackie Robinson and professional baseball in general form a paradigm and a foreshadowing for the American integration process, particularly the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

Possibly one way of viewing this process is to examine a quasi-secret document prepared during July-August, 1946, after Rickey's choice, Jackie Robinson, was playing with the triple-A Montreal Royals. This is the official “Report” of a major league steering committee which consisted of Larry MacPhail as chairman, both major league presidents, and Tom Yankey of the Red Sox, Sam Breadon of the Cardinals, and Phil Wrigley of the Cubs. According to Tygiel, the report is “a damning document.” It tried to explain away the all-white major leagues, by insisting the real fault lay not with the baseball establishment “which was free of prejudice,” but “with ignorant protestors, inadequate black athletes, and selfish Negro League owners.” It asserted that the leagues would suffer financial losses, and it had no suggestions as to how to bring blacks into the majors. “For Rickey, who had dared to confront the problem unilaterally, the document expressed nothing but mildly concealed contempt and condemnation.” Compare these assertions to Tygiel's concluding remarks after integration had been strongly developed in the big leagues; the behavior of Robinson and subsequent black big leaguers “demonstrated the possibilities of interracial cooperation and dramatized the plight of black Americans.”

The peripheral issues that Tygiel had to examine include a history of race relations in organized baseball; the rise and demise of the Negro