

Magazines—the Front-runners; The Black Magazines—the Specialists; What Is in the Black Press?; The Modern Black Journalist; Journalism Education and Training; Publishers and Their Problems; The Business Operations, Auxiliaries and Competitors; Pro and Con on the Black Press; and The Future. From the above issues covered in this book, it can be seen that the book covers most if not all the important issues related to the black press.

“Pro and Con on the Black Press” is interesting and appropriate because it discusses in some detail the strengths and weaknesses of the black press and, to a certain extent, some methods of overcoming the weaknesses and also some methods of maintaining and adding to the strengths of the black press. Chapter 16, “The Future,” raises as an important issue “where is the Black Press heading?” The responses appear to fall into three categories: “the press will disappear, it will diminish but survive, or it will be a strong element in communication in the country. Rationales for these beliefs are also discussed.

I do not find any particular weaknesses in this book. At times certain issues might be slightly repetitious, but this cannot be avoided due to the nature of the book. The author is to be commended for the inclusion of pictures of individuals important to the black press. I would recommend this book for general reading as well as for those who are interested in journalism in general and to those who are interested in black journalism. I would strongly recommend this book to students of journalism.

— Allene Jones
Texas Christian University

Jade Snow Wong. *Fifth Chinese Daughter*. (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1989, orig. pub. 1945) 262 pp., \$10.95 paper.

I am personally delighted to see the re-issue of Jade Snow Wong’s autobiographical novel, *Fifth Chinese Daughter*. Shortly after I arrived in the U.S. in 1959 as a rather bewildered young girl immigrant of twelve, it was my good fortune to have stumbled onto—in the local public library—Jade Snow Wong’s wonderful story of growing up Chinese and female in America, in both the ethnic enclave of Chinatown and the San Francisco Bay Area’s white college and working worlds. It helped me better understand the experience of being an “American-Chinese,” the term used in those days. The re-issue has allowed me to introduce the book to my American-born daughters, 15 and 12, who not only enjoyed immensely the story itself, but have gained invaluable insights into their Chinese and Chinese American heritage.

Originally published in 1945, well before the onset of Asian American consciousness and the creation of Asian American studies and ethnic studies, it should be accorded a special place in the “canon” of ethnic studies

and Asian American studies literature. Before Maxine Hong Kingston, Amy Tan and, now, Gish Jen were writing (or perhaps even born), Jade Snow Wong gave us a representation of the Chinese American female experience that is at once simple and profound. While she may not have the literary and philosophical sophistication of Hong Kingston, Tan and Jen, she was a keen observer of customs and behavior—and sometimes motivation. Her voice was certainly authentic, while often moving in the acknowledgment and acceptance of contradictions within the Chinese American family and community. She can be just as insightful in her observations on Anglo American culture, the relationship between Chinese and Anglos in America, and white America's ambivalent but ultimately patronizing attitude towards Asian Americans during the pre-War years. Making for especially pleasurable reading is her great sense of humor and irony, which infuses the book throughout.

I don't know if literary critics would consider *Fifth Chinese Daughter* "great literature." But I do think it is great material for ethnic studies and Asian American studies courses. It should be read as a period piece, and should certainly not be held accountable for reflecting Asian American consciousness as we know it in the last quarter century. But for anyone wanting to know more about growing up "American-Chinese" and female in the pre-World War II era, I cannot think of a more valuable work. And as a historian, I can certainly vouch for Jade Snow Wong's memoirs as a credible historical document.

—Evelyn Hu-DeHart
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Mitsuye Yamada and Sarie Sachie Hylkema, eds. *Sowing Ti Leaves: Writings by Multi-Cultural Women*. (Irvine: Multi-Cultural Women Writers of Orange County, 1990) \$7.95 paper.

"I was made
of rainbow ribbons
streaming from the mouths
of five different women
locking hands and singing
at a midnight supper party."

—Kelli Arakaki-Bond

Sowing Ti Leaves gathers together personal narratives, poems, essays, and a scholarly study which were produced during the Multi-Cultural Women Writers (MCWW) of Orange County's nine-year existence. Co-editor Mitsuye Yamada states in her introduction that the writing group was formed to provide a common reference point and a forum for expression. While MCWW's ancestral ties are diverse (Argentinian, Chinese, East