



**Echoes of Freedom**

SOUTH ASIAN PIONEERS IN CALIFORNIA, 1899-1965

By Suzanne McMahon

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Center for South East Asia Studies,

University of California, Berkeley

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On 6 April 1899, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that four well-built, vigorous men wearing turbans had arrived at the docks in San Francisco. They were followed by many immigrants from India in search of economic advancement and adventure. These newly arrived immigrants worked in the lumber mills, on railroad lines, and in the factories of the Pacific West Coast. But most of them had been farmers and landowners in India and were naturally drawn to the farming. By 1920, in spite of the prejudice and opposition they encountered, the Indian immigrants in California owned 2099 acres and were leasing 86,340 acres of farmland in the Imperial and Sacramento Valleys. *Echoes of Freedom: South Asian Pioneers in California, 1899-1965*, tells the story of these early immigrants through photographs, accounts, documents, and publications drawn from the South/Southeast Asia Library's archive of material on South Asians in North America. The 64-page catalog includes 75 black-and-white illustrations