

Literature of Chinese Immigrants in Canada

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Abstract

Most Canadians have been proud of Canada's "cultural mosaic", benefiting from the contributions of the various ethnic and cultural communities in this country. This value derives from Canada's background as a nation of immigration. After Prime Minister Trudeau's "Announcement of Implementation of Policy of Multiculturalism within Bilingual Framework," at the House of Commons in 1971, Canada has become home to a more diverse population of audience, readers and writers. During the past several decades, each ethnic group has played an important role to the contemporary literature of Canada by bringing to Canada stories of its own background, as well as its own literary forms and themes.

Similarly, with the arrival of new Chinese immigrants during recent years, Chinese immigrants' literature, including writings in Chinese, English and French, started to appear and to develop in Canada. Most of such writings reflect the new Chinese Canadians' lives and feelings after they set up their new homes in Canada, as well as recollections of the stories they experienced in their original areas before immigration.

This article will discuss briefly several stages of the development of Chinese literature in Canada, the characteristics of Chinese immigrants' writings, and various forms of literary presentation appeared in Chinese immigrants' writings. This essay will also examine some literary organizations and societies in Canada which help Chinese writers to communicate and exchange ideas, and to publicize and promote their writings. The essay will give a brief literature review of writings in this field, but will focus on the discussion of more recent Chinese Canadians' literary creations and activities.