

Anna May Wong's Lucky Shoes

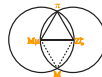
**1939 Australia Through the Eyes
of an Art Deco Diva**

by

Derham Groves

**with a foreword by Elaine Mae Woo
and photographs by Lee McRae**

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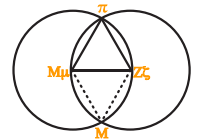
ANNA MAY WONG'S LUCKY SHOES:
1939 AUSTRALIA THROUGH THE EYES OF AN ART DECO DIVA
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**For
Khoo Ping Tiang**

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Foreword

Elaine Mae Woo

The Chinese American actress, Anna May Wong (1905-1961), was—and still is to this day—one of the most glamorous and memorable female movie stars of color to ever grace the silver screen. She was the first Asian-American actress to achieve international stardom.

Anna's career in Hollywood began as a lamp-bearing extra in the silent film, *The Red Lantern* (1919), starring Alla Nazimova. She went on to star herself in *The Toll of the Sea* (1922), Technicolor's ground-breaking two-color film, and *The Thief of Bagdad* (1924) with Douglas Fairbanks Sr., while *Shanghai Express* (1932), the talking film directed by Josef von Sternberg in which she co-starred with Marlene Dietrich, is still a classic.

Anna was involved in over sixty films. She was a versatile actress who constantly wanted to prove herself not only in motion pictures, but also as a performer on radio, stage, television, and—surprisingly—in vaudeville throughout the world.

In many ways, *Anna May Wong's Lucky Shoes: 1939 Australia Through the Eyes of an Art Deco Diva* by Dr.

Derham Groves reflects the desire of many people to bring back to the spotlight this puzzling Chinese American woman who was nearly forgotten, but has resurfaced in the last few years and is finding her proper place in our cinema history. It will help people around the world and in the future to know a little more about this marvelous pioneering actress, who at a particular time in history persevered when there was much discrimination towards people of Chinese origin and only limited opportunities for them in Western society.

Intriguingly, Derham's detailed research on Anna's visit to Australia in 1939 is illustrated with pairs of shoes designed and made for the actress by architecture students from his Popular Architecture and Design course at the University of Melbourne.

Elaine Mae Woo wrote, directed and produced the documentary, Anna May Wong—Frosted Yellow Willows: Her Life, Times and Legend (2007).

Anna May Wong in Australia “Oh, How the Ghost of You Clings”¹

Derham Groves

Anna May Wong's Lucky Shoes: 1939 Australia Through the Eyes of an Art Deco Diva showcases the amazing shoes created by the architecture students who did my Popular Architecture and Design course in 2010 at the University of Melbourne (Australia), where I teach, for the remarkable Chinese-American actress, Anna May Wong (a.k.a. Wong Liu Tsong), who was born on Tuesday the 3rd of January 1905 and died suddenly on Thursday the 2nd of February 1961. But before viewing the wonderful photographs of the shoes taken by the Melbourne University photographer, Lee McRae, let me say something firstly about Wong, and secondly about the shoe project.

Acting Career

Ever since I first saw Anna May Wong in the otherwise somewhat dreary Sherlock Holmes movie, *A Study in Scarlet* (1933), I have been smitten



Fig. 1: Anna May Wong. (Derham Groves' collection.)

by her drop-dead good looks and Steve McQueen coolness (Fig. 1). Reading Graham Russell Gao Hodges' biography of the actress, *Anna May Wong: From Laundryman's Daughter to Hollywood Legend* (2004), I learned that she had come to Australia in 1939 to star in a variety show called *Highlights From Hollywood* (1939) at the Tivoli Theater in Melbourne. However, Hodges does not say very much about her trip, and nor do Wong's other biographers.² My curiosity piqued, because I live in Melbourne I felt that I was well placed to fill in some of the gaps. Therefore, I have tried to give a thorough, chronological account of Wong's stay in Australia, based on local newspaper reports, and using her own words whenever possible. As it turns out, the 107 days that she spent in Australia provides a snapshot of the actress at a crossroads in her career and the country unwittingly on the verge of war.

Last but probably not least, “Australia’s own gymnasts,” the Athrillos (a.k.a. the Three Athrillos), were “neat in their acrobatics,”¹¹⁵ commented *The Argus*. Clearly, this type of theater was not named “variety” for nothing. “Bright vaudeville this, in which song and dance predominate,”¹¹⁶ was how *The Argus* summed up *Highlights From Hollywood* as a whole.

On Saturday the 1st of July 1939, Anna May Wong’s act was unexpectedly revamped, as *The Argus* announced: “A timely dramatic episode entitled ‘At the Barricade,’ based on an actual incident in the Eastern situation, will be introduced by Miss Anna May Wong in [the] *Highlights From Hollywood* production at the Tivoli Theater today.”¹¹⁷ The event alluded to was the Tientsin (a.k.a. Tianjin) Blockade, which was dramatically unfolding at the time. On the 30th of July 1937, the Japanese army invaded Tientsin in northeast China, but they continued to respect the rights of the large number of foreigners living there. However, when four Chinese nationalists accused of murdering a Japanese official on the 9th of April 1939 took refuge in the part of the city under British control, the Japanese army retaliated by turning away supplies of food and fuel for the British quarter, and also strip-searching in public anyone entering or leaving the area. For a while, it looked like there might be an Anglo-Japanese war, especially when hostile accounts of British subjects being maltreated

1939
TWICE
DAILY
2:15 & 8

FRANK NEIL
presents
IN PERSON
**ANNA
MAY
WONG**
FAMOUS STAR of
STAGE & SCREEN
With
BIG NEW COMPANY
OVERSEAS VARIETY
CELEBRITIES

TIVOLI

HIGHLIGHTS
From **HOLLYWOOD**

3rd

Fig. 4: The *Highlights From Hollywood* theater program. (The Performing Arts Museum.)

tions that exist between shoes and architecture. Once upon a time, especially in England, a well-worn shoe was concealed within the structure of a new building so as to placate any malevolent spirits that happened to be present. It was actually a substitute for a human sacrifice, because in those days people believed that a shoe was synonymous with a person, as the English physician, Dr. E.T. Renbourn, the author of “The Foot and Shoe in Body and Mind” (n.d.), explained: “To the primitive mind there was a sympathetic connection between a man or his feet and his footprint—in which he believed the soul resided.”²⁴² Furthermore, the bottom of a foot and a shoe are both called a sole; and the idea that shoes can sometimes stand-in for people is enshrined in common sayings like “Walk a mile in his/her shoes” and “I wouldn’t like to be in his/her shoes.”

The old English nursery rhyme, “There was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe,”²⁴³ established once and for all the architectonic character of shoes. Indeed, many buildings look like shoes, either deliberately, such as the shoe-shaped guesthouse (1948) near Hallam, Pennsylvania,²⁴⁴ or inadvertently, like the shoe-shaped headquarters of I.N.G. (2000) in Amsterdam.²⁴⁵ A number of architects have also designed shoes, including the Pritzker Architecture Prize winners, Zaha Hadid (born 1950), who designed some women’s rubberized

wrap-around shoes for the French clothing company, Lacoste,²⁴⁶ and Frank Gehry (born 1929), who designed some men’s leather button-up boots for the French shoemaker, J.M. Weston. “It’s just part of an architect’s work,” remarked Gehry. “Shoes are very architectural and always have been [...] and even more recently there are new shoes like Miuccia [Prada’s]—they’re buildings [...] You shouldn’t have to differentiate between disciplines.”²⁴⁷

To introduce the shoe project to the Melbourne University architecture students, I gave them a lecture on Wong’s visit to Australia, and also showed them *King of Chinatown*, her film that was playing at the Capitol Theater while she was in Melbourne. My instructions to the students were very straightforward: “Create a pair of (lucky?) shoes for Anna May Wong by altering (i.e. cutting, covering, painting, re-building, etc.) an old pair of shoes purchased from an op shop. Don’t hold back!” The students also received some useful tips from Andrew Robinson, a Melbourne shoe designer who teaches at R.M.I.T. University (Fig. 17). Let me briefly discuss a small sample of the students’ shoe designs.

“Anna May Wong strikes me as being akin to a flower of the Orient: she is delicate, beautiful, strong, and resilient,” said Alexandra Wall. “In designing a pair of shoes for her to wear,



Fig. 16: Anna May Wong in high heels. (Derham Groves’ collection.)

Student Work



Steve Zhirui Yu

Cheryl Siew Wan Heap



before intervention



strip strip



added platforms



skeletal form + wrapping



wily tail



wrapping ensues



ready for beading



beaded!

ANNA MAY WONG'S LUCKY SHOE

(cheryl) siew wan heap 308292 13th October 2010

The design of Anna May Wong's shoes is inspired by her success, being one of the first Chinese American movie star, and the first Asian American to become an international star. During her time, it was very uncommon for such a Chinese actress to have such screen power, much less in a foreign country and culture. She is like a chameleon, being able to adapt herself perfectly. However instead of camouflaging herself and immerse herself with the American culture, she sets herself apart, bringing out her Chinese heritage to achieve stardom.

The shoe is a representation of Anna May Wong, glamorous and forever stylish. Beige satin wraps the shoe, so how she binds herself with her heritage. The beads change colours from green to red, a transformation to be unique. Randomly there would be Chinese coins, and one inside the front of the sole for luck. The heels ends in a swirl for its tail and the bottom of the sole is green as the hidden scales of a chameleon.





Jasmine Heo



ANNA MAY WONG FLORAL FAIRY HEELS

The shoes take inspiration from the famed American Chinese actress Anna May Wong. Anna May Wong, an ethnic Chinese actress, was born in Los Angeles. She started her acting career at the age of eight and became a well-known actress in Hollywood and then throughout the world. The shoes designed for Anna May Wong are based on her Chinese and American lifestyle. Even though she was an ethnic Chinese, she was greatly influenced by both Chinese and Western cultures while growing up and progressing through her acting careers in the United States.

In order to design a pair of lucky shoes for Anna May Wong, few aspects have taken into account such as the colour, shoe type and materials used. The colour red was chosen not only because it symbolizes good luck, blessing and prosperity in Chinese culture, but also characterizes her as a star, an influential and fashionable actress. The heels represent the western culture, as she was born and raised in the United States. The flowers on the side of the heels embody her wisdom and grace in fashion. The fabric used for the flowers is the traditional fabric for the "Kongshan" which she often wore in the films.



Anna May Wong, 1939





Anna May Wong's Wonton Slipper is her special luck charm. The slipper has a cream leather upper with fur lining. The wonton shape was derived for her to represent her Chinese origins. She was a 3rd generation Chinese-American, with her earliest ancestors moving to California during the mid 19th century.

Anna May was born in Los Angeles in 1905, and became a star in both silent and talking films. Although her stardom was widespread, she was held back by her Chinese origins due to America culture and the lack of acceptance of Chinese in the 1920s and 30s. In 1934, her father returned to live in China and Anna May planned a year long trip to visit him and her younger siblings in 1936. The trip was also to provide Anna May with a greater understanding of her native country for which she was much interested and involved with.

Whilst touring, Anna May Wong's Wonton slipper reminds her of her childhood where she remembers fondly making wontons with her mother and grandmother.

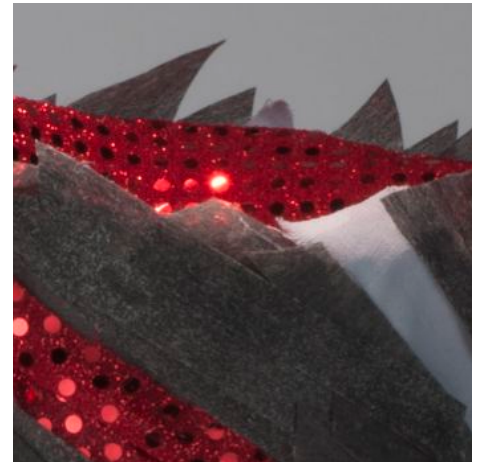
During her short stay in Melbourne, Anna May dined in Little Burke Street at a Chinese restaurant. Her meal there may have likely included wontons!



ANNA MAY WONG WONTON SLIPPER Zoe Lewis
214080



Amanda Pei-er Tan



anna may wong's lucky shoe
popular architecture & design
pertham, singapore

the design of anna may's lucky shoe is based on 'the wizard of oz'. anna may's adventures and challenges in her career is a reflection of her being carried away from the 'ordinary' - her thirst for adventure causes her to be transported by a tornado - into an unknown land, throughout her adventures she is still bounded to 'home' through the ruby slippers. the design of her shoe is then based on a 'tornado' weaved together with her 'ruby slippers' representing adventure, the unknown, and home.

by amanda pei-er tan 288666



Before



After



DREAM SHOE

Women love shoes by nature. A pair of glamorous shoes is always considered as one of the most indispensable accessories in their wardrobe. So does it for Anna May Wang, while she was a movie star in Hollywood, what she need is a pair of shoes which will make her stand out in those blondies. And gorgeous shoes can also help to enhance self-confidence, thus to promote her career as an actress.

Anna may Wang never get chance to become a heroine in Hollywood. Although she was talented and made great effort for her career, she was disadvantaged by her skin color at that time. So the aim of this shoe design is to mark herself as a heroine, though she was not accepted by wide public in western at that time, at least she is a real heroine in her own world and her acting strength draw attention widely recently.



So the material chose for the shoe design including ribbon and shining crystal, which all represent for elegance and dignity as well as to draw the audience's attention. The fore of the shoe is sculpturalized with the interwoven ribbons accessorized with small bowknot, to represent the femininity of Anna may Wang. And the big bowknot and shining crystal draw the attention from the front and back respectively. The name "Anna" was also fixed on the heel to make the identity as a logo for Anna may Wang herself.



Endnotes

¹ This is a line from the song, “These Foolish Things” (1936), which was written by Eric Maschwitz for Anna May Wong (more about this later).

² See Graham Russell Gao Hodges. *Anna May Wong: From Laundryman’s Daughter to Hollywood Legend*: 198. Maryland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004. Anthony B. Chan. *Perpetually Cool: The Many Lives of Anna May Wong (1905-1961)*: 80. Lanham, Maryland: Scarecrow Press Inc., 2003. Philip Leibfried and Chei Mi Lane. *Anna May Wong: A Complete Guide to Her Film, Stage, Radio and Television Work*: 156. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland & Company, Inc., 2004.

³ “World Famous Chinese Actress.” *The Age* (Melbourne, Victoria), the 3rd of June 1939: 16.

⁴ “The Feminine Angle.” *The Canberra Times* (Canberra, Australian Capital Territory), the 17th of May 1939: 3.

⁵ See Leibfried and Lane: 77-78.

⁶ “News of the World.” *Northern Territory Times* (Darwin, Northern Territory), the 17th of January 1930: 2.

⁷ Lon Jones. “Anna May Wong to Visit Australia. Chinese Star Will Arrive in Few Weeks.” *The Sydney Morning Herald* (Sydney, New South Wales), the 1st of May 1939: 8.

⁸ “Anna May Wong. Impatient of Being ‘Typed.’” *The Age*, the 6th of June 1939: 8.

⁹ F.K.M. “Going Back-Stage to Meet the Star! The *Table Talk* Interviewer Sees a Talkie—and Then Meets the Leading Actress! An Interview with Attractive Anna May Wong, the Famous Film Star Now at the Tivoli.” *Table Talk* (Melbourne), the 15th of June 1939: 5.

¹⁰ W.J. Passingham. “Influences of Screen on Lives of Women. ‘Hundreds of Colberts and Shearers.’ Changes in the East.” *The Sydney Morning Herald, Women’s Supplement*, the 7th of July 1936: 8.

¹¹ See “Frank Neil’s Death. Accident Finding.” *The Argus* (Melbourne), the 9th of January 1940: 5. Frank Van Straten. *Tivoli*: 109. Melbourne: Thomas C. Lothian Pty. Ltd., 2003.

¹² Nancye Bridges and Frank Crook. *Curtain Call*: 67. North Ryde: Cassell Australia Ltd., 1980.

¹³ “Centenary Vaudeville. Many Overseas Artists Engaged.” *The Argus*, the 28th of July 1934: 22. See “Revue for Australia. Mr. Frank Neil’s Plans. Three Companies Engaged.” *The Argus*, the 5th of September 1934: 6.

¹⁴ “Personal.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 30th of August 1934: 9.

¹⁵ F.K.M.

¹⁶ Jones.

¹⁷ True enough, however Wong seems to have forgotten about the Chinese-Australian actress, Rose Quong (1879-1972), who she appeared with in the play, *The Circle of Chalk* (1929). See “The World of Women. Rose Quong’s Success.” *The Argus*, the 18th of January 1939: 7. “Quong, Rose Maud (1879-

1972).” *Australian Dictionary of Biography Online Edition*: <<http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10404b.htm>>.

¹⁸ Jones.

¹⁹ “Hollywood’s Oriental Star Here Next Week.” *The Herald* (Melbourne), the 3rd of June 1939: 42.

²⁰ Chan: 131.

²¹ Hodges: 198.

²² On page 148 of his biography, Anthony B. Chan claimed that Wong donated much of her Australian earnings to the China War Relief Fund, but he did not give any references to substantiate it. However, I doubt its validity, because in the very extensive Australian newspaper coverage of the film star’s trip, her intention to do this was never mentioned (more about this later).

²³ “Philosophy is a Heritage. Importance of Relaxing.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 18th of July 1939: 4.

²⁴ See Karen J. Leong. *The China Mystique. Pearl S. Buck, Anna May Wong, and the Transformation of American Orientalism*: 57-105. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005: 57-105.

²⁵ Hodges: 198.

²⁶ Unfortunately, I did not have access to any Honolulu newspapers to either confirm or refute what I strongly suspect.

²⁷ Hodges: 198.

²⁸ Jones.

²⁹ The full names of the Tivoli artists were written on the “Personal Statement and Declaration” migration forms of the following: Lorenzo Andreini; Frank Andrini; Alfredo R. Garcia; Jack Vinton Lane; Howard Alan Wilson; Joaquin Aguilar Garay; William Frank Evers; and Merrill La Fontaine. (The National Archives of Australia, Canberra.) The

descriptions of the artists are from *Highlights From Hollywood*: unpagged. Melbourne: The Tivoli Circuit, 1939. (Note: There is an early printing of the Melbourne theater program in the State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, and a later printing of it in the Performing Arts Museum, Melbourne.)

³⁰ This information is recorded on the artists' "Personal Statement and Declaration" forms.

³¹ "Luncheon. R.M.S. *Aorangi*. Cabin Class. 14th May 1939." (Derham Groves' collection.)

³² "Dinner. R.M.S. *Aorangi*. Cabin Class. 14th May 1939." (Derham Groves' collection.)

³³ "Returning by the *Aorangi*." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 23rd of May 1939: 4.

³⁴ "Heir to the DJs Dynasty was Proud to be 'In Trade.'"

<<http://www.brisbanetimes.com.au/national/obituaries/heir-to-the-djs-dynasty-was-proud-to-be-in-trade-20100713-109de.html>>.

³⁵ Bridges and Crook: 83.

³⁶ Letter to C.J.A. Moses from Charles Brandreth, the 9th of May 1939. (The National Archives of Australia.)

³⁷ C.J.A. Moses. "Memorandum to the Federal Program Controller, the Controller of Celebrity Concerts, the Federal Controller of Music, the Federal Controller of Productions," the 11th of May 1939. (The National Archives of Australia.)

³⁸ In *Shanghai Express*, Anna May Wong played a high-class Chinese prostitute named Hue Fei. The other members of the cast included Marlene Dietrich, Clive Brook and Warner Oland. In 1932, the film won the Academy Award for Best Cinematography and received Academy Award nominations for Best Production and Best Director. See Leibfried and Lane: 95-100.

³⁹ See "Negress Film Star. Nina Mae McKinney." *The Argus*, the 7th of September 1937: 10.

⁴⁰ E. Chapple. "The General Manager. Anna May Wong," the 18th of May 1939. (The National Archives of Australia.)

⁴¹ Letter to Charles Brandreth from C.J.A. Moses, the 20th of May 1939. (The National Archives of Australia.)

⁴² See "Today's Radio Programs." *The Advertiser* (Adelaide, South Australia), the 12th of July 1939: 16.

⁴³ See "Today's Radio Programs." *Examiner* (Launceston, Tasmania), the 12th of July 1939: 9.

⁴⁴ See *Highlights From Hollywood*.

⁴⁵ See "Chickenpox in *Aorangi*." *The Courier-Mail* (Brisbane, Queensland), the 30th of May 1939: 3.

⁴⁶ See "*Aorangi* Running Late." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 30th of May 1939: 16.

⁴⁷ See "News in Films." *The Courier-Mail*, the 10th of June 1939: 9.

⁴⁸ See "Broadcasting. A Touring Studio. Many Records. Under and Above Sydney." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 21st of June 1939: 7.

⁴⁹ "Hollywood 'Saner' Now. Anna May Wong in Sydney." *The Courier-Mail*, 5th June 1939:3. The identical story also appeared in *The Argus*, the 5th of June 1939: 2, *The West Australian* (Perth), the 5th of June 1939: 10 and *The Advertiser*, the 5th of June 1939: 28.

⁵⁰ "Chinese Film Star Arrives." *The Courier-Mail*, the 7th of June 1939: 3. Also see "Miss Anna May Wong." *The Townsville Daily Bulletin* (Townsville, Queensland), the 13th of June 1939: 8.

⁵¹ "Gardening and Cooking. Chinese Star's Hobbies." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 5th of June 1939: 4.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ See "George Zaharias." *Wikipedia*: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Zaharias>.

⁵⁶ See "Babe Didrikson. Outstanding Sports Woman. Visitor to Sydney. Tremendous Driver at Golf." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 5th of June 1939: 15.

⁵⁷ "Coming by the *Aorangi*." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 30th of May 1939: 16.

⁵⁸ "Twenty Tidy Little Choristers." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 5th of June 1939: 4.

⁵⁹ See "News in Films".

⁶⁰ *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 3rd of June 1939: 2.

⁶¹ See "Anna May Wong. Film Star Arrives in Sydney." *The Canberra Times*, the 5th of June 1939: 1.

⁶² See "From Day to Day. Arrangements Cancelled." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 1st of June 1939: 20.

⁶³ "China's Friendship. Young Lady Diplomat. On Refugee Organization." *The Cairns Post* (Cairns, Queensland), the 26th of June 1939: 9.

⁶⁴ "Theater Notes. Shaw Tilts at Dictators. Big Stage Freeze." *The Argus*, the 2nd of June 1939: 12.

⁶⁵ See *The Age*, the 6th of June 1939: 15.

⁶⁶ "In Person. Anna May Wong. The Famous Stage and Screen Star." *The Age*, the 3rd of June 1939: 36.

⁶⁷ See Te Pana (Nelson Burns). "Chinese Star Silent on Hollywood." *The Argus*, the 6th of June 1939: 4.

⁶⁸ See "In Person. Anna May Wong. The Famous Stage and Screen Star."

⁶⁹ See "Chinese Film Star Arrives." *The Argus*, the 6th of June 1939: 5.

⁷⁰ See *The Sun News-Pictorial* (Melbourne), the 6th of June 1939: 29.

⁷¹ Te Pana. "Chinese Star Silent on Hollywood."

⁷² "Music and Drama. Anna May Wong—Lotte Lehmann's Recitals—"I Married an Angel." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 11th of March 1939: 20.

⁷³ Jones.

⁷⁴ "World-Famed Chinese Actress."

⁷⁵ See Leibfried and Lane: 161.

⁷⁶ Jonathan Swift. "Here, There and Everywhere." *The Sun News-Pictorial*, the 13th of June 1939: 7.

⁷⁷ Email from Robert McBride, a nephew of Merrill La Fontaine, to Derham Groves, the 17th of July 2008.

⁷⁸ Hodges: 140.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong." *The Argus*, the 13th of June 1939: 12.

⁸² "Anna May Wong." *Table Talk*, the 15th of June 1939: 3.

⁸³ Bridges and Crook: 55.

⁸⁴ An advertisement in the *Highlights From Hollywood* stated: "The Beautiful Floral Tributes handed out to the Tivoli Artists on every opening night of New Companies are from Miss R. Floyd, Florist, No. 2, 'C,' Eastern Market." (The copy in the State Library of Victoria.)

⁸⁵ Mayfair. "Heard Here and There." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 27th of July 1939: 20. The same item also appeared in "Gossip." *The Townsville Daily Bulletin*, the 3rd of August 1939: 8.

⁸⁶ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ See Jack Lane. *A Gallery of Stars: The Story of the Hollywood Brown Derby's Wall of Fame*. Baltimore: Luminary Press, 2005.

⁸⁹ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."

⁹⁰ I strongly suspect that Betty Burgess and Sonny Lamont traveled to Australia onboard the *Aorangi* with the other American performers in *Highlights From Hollywood*, however I cannot find their "Personal Statement and Declaration" forms. I know that George Zaharias definitely traveled to Australia onboard the *Aorangi*, but I cannot find his form either, which suggests that some records are missing or unavailable. I have a newspaper photograph of Burgess and Zaharias that was taken shortly after their wedding on Tuesday the 5th of January 1960, which has the following written on the back of it: "Las Vegas, Nev. George Zaharias, 50, former husband [of] the late world famous athlete Babe Didrikson, who died last year of cancer, and Better Burgess, 42, [of] Los Angeles, former film actress, were married [on the] 1/5 at the Desert Inn in Las Vegas, where they are spending their honeymoon. Zaharias, a former wrestler now in the real estate business, and his wife have known each other for 21 years." Given that Burgess and Zaharias first met each other in 1939 (i.e. 1960 minus 21 years equals 1939), rightly or wrongly, I am assuming this happened onboard the *Aorangi* while they were both sailing to Australia.

⁹¹ See "Private Views. By *The Australian Women's Weekly* Film Reviewer. *The Story of Irene and Vernon Castle*." *The Australian Women's Weekly*, the 12th of August 1939: 60. "*The Story of Irene and Vernon Castle* (1939)." *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0031983/>>.

⁹² "*The Adventures of the Masked Phantom* (1939)." *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0031023/>>.

⁹³ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."

⁹⁴ See "Theater Notes. Fine Actress Coming. Pauline Lord's Tour." *The Argus*, the 10th of June 1939: 5. However, Bugs Wilson's performance is not credited in: "*The Big Broadcast of 1938* (1938)." *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0029912/>>.

⁹⁵ See *Highlights From Hollywood*. Geoffrey Hutton. "Theater Notes. Playgoers Like to Barrack. Comedienne's Debut." *The Argus*, 27th of May 1939: 17. "*Hollywood Highlights*." *The Age*, the 10th of June 1939: 10. "Anna May Wong. A Propagandist Sketch." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 21st of July 1939: 13.

⁹⁶ See "*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937)." *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0029583/>>.

⁹⁷ "Voice of Snow White." *The Argus*, the 11th of October 1938: 4.

⁹⁸ See "Theater Notes. Fine Actress Coming. Pauline Lord's Tour."

⁹⁹ "Anna May Wong. A Propagandist Sketch."

¹⁰⁰ *Highlights From Hollywood*.

¹⁰¹ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."

¹⁰² See J.B. Kaufman. *South of the Border with Disney: Walt Disney and the Good Neighbor Program, 1941-1948*: 219. New York: Disney Editions, 2009. *The Three Caballeros* (1944). *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0038166/>>.

¹⁰³ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."

¹⁰⁴ See Gregg Miner, "'Notable' Historical Players of Harp Guitars and Related Instruments." *Encyclopaedia of Harp Guitar Players of the Past*: <http://www.harp guitars.net/players/encyclopedia_of_hg_players.htm>.

¹⁰⁵ See the "Personal Statement and Declaration" forms of Frank Andrini and Lorenzo Andreini.

¹⁰⁶ See Greg Miner.

- ¹⁰⁷ See *Highlights From Hollywood*. The 16 members of the Tivoli Ballet were Jean Beinke; Lorna Belden; Alma Chippendale; Pat Corrigan; Phyl Dolphin; Rosie Fitzgerald; Phyl Hall; Sylvia Harvey; Gwennie Mackintosh; Elisma Matthews; Irene McGregor; Claire Miller; Rita Mitchell; Rosie Simpson; Lorna Waters; and Sunday Wenman.
- ¹⁰⁸ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."
- ¹⁰⁹ *Highlights From Hollywood*.
- ¹¹⁰ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."
- ¹¹¹ See Jennifer. "Passing Show. Chit Chat." *The Western Mail* (Perth), the 2nd of March 1939: 33.
- ¹¹² *Highlights From Hollywood*.
- ¹¹³ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."
- ¹¹⁴ See "The Tivoli." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 19th of October 1936: 6.
- ¹¹⁵ "Bright Show at Tivoli. Anna May Wong."
- ¹¹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹¹⁷ "Anna May Wong." *The Argus*, the 1st of July 1939: 2.
- ¹¹⁸ See "Tientsin Incident." *Wikipedia*: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tientsin_Incident>.
- ¹¹⁹ *Highlights From Hollywood*. (The copy in the Performing Arts Museum.)
- ¹²⁰ Jack Meander. "Movement in the City." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 21st of July 1939: 4.
- ¹²¹ "Philosophy is a Heritage. Importance of Relaxing." Also see "Talking to Anna May Wong." *The Western Mail*, the 16th of February 1939: 28.
- ¹²² Fred Parsons. *A Man Called Mo*: 64. Melbourne: William Heinemann Australia Pty. Ltd., 1973.
- ¹²³ See "Tivoli—"Hollywood Highlights." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 22nd of July 1939: 9.
- ¹²⁴ "Anna May Wong." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 15th of July 1939: 9.
- ¹²⁵ "Anna May Wong. A Propagandist Sketch."
- ¹²⁶ Hodges: 149.
- ¹²⁷ Richard Corliss. "Anna May Wong Did it Right." *Time*, the 29th of January 2005: <<http://www.time.com/time/columnist/corliss/article/0,9565,1022536-2,00.html>>.
- ¹²⁸ "Anna May Wong. A Propagandist Sketch."
- ¹²⁹ "Amusements." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 17th of August 1939: 2.
- ¹³⁰ Jack Meander. "Eyes and Ears in Town." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 16th of August 1939: 7.
- ¹³¹ Te Pana. "Te Pana's Film Parade. Screen Idols who Suffer for Art." *The Courier-Mail*, the 9th of November 1939: 16.
- ¹³² See "Amusements."
- ¹³³ See Te Pana. "George Robey at Tivoli. Fellow of Great Jest." *The Argus*, the 18th of July 1939: 4.
- ¹³⁴ See Leibfried and Lane: 80-83.
- ¹³⁵ Fred Archer. *The Treasure House*: 47. Melbourne: Self-published, no date.
- ¹³⁶ Bugs Wilson gave the Arcade Hotel (a.k.a. the Royal Arcade Hotel) as his temporary Melbourne address on his "Personal Statement and Declaration" form.
- ¹³⁷ *Highlights From Hollywood*. (The copy in the State Library of Victoria.)
- ¹³⁸ "S.O.S. Children's Hospital Calling... *Gala Theatrical Entertainment*. Princess Theater. Tuesday, the June 6th of 1939." (Bruce McBrien's collection.)
- ¹³⁹ "Gala Show at Princess." *The Argus*, the 7th of June 1939: 15.
- ¹⁴⁰ "Babies' Ward. Closing Avoided." *The Argus*, the 1st of June 1939: 12.
- ¹⁴¹ "Gala Show at Princess."
- ¹⁴² "S.O.S. Children's Hospital Calling... *Gala Theatrical Entertainment*. Princess Theater.
- ¹⁴³ "Gala Show at Princess."
- ¹⁴⁴ "International Club. Aims Explained." *The Argus*, the 6th of April 1935: 12.
- ¹⁴⁵ "1,000 at International Club's Ball." *The Argus*, the 8th of June 1939: 17.
- ¹⁴⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁴⁷ "Miss Anna May Wong Welcomed." *The Age*, the 12th of June 1939: 3.
- ¹⁴⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁴⁹ See Leibfried and Lane: 122-126.
- ¹⁵⁰ *The Age*, the 15th of June 1939: 15. The caption read: "Miss Anna May Wong, the celebrated Chinese film star, receiving a large bouquet from a page boy, when she attended the film in which she stars at the Capitol Theater."
- ¹⁵¹ *The Argus*, the 15th of June 1939: 5. The caption read: "Busy days for Miss Anna May Wong, screen actress, shown leaving the Capitol Theater yesterday, where she is making personal appearances before a film in which she is starred is screened. Miss Wong also appears twice daily at the Tivoli Theater."
- ¹⁵² "Watched Operation to get Atmosphere." *The Courier-Mail*, the 3rd of August 1939: 19.
- ¹⁵³ F.K.M.
- ¹⁵⁴ Ibid.
- ¹⁵⁵ Shirley Jennifer Lim. *A Feeling of Belonging. Asian American Women's Public Culture, 1930-1960*: 47. New York: New York University Press, 2006.
- ¹⁵⁶ "King of Chinatown." *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 31st of July 1939: 5.
- ¹⁵⁷ Raymond Lew-Boar interviewed by Sophie Couchman from the Museum of Chinese Australian History, Melbourne, no date: unpagged.

- ¹⁵⁸ Email from Raymond Lew-Boar to Derham Groves, the 28th of September 2009.
- ¹⁵⁹ “The Best Meal I Ever Had...” *The Australian Women’s Weekly*, the 5th of August 1939: 20.
- ¹⁶⁰ See “Miss Anna May Wong Writes About Her Remington Portable.” *The Sun News-Pictorial*, the 15th of June 1939: 10. An identical advertisement also appeared in *The Sun News-Pictorial*, the 30th of June 1939: 16.
- ¹⁶¹ Ibid.
- ¹⁶² Letter from Anna May Wong to Fania and Carl Van Vechten, the 11th of September 1939. (The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven.)
- ¹⁶³ Ibid.
- ¹⁶⁴ Meander. “Eyes and Ears in Town.”
- ¹⁶⁵ See *The Argus*, the 17th of June 1939: 18. The caption read: “Miss Anna May Wong, now appearing at the Tivoli Theater, photographed while shopping at Foy’s Fashion Corner.”
- ¹⁶⁶ Te Pana. “A Film Critic’s Diary. Some British Subjects.” *The Argus*, 28 June 1939: 15.
- ¹⁶⁷ See “The Movie Ball. Glimpses of Hollywood.” *The Advertiser*, the 12th of July 1929: 19. “Entertainments. Movie Crazy Ball.” *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tasmania), the 16th of December 1932: 6. “C.W.A. Ball. Opening of A.L. and S. Ltd. New Premises.” *The Cairns Post*, the 9th of September 1933: 9. “Fancy Dress Movie Ball.” *The Northern Standard* (Darwin), the 9th of October 1934: 5. “Menzies. Movie Ball.” *The Western Argus* (Kalgoorlie, Western Australia), the 22nd of October 1935: 7. “The Reelers’ Ball. Breezy Non-Stop Show at the Embassy.” *The Sunday Times* (Perth), the 29th of August 1937: 27.
- ¹⁶⁸ See Cerberus. “The Dog World. Canine Government.” *The Courier-Mail*, the 15th of December 1934: 19. “Dogs on Parade. Pomeranian and Irish Setter Champions.” *The Courier-Mail*, the 31st of August 1936: 19. “Dog Show Awards. Sunshine Club.” *The Argus*, the 19th of April 1938: 13.
- ¹⁶⁹ Jones.
- ¹⁷⁰ “Social and Personal.” *Healesville and Yarra Glen Guardian* (Healesville, Victoria), the 24th of June 1939: 2.
- ¹⁷¹ See “Personal.” *The Argus*, the 19th of June 1939: 8.
- ¹⁷² *The Age*, the 19th of June 1939: 15.
- ¹⁷³ Jack Meander. “Wit of Miss Wong.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 18th of July 1939: 4.
- ¹⁷⁴ “Prima Donna Charms Her Audience.” *The Argus*, the 23rd of June 1939: 15.
- ¹⁷⁵ “University Luncheon Parties.” *The Argus*, the 24th of June 1939: 7.
- ¹⁷⁶ “Flowers for Artist.” *The Argus*, the 30th of June 1939: 15.
- ¹⁷⁷ See “Coming Events.” *The Argus*, the 11th of July 1939: 2.
- ¹⁷⁸ “Social Notes, Personal.” *The Argus*, the 27th of June 1939: 7.
- ¹⁷⁹ See “Social and Personal.” *The Argus*, the 1st of July 1939: 16.
- ¹⁸⁰ “Brilliant Ball at Palais. Golden Gate Fiesta.” *The Argus*, the 1st of July 1939: 15.
- ¹⁸¹ “Back From Melbourne.” *The Mercury, Women’s Realm: Supplement to “The Mercury”*: the 5th of July 1939: 6.
- ¹⁸² See Leibfried and Lane: 161-162.
- ¹⁸³ F.K.M.
- ¹⁸⁴ Meander. “Wit of Miss Wong.”
- ¹⁸⁵ See *The Mercury*, the 21st of July 1939: 6. The caption read: “When Anna May Wong, Chinese film star, returned to Sydney this week, she was presented with a bouquet of red roses by Mrs. Mane on behalf of the New South Wales China Women’s Relief Fund Committee.” The identical photograph and caption also appeared in *The Advertiser*, the 22nd of July 1939: 27.
- ¹⁸⁶ See *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 18th of July 1939: 14. The caption read: “The Chinese film star, Anna May Wong, arrived in Sydney from Melbourne yesterday and was welcomed by members of the Chinese community. She is shown acknowledging the greetings of the crowd.”
- ¹⁸⁷ “Philosophy is a Heritage. Importance of Relaxing.”
- ¹⁸⁸ Ibid.
- ¹⁸⁹ “Social and Personal. Party for Anna May Wong.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 19th of July 1939: 7.
- ¹⁹⁰ “Anna May Wong.” *The Home*, August 1939: 50-51.
- ¹⁹¹ See “Tivoli Theater.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 1st of July 1939: 10.
- ¹⁹² “Bright and Fast. New Tivoli Show.” *The Argus*, the 2nd of May 1939: 3.
- ¹⁹³ “Broadway Hotshots.’ New Tivoli Show.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 16th of June 1939: 13.
- ¹⁹⁴ “Other Entertainments. Tivoli Theater.” *The Argus*, the 8th of May 1939: 4.
- ¹⁹⁵ “Broadway Hotshots.’ New Tivoli Show.”
- ¹⁹⁶ Ibid.
- ¹⁹⁷ “Amused King. Former U.S. Senator.” *The Argus*, the 25th of April 1939: 7.
- ¹⁹⁸ “Bright and Fast. New Tivoli Show.”
- ¹⁹⁹ Geoffrey Hutton. “Theater Notes. Ideas From Vienna.” *The Argus*, the 28th of April 1939: 3.
- ²⁰⁰ “Music and Drama. A Boom in Concerts—Schnabel and Boys’ Choir.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 10th of June 1939: 12.
- ²⁰¹ Meander. “Movement in the City.”
- ²⁰² “Talking to Anna May Wong.”

- ²⁰³ Ibid.
- ²⁰⁴ See “Stage and Screen Personalities.” *The Sydney Morning Herald, Women’s Supplement*, the 7th of December 1937: 11.
- ²⁰⁵ Jonathan Swift.
- ²⁰⁶ Hodges: 11.
- ²⁰⁷ Mayfair. “Heard Here and There.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 20th of July 1939: 20.
- ²⁰⁸ Jack Meander. “Among Those Present.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 24th of July 1939: 4.
- ²⁰⁹ “Well-Known People Enjoying Themselves in Snow and City.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 27th of July 1939: 17.
- ²¹⁰ See Meander. “Movement in the City.”
- ²¹¹ Meander. “Wit of Miss Wong.”
- ²¹² See Kerwin Maegraith. *The Autobiography of Kerwin Maegraith*. Australia: Spaark Books, 2010.
- ²¹³ Kerwin Maegraith. “Hollywood is a Gamble—Says Anna May Wong. Brother Kim Wants to be Film Actor.” *The Sydney Morning Herald, Women’s Supplement*, the 24th of July 1939: 4.
- ²¹⁴ Ibid.
- ²¹⁵ Ibid.
- ²¹⁶ Email from Hannah Hall to Derham Groves, the 30th of July 2008.
- ²¹⁷ “From Day to Day in Sydney. Film Star Entertained.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 27th of July 1939: 18.
- ²¹⁸ Ibid.
- ²¹⁹ “From Day to Day in Sydney. Anna May Wong Ball.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 28th of July 1939: 4.
- ²²⁰ “Consul-General Entertained. Played in ‘Macbeth.’” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 28th of July 1939: 4.
- ²²¹ Ibid.
- ²²² Ibid.
- ²²³ See “Parties Yesterday at University and International Club.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 28th of July 1939: 4. The caption read: “Mrs. Maurice Gulson, the Consul-General for Poland, Mr. L. De Noskowski, Miss Anna May Wong, who presented him with a buttonhole, and Mrs. De Noskowski at the cocktail party given by the International Society yesterday afternoon in honor of the Consul-General and his wife and Miss Wong.”
- ²²⁴ “Hollywood Merry-Go-Round. Fortune Made From ‘Snow White.’ 1914 Film was Best Money Maker.” *The Barrier Miner* (Broken Hill, New South Wales), the 3rd of August 1939: 7.
- ²²⁵ If Anna May Wong did in fact plan to donate much of her Australian earnings to the China War Relief Fund, as Anthony B. Chan suggested in his biography of the actress, then perhaps she prudently changed her mind after she was sacked by Paramount Pictures Inc.?
- ²²⁶ “Social and Personal. Welcome Home Party.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 5th of August 1939: 11.
- ²²⁷ See “Kelly, Thomas Herbert (1875-1948).” *Australian Dictionary of Biography Online Edition*: <<http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090560b.htm>>.
- ²²⁸ “Welcome Home Party.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 9th of August 1939: 7.
- ²²⁹ “*The Silence of Dean Maitland* (1934).” *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0026995/>>.
- ²³⁰ “Chinese Film Star at Ball.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 9th of August 1939: 6.
- ²³¹ “The World’s Most Beautiful Chinese Girl.” *Look*, the 1st of March 1938: 36-37.
- ²³² Jesse Collings. “There is No Virtue in a Shiny Nose.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 14th of August 1939: 4.
- ²³³ “Folk and Traditional Song Lyrics: Home Sweet Home.” <http://www.traditionalmusic.co.uk/folk-song_lyrics/Home_Sweet_Home.htm>.
- ²³⁴ Meander. “Eyes and Ears in Town.”
- ²³⁵ “Chinese Clothes in Parade.” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, the 31st of March 1950: 9.
- ²³⁶ Meander. “Eyes and Ears in Town.”
- ²³⁷ “From Verity’s Notebook...Interesting Travellers.” *The Courier-Mail*, the 4th of October 1939: 16.
- ²³⁸ Hodges: 198.
- ²³⁹ Letter from Anna May Wong to Fania Marinoff and Carl Van Vechten, the 11th of September 1939. (The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University, New Haven.)
- ²⁴⁰ “Vienna Boys’ Choir.” *GNT History*: <<http://www.abc.net.au/gnt/history/Transcripts/s1071232.htm>>.
- ²⁴¹ G. Aigremont. *Foot and Shoe Symbolism and Eroticism*. Leipzig: Verlags-Aktien-Gesellschaft, 1909. Quoted in William A. Rossi. *The Sex Life of the Foot and Shoe*: 13-14. New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1976.
- ²⁴² E.T. Renbourn. “The Foot and Shoe in Body and Mind.” Quoted in William A. Rossi: 3-4.
- ²⁴³ Mother Goose. “There was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.” *Poetry Foundation*: <<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/176344>>.
- ²⁴⁴ Uncle Joey. “Haines Shoe House—The Shoe House of the Wizard.” *Off the Beaten Path*: <<http://www.shoehouse.us/>>.
- ²⁴⁵ “I.N.G. Headquarters, Amsterdam. Meyer & Van Schooten Architecten 2002.” *Ga-*

linsky. *People Enjoying Buildings Worldwide*: <<http://www.galinsky.com/buildings/ing/>>.

²⁴⁶ See *Lacoste*: <<http://www.lacoste.com/za-hahadid/>>.

²⁴⁷ David Sokol. "Architects Tread in New Territory: Shoe Design." *Architectural Record*: <http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/091012architects_shoes.asp>.

²⁴⁸ See Leibfried and Lane: 19-20.

²⁴⁹ See Leibfried and Lane: 20-23.

²⁵⁰ See Leibfried and Lane: 25-26.

²⁵¹ See Leibfried and Lane: 35-39.

²⁵² See Leibfried and Lane: 48-51.

²⁵³ "Gardening and Cooking. Chinese Star's Hobbies."

²⁵⁴ See "Westminster Flower Show." *The West Australian*, the 6th of August 1937: 23.

²⁵⁵ Philip Leibfried. "Anna May Wong. First Asian American Star!" *USAsians.net for All*

People, for All Worlds: <http://us_asians.tripod.com/features-am-wong.html>.

²⁵⁶ Alexandra Wall. Unpublished written statement that accompanied her pair of shoes, 2010.

²⁵⁷ Susan Johnston and Lindsay Nation. *Australia 1939*: 42-43. Kensington, New South Wales: New South Wales University Press, 2003.

²⁵⁸ See "Gala Show at Princess."

²⁵⁹ Rossi: 30-41.

²⁶⁰ Rossi: 45.

²⁶¹ See "Eric Maschwitz." *Wikipedia*: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eric_Maschwitz>.

²⁶² "These Foolish Things Lyrics." *LyricsFreak*: <http://www.lyricsfreak.com/b/bryan+ferry/these+foolish+things_20025749.html>.

²⁶³ See "*The Wizard of Oz* (1939)." *IMDb*: <<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032138/>>.