

## Artifacts from Subway's Chinatown Dig on Display at Autry Museum

(July 26) Artifacts from LA's Old Chinatown that were recovered during construction of the Metro Red Line are on display at the [Autry Museum of Western Heritage](#) in a newly opened exhibit entitled, "On Gold Mountain: A Chinese American Experience."

The articles, all dating from the 1880s through the 1920s, include a china rice bowl and tea pot, a doll's head made in France, a porcelain wine cup and two porcelain spoons. The spoons are showcased with a full page color photo in the exhibit catalog.

The artifacts were lent to the exhibit by the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California. They were donated to the Society by the MTA following construction of subway facilities at Union Station.

### Doll's head was significant

The MTA's archeology consultant, Roberta Greenwood, monitored the subway excavation and analyzed the artifacts from the Old Chinatown dig. Most of the recovered items were commonly used in everyday life, but the doll's head proved to be significant.

"It might seem strange to find a French doll's head among the artifacts," says Greenwood, "but, it proves that Chinatown was not populated just by men, as people thought, but that families and children were present. We recovered many children's toys."

Some 40,000 items were recovered during the Old Chinatown dig. Union Station and the East Portal were constructed on the site, which was bounded by Alameda, Cesar Chavez, Vignes and the 101 Freeway. Old Chinatown was demolished in 1933 to make way for Union Station. The present Chinatown opened in 1935.

### Traces six generations

"On Gold Mountain" traces the history of six generations of the See family, who lived in and established an antique business in LA's Chinatown.

The exhibit will continue at the Autry Museum through Jan. 1, 2001. The museum is located at 4700 Western Heritage Way in Griffith Park near the LA Zoo. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Parking is free. Admission is \$7.50 for adults; \$5 for students and seniors 60+; and \$3 for children. [Back to MTA Report](#)



Click on image to can see examples of the items the MTA recovered during the Old Chinatown dig on the "L.A. Underground" page of the MTA website. Or, tour L.A. Yesteryear at "L.A. Underground" on [www.mta.net](http://www.mta.net).

Check out Gold Mountain schedule at ["What's Going On"](#) link at Autry Museum web site.