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"*In Search of Admiration and Respect* makes an important and original contribution to our understanding of Sino-US relations. This book will be of interest to historians of modern China in the world, the United States in the world, international history more broadly, and Asian America."

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## IN SEARCH OF ADMIRATION AND RESPECT

Chinese Cultural Diplomacy in the United States, 1875–1974

By Yanqiu Zheng

*In Search of Admiration and Respect* examines the institutionalization of Chinese cultural diplomacy in the period between high imperialism and the international ascendance of the People's Republic of China. During these years, Chinese intellectuals and officials tried to promote the idea of China's cultural refinement in an effort to combat negative perceptions of the nation. Yanqiu Zheng argues that, unlike similar projects by more established powers, Chinese cultural diplomacy in this era was not carried out solely by a functional government agency; rather, limited resources forced an uneasy collaboration between the New York-based China Institute and the Chinese Nationalist government.

*In Search of Admiration and Respect* uses the Chinese case to underscore what Zheng calls "infrastructure of persuasion," in which American philanthropy, museums, exhibitions, and show business had disproportionate power in setting the agenda of unequal intercultural encounters. This volume also provides historical insights into China's ongoing quest for international recognition. Drawing upon diverse archival sources, Zheng expands the contours of cultural diplomacy beyond established powers and sheds light on the limited agency of peripheral nations in their self-representation.

**Yanqiu Zheng** is a historian of China in the world and is Associate Director of Asia and Pacific Programs at St. Lawrence University's Patti McGill Peterson Center for International and Intercultural Studies. He led the China and the Global South project, supported by the Ford Foundation, at the Social Science Research Council.

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