

UNIVERSAL REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

An Imprint of Grey House Publishing
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For Immediate Release

February 26, 2008

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Universal Reference Publications announces *Working Americans, 1880-2007, Vol. VIII: Immigrants*

Universal Reference Publications, an imprint of Grey House Publishing, is proud to announce the publication the eighth volume in the *Working Americans* series. Like its predecessors, *Immigrants* profiles the lives of Americans – how they lived, how they worked, how they thought – decade by decade. Previous volumes focused primarily on economic status. This volume focuses on individuals from all walks of life, who were born outside of the United States and voyaged to America in pursuit of a better life – more money, more freedom, more hope – for themselves and their family.

Arranged, as the previous seven volumes, in 11 decade-long chapters, this newest *Working Americans* volume averages three individual **Profiles** per chapter. The opening sections highlight the subject's journey from his or her native land, and details the transition into American culture. Personal information is followed by historical and economic data of the time.

Historical Snapshots chronicle major milestones; **Timelines** outline the progress of immigration issues, often times by specific country; and a variety of **News Features** puts immigration in context. These common elements, as well as specialized data, such as **Selected Prices**, punctuate each chapter and act as statistical comparisons between decades. The 32 men, women, and children profiled in this volume represent 28 countries, from Armenia to Vietnam, and as many occupations, from floor scrubber to furrier.

***Working Americans, 1880-2007, Vol. VIII: Immigrants* takes you:**

- Into the Newark, NJ home of 38-year-old cigar maker Bernard Schmidt from Germany who longed for his own tobacco farm in 1885;
- Onto crowded streets of New Bedford, MA, where Romanian Anzia Ravage watched her husband sell ice-cream from his Hokey Pokey Cart in 1909;

—continued—

- On the train back to Mexico where American Maria Azuela was forced to return with her three small children after her husband's sudden death in 1932;
- To Benton Harbor, Michigan in 1957, where Polish teenager Kira Leszczow strove to be a typical American, and cared little about the life she left behind;
- Into war-ravaged Vietnam, from where prostitute Bian Le left with her American GI husband to a life almost as difficult in Westover, MA in 1969;
- Into the heavily Caribbean NYC neighborhood of 45-year-old Andrea Spencer, where she enjoyed traditional Jamaican food and customs in 1975;
- On a soul-searching journey of Gashwin Gomes, who shocked his Hindu family in 1998 by converting to Catholicism and pursuing the priesthood;
- To a small western Massachusetts town where Japanese teenager Stephen Teal found the freedom to pursue his artwork.

Like the other seven volumes in this series, *Working Americans 1880-2007 Volume VIII: Immigrants* is a compilation of original research – personal diaries and family histories – plus printed material – government statistics, commercial advertisements, and news features. The text, in easy-to-read bulleted format, is supported with hundreds of graphics, such as photos, advertisements, magazine covers, comic strips, political cartoons, letters, immigration documents, and buttons in support of political campaigns, labor strikes, and milk!

All eight *Working Americans* volumes are “point in time” books designed to illustrate the reality of that particular time. Some immigrants portrayed in this 8th volume found the better life they were looking for and some did not. Many of their stories continue. As one immigrant realizes his or her dream, dozens more board ships, planes and trains to the American dream.

Praise for earlier volumes:

“these interesting, unique compilations of economic and social facts, figures, and graphs...support multiple research needs [and] will engage and enlighten patrons in high school, public, and academic library collections.”

- Booklist

“The volume ‘promises to enhance our understanding of the growth and development of the working class over more than a century.’ It capably fulfills this promise... recommended for all types of libraries. ”

- ARBA

“[the author] adds to the genre of social history known as ‘history from the bottom up,’ which ...Recommended for all colleges and university library collections.”

- Choice

Working Americans, 1880-2007, Vol. VIII: Immigrants

Hardcover ISBN 13: 978-1-59237-197-6

664 pages

\$145.00

Working Americans, 8-Volume Set

Hardcover ISBN 13: 978-1-59237-208-9

\$1080.00

Publisher: Leslie Mackenzie

Editor: Scott Derks

Editorial Director: Laura Mars-Proietti