



COURTESY OF THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY & INDUSTRY

**THEN:** Some of the young men posing here on King Street with their backs to Seventh Avenue may be members of the Chinese Students Club at the University of Washington. During its May 1921 coverage of the six-day Go-Hing carnival, *The Seattle Times* identified the club as “the organization which is backing . . . the native celebration in Chinatown this week.”

## Where the lion's king

**I**N THE 90 years that separate Jean Sherrard's portrait of the Seattle Kung Fu Society and the Webster and Stevens Studio's 1921 record of Chinatown's Go-Hing celebration that May, this part of King Street has hardly changed.

If I have used my Chinese phrase book correctly “Go-Hing” in Cantonese means something close to “pleased to meet you.” Surely civic conviviality was one result of the six-day carnival, but its central purpose was to raise relief funds for the famine that had already killed millions in northern China. A second goal was to encourage the formation in Shanghai of the Chinese Communist Party, which was made official in July, two months after Go-Hing. This lion played a part in the final parade.

Go-Hing was also a kind of belated civic atonement for the atrocious treatment of the town's Chinese residents during the 1886 anti-Chinese riots. For the carnival, Chinatown was elaborately decorated on the street, in the alley shops and upstairs in the tongs, which were opened to visitors that week. The neighborhood's arts were put on show, and its many talents proven on a stage set up in the intersection of Eighth Avenue and King Street. There was dancing in the streets.



JEAN SHERRARD

**NOW:** Sifu John Leong, for nearly a half-century the leader of the Seattle Kung Fu Society, stands here left of the lion and, as it were, on Jean Sherrard's long sunset shadow

To arrange his repeat of the May 1921 photo, Jean Sherrard contacted the Wing Luke Museum, which put him in touch with the Seattle Kung Fu Society, serendipitously located just two doors down from the Milwaukee Hotel. (The hotel is on the left of both views.)

Society founder Sifu John Leong, sifting through his spectacular collection of lion heads, helped choose the gold lion featured in our “now” photo. 

Check out Paul Dorpat and Jean Sherrard's blog at [www.pauldorpat.com](http://www.pauldorpat.com).