

About the Videos

Seeing America's Greatest Chinatown: San Francisco (Part II)

Year: [1912](#)

Source: archive.org

(https://archive.org/details/Seeing_Americas_Greatest_Chinatown_San_Francisco_Part_II)

(Timestamps w/ descriptions from Archive.org)

Publication date [1912](#)

Chinatown, San Francisco, California: Captain Lewis was a licensed Chinatown guide; these films represent what was salvaged from a multi-reel film.

Chinese newspaper / gambling scene around table / people eating in restaurant / Capt. Lewis explains Chinese vegetables / inside poultry store / lady in traditional Chinese clothing / Captain Lewis and small children / end of apothecary scene on 5418-1 where man cooks up medicinal herbs and drinks them: he grimaces because it tastes so terrible / funeral activities.

Bert Gould suggests that some of the interior shots were set up specifically for this film and probably made in a studio.

Seeing America's Greatest Chinatown: San Francisco

Capt. H. J. Lewis presents and Describes his famous Oriental Travelogue

BW Silent

11:15:31:03 CU Chinese newspaper; disembodied hand runs finger down newspaper.

11:15:36:28 1920s or earlier, man into door of building with sign in Chinese, Chinese lamps hung overhead, old man outside smokes long pipe.

11:15:54:01 Chinese man gathered around table smoking pipes and playing game, probably gambling.

11:17:08:21 Chinese storefront in Chinatown, store windows marked General Store and restaurant.

11:17:21:04 Chinese family in traditional clothes eating at table in restaurant. Great footage family at dinner table plays drinking game where each person holds out a certain number of fingers in row-sham-bow manner, loser takes shot of drink fed by opponent; people at table smiling, laughing, having good time.

11:19:21:02 CU Chinese butcher takes meat off of scale; butchers wears round glasses, cap and smokes a cigarette; signs in Chinese behind him and sign in English reads "Fish for Sale," ducks hang on meat hooks behind butcher. VS butcher selling duck.

11:20:24:26 MS Chinese woman with hair ornately wrapped in bun over ears

flirtatiously looks at camera from behind her fan, camera pans down woman who crosses her legs.

11:20:53:00 Badly damaged shot of Capt. H. J. Lewis San Francisco tour guide sitting with row of Chinese children and their mother.

11:21:03:13 Chinese man in western hat pours leafy vegetables and herbs into bowl, man leaves frame with bowl and returns with bowl of soup. Old man takes sip of soup, and makes comical face pulling back from the bowl, clenching his fists and trembles, man continues to drink the soup, finishes the bowl, then puts something in his mouth that makes him make a strained face reacting to the potency of the food he placed in his mouth.

11:22:02:16 In traditional Chinese ceremony boy exits house wearing white robe and mask over face hitting cymbals, man in follows playing flute-like instrument, followed by boy in white robe with white KKK-like hood who kneels down to display or shrine with candles.

11:24:47:06 Boy in white robe with white hood kneeling before candles lights small piece of paper on fire then with that lights large ornately decorated piece of paper which goes up in flames; boy catches ashes in basket.

11:25:41:27 LS customer arrives at Chinese butcher takes duck out of crate and weighs it on scale then places the live duck in paper bag; butcher takes duck out of bag then places it in boxes with a lever which he then cranks.

Credits

"Capt. H. J. Lewis presents and Describes his famous Oriental Travelogue."

Color color

Identifier 0775_Seeing_Americas_Greatest_Chinatown_San_Francisco_Part_II_11_15_11_00

Sound sound

Laundry Blues

Year: 1930

Genre: Animated short

Description: Aesop's Sound Fables cartoon depicting Chinese laundry business. Employs racial stereotypes – "Chinese gong," characters speaking in gibberish, wooden shoes, etc.

Source: archive.org (<https://archive.org/details/LaundryBlues>)