

Chinese Tea Cultural Forum

By Alexander Cornford

On Thursday 8th November, the Confucius Institute organised a tea ceremony led by Professor Liying Zhang.

First there was a presentation by prof Zhang about the tea. China is the home country of tea. Tea is in fact the common name of *Camellia sinensis*. It is an evergreen plant that grown in subtropical and temperate regions.



A student tastes the tea called 'Misty Green'.



Everyone had the chance to draw their chosen character in ink on a large piece of rice paper.



A presentation by Professor Zhang about the tea

About Tea

According to scientific studies, tea contains more than 600 chemical ingredients. Some of them are nutrients necessary for human body, e.g. vitamins, proteins, amino acids and so on.

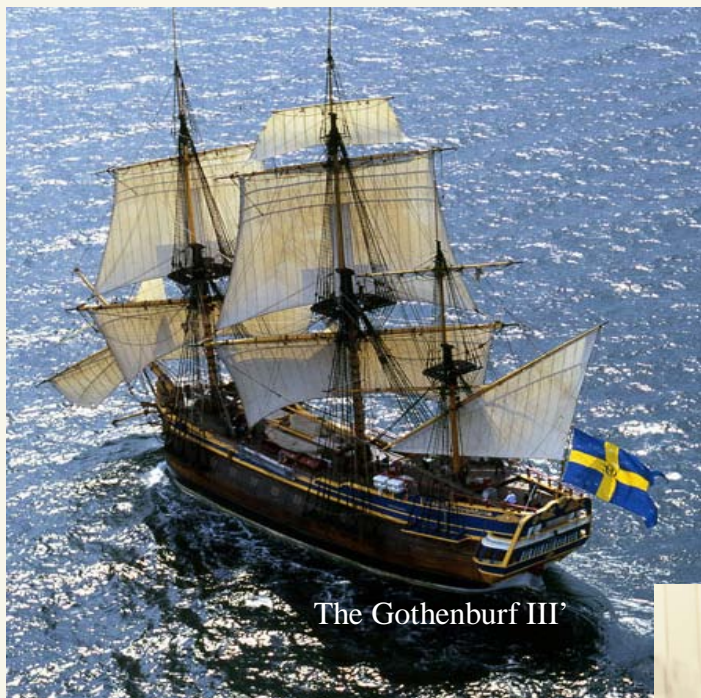


A Chinese volunteer



Tea served by some Chinese volunteers dressing in traditional style





It was not ordinary tea. It came from a replica of a 300 year old sailing ship 'the Gothenburg III' which had sailed all the way from Guangzhou to Sweden. The original ship carrying a blend of tea called 'misty green' sank only a few hundred metres from its destination. The rebuilt ship was carrying the same tea reproduced by experts some 200 years later.

The prize for the best drawn character went to Julia.

Class Activities

After tasting the aromatic tea, served by some Chinese volunteers dressed in traditional style, the students were invited to practise some Chinese characters, connected to tea, and finally everyone had the chance to draw their chosen character in ink on a large piece of rice paper. The prize for the best drawn character went to Julia. Well done to everybody!



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