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Chinese sports. the new miracle

By: Margarita Eyras, Melisa Stoessel and Leandro Hernandez



China as the rest of the countries of the world has a sporting tradition that makes it different from others. This country also undergoes the irruption of some new sports from other regions of the world. Moreover, the incentive from the China government is very important. The secretary of Sports grants to professional sportsmen and organizers of competitions some financial support

The practice of different sports varies according to the weather. In winter, for example, football is very popular. This year, the World Cup of Soccer that was held in Germany was very important for China's soccer. China, like all the countries where soccer is professionally practised, has a great number of clubs like Changchun Yatay, Beijing Guían and the Shenyang Jinde.

Some others popular sports in Winter, are basketball and badminton. One of the Winter sports in which China has made an important development is athletic.

In summer, the Chinese people practise swimming that is one of the most popular sports. You could see Chinese swimmers in each international competition where China participates. In the case of the Asian Games, the Chinese team of swimming has been defined as "the most powerful in the entire world"

One of main the Chinese swimmers is Luo Xuejuan that has been the winner of a gold medal in Athens 2004, beating the therefore established world-wide record. She was born in the small town of Hangzhou, in the province of Zhejiang. She has arrived upper than any Chinese in swimming.



Luo Xuejuan, one of the best swimmers

But also there are sports that are practised all around the year, because they don't need a special climate. One of them is ping pong, a sport by which China is admired in many places of the globe as it can be seen in many films. In the cities it is rare to find a school that does not have its ping pong table. In the international list, seven of the 10 first players of the world are Chinese and the first positions of the masculine ranking are occupied by Chinese (The International Tennis Table has studied some changes in the system of score and other rules of the game to limit the hegemony of China). Only in China, the parties are broadcast on television in live by the national television in direct. It is believed that over 100 million people play Ping Pong (it has almost 1,300 million inhabitants). Also the number of fans of ping pong is growing each day. One of the keys of its popularity is that the Chinese authorities have known how to make it accessible to everybody. The material to play (table, etc) is cheap, much space is not needed and in the publics parks table tennis tables are available in Weekends to play this sport. The tables that are available in parks are stone tables, so they don't require maintenance so they are very cheap and very simple. When there aren't any parks in the towns, such as in towns like Fengdú, they made a table with some stones others things, so ping pong is a very simple sports.

China has incorporated many new sports that are being practiced with great success. A good example is the team of baseball of the Republic of China that had a shining performance in the international competitions. Another example is the team of skittles of the Republic of China, this team participated and won many competitions in 1997.

There are many sports idols in China that are models for the boys and adolescents. These, generally, are young people of about twenty years. The most important idol is Liu Xiang, a professional athlete. He is 21 years old, and he is recognised as a national hero. With his imposing 1m89 of height and 85kg of weigh he is very important for all the Chinese people. All the important companies speculate what they are going to give Liu Xiang if he accepts being their international face. Another idol, in this case of the Winter sports, is Yao Ming a player of basketball that at the moment he is shining in NBA. He started in NBA with the Houston Rockets in 2003. According to the inhabitants of China, he is the highest person of the world. Yao Ming was born in 12 of September of 1980 in Shanghai. The government of the Republic of China gives him the title of "working model".

The present government of the People's Republic of China has made different advances in the sector of sports and quality of life. At the moment, there is a ministry of sports that is directed by Lee Peng. Through this ministry, the country sponsors a large number of international competitions like the matches of basketball. This year, China, like different countries, participates in different competitions similar to the Olympic Games or and many other competitions of international importance. Every year, the athletes of the Republic of China participate in an average of 46 matches and international competitions under the Chinese name of Taipei. The most prestigious of these competitions are the Asian Olympic Games.



Yao Ming, one of the most popular idols in China

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Sports in China

By Sancisi Micaela, Catania Micaela and Alfaya Carolina.

This article deals with Sports in China too. The reason for the choice is that many people know about sports only in their country. So it is quite interesting focusing on other countries, in this case in China. Sports in China are very important because they reflect the friendship and the unity. Those sports include basketball, football, table tennis, badminton and volleyball. Increasing, western sports such as golf are becoming more popular.

The most important sports are basketball, ping-pong and volleyball and this country produces some of the best international players in these events.

Apart from the national representative team, the table tennis or ping-pong community in China continues to produce many world-class players, and this depth of skill allows the country to continue dominating recent world titles after a short break during the 1990s. [Wang Liqin](#) is currently one of the highest-ranked Chinese table tennis players, and the highest-ranked player in the world. [Deng Yaping](#) is regarded by many as one of the greatest table tennis player of all time. This sport played an important role in China's international relationships; in April [1972](#), the US table tennis team were invited to visit China, an event later called *Ping Pong Diplomacy*.



Other sport very popular is basketball. The Chinese Basketball Association is the premier professional basketball league in the People's Republic of China. The [Chinese Basketball Association](#) is the premier professional basketball league in the [People's Republic of China](#). It began in 1995. The [Chinese University Basketball Association](#) is the most competitive and popular college [basketball](#) competition in China. It is also the [Chinese Basketball League](#). Chinese youths are becoming more keen on playing basketball, especially in urban centres with limited space and grass areas. The [NBA](#) has a huge following among Chinese youths and young adults, with [Yao Ming](#) being the idol of many. China is the second oldest basketball playing nation in the world (after the [United States](#)), having been introduced to this sport by the American YMCA missionaries in the late 19th century. It is commonly known as CBA, and this name is often used even in China. There is also a WCBA for women. A few CBA players such as Yao Ming, Wang Zhizhi and Mengke Bateer, have reached the WBA.

One of the important sports in China is the martial arts. of different styles of [Chinese martial arts](#) have developed over two thousand years, many distinctive styles with their own sets techniques and ideas. Hundreds of different styles and schools still exist in China, but generally they can be divided into a few branches, including Northern and Southern Shaolin-style Wushu. also Buddhist, Daoist and Muslim styles.



Hundreds the past of of Wushu distinct There are

One of their festivals that they consider like a sports is boat racing. **Dragon boat** ([Traditional Chinese](#): [Simplified pinyin](#): is a very long and narrow [human powered boat](#) used in the team [paddling sport](#) of **Dragon boat racing**, which may also be known as **Dragonboating**). For [racing](#) events, dragon boats are always rigged with decorative [Chinese dragon](#) heads and tails and are required to carry a large drum aboard. Many [Chinese people](#) often use the term "[Descendants of the Dragon](#)" as a sign of ethnic identity. At other times the decorative regalia is usually removed, although the drum often remains aboard for training purposes. Dragon boat races are traditionally held to commemorate the death of [Qu Yuan](#), making dragonboating the only sport to be celebrated as a national holiday. The [Chinese lunar calendar](#) date is 5/5 which usually corresponds to a date in June.

the dragon [Chinese](#):

Chinese attractions

By Graña, Romano and Eliçabe

Monorail

A monorail is a transit system running on a single-rail guideway. According to a very strict definition, a monorail vehicle must be wider than its guideway, and the single track must be used to support the weight of the system, not only used for guidance. There are two types of monorails: straddle-beam and suspended.

The term monorail or industrial monorail is also used to describe any number of systems in which a chair or carrier is suspended from an overhead rail structure for the limited transportation of goods or workers.

Layout

Visitors enter the China Pavilion through a large Chinese gate. The courtyard is dominated by a Chinese temple, the Temple of Heaven, which contains the entrance to Reflections of China, a Circle-Vision 360° movie exploring China's history and scenery. The courtyard is bordered by shops selling Chinese merchandise. The pavilion is decorated with ponds, crossed by bridges. The pavilion also contains a Chinese restaurant, the Nine Dragons Restaurant and a fast food version called Lotus Blossom Cafe. Chinese acrobats also perform frequently in the pavilion.

The Temple of Heaven

The Temple of Heaven is a worthwhile visiting place in Beijing. It is much bigger than the Forbidden City and smaller than the Summer Palace with an area of about 2,700,000 square meters. The Temple was built in 1420 A.D. during the Ming Dynasty to offer sacrifice to Heaven. As Chinese emperors called themselves 'The Son of Heaven', they dared not to build their own dwelling, 'Forbidden City' bigger than a dwelling for Heaven.

The Temple of Heaven is enclosed with a long wall. The northern part within the wall is semicircular symbolizing the heavens and the southern part is square symbolizing the earth. The northern part is higher than the southern part. This design shows that the heaven is high and the earth is low and the design reflected an ancient Chinese thought of 'The heaven is round and the earth is square'.

The Temple is divided by two enclosed walls into inner part and outer part. The main buildings of the Temple lie at the south and north ends of the middle axis line of the inner part. The most magnificent buildings are The Circular Mound Altar (Yuanqitan), Imperial Vault of Heaven (Huangqiongyu) and Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest (Qiniandian) from south to north. Also, there are some additional buildings like Three Echo Stones and Echo Wall. Almost all of the buildings are connected by a wide bridge called Vermilion Steps Bridge (Danbiqiao) or called Sacred Way.

The Circular Altar has three layered terraces with white marble. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties (1368 A.D. - 1911 A.D.), the emperors would offer sacrifice to Heaven on the day of the Winter Solstice every year. This ceremony was to thank Heaven and hope everything would be good in the future. The Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest is a big palace with round roof and three layers of eaves. Inside the Hall are 28 huge posts. The four posts along the inner circle represent four seasons-spring, summer, autumn and winter; the 12 posts along the middle circle represent the 12 months; and 12 posts along the outer circle represent 12 Shichen (Shichen is a means of counting time in ancient China. One Shichen in the past equaled two hours and a whole day was divided into 12 Shichens). The roof is covered with black, yellow and green colored glaze representing the heavens, the earth and everything on earth. The Hall has a base named Altar for Grain Prayers which is made of three layers of white marble and has a height of six meters. Another important building in Temple of Heaven is Imperial Vault of Heaven. If you look at it from far away, you will find that the Vault is like a blue umbrella with gold head. The structure of it is like that of Hall of

Prayer for Good Harvest, but smaller in size. The structure was made of bricks and timber. The Vault was used to place memorial tablets of Gods. White marble railings surround the vault.

The Vermilion Steps Bridge connects the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvest and the Imperial Vault of Heaven. The south end of the Bridge is lower than its north end. The emperors in the past believed that they could go to heaven through this Bridge, which is why this bridge is also called Sacred Way. A Yu Route and a Wang Route are on two sides of the Sacred Way. The former one is only for the emperors to walk on and the later one is for the princes and the high officials to pass.

Besides carefully designed buildings, there are also some other scenes that you can enjoy like Nine- Dragon Cypress. It got its name from branches which look like nine dragons wind with each other. It was said that the cypress was planted more than 500 years ago. Really, a grandfather tree!



The Temple of Heaven at Night



The Temple of Heaven at the day

CHINESE MUSIC

by Eugenio Rech – Ignacio Amiel – Lautaro Wax

As we know, music is very popular, China has pop music, classical music, rock music, jazz music, country music, Folk music and so on. There are also some bands : Flower Band, F.I.R. S.H.E. Twins. Mayday. Trustband, YuQuan. and so on. There are many famous singers , such as : Li Yuchun, Zhao Wei. Li Guyi. Cai Yilin and Zhou Jie lun.

Young people like pop and rock music.

Pop music is well-known all over the world. In China, many people are very famous as pop singers, such as Jolin, Jay, Wang Lihong and the super girl Li Yuchun.

Rock music is very exciting. There are also famous rock groups, for example, Beyong. Although they were gone for stage, they were loved by people forever, because they have especially quality in their music.

Origins and Characteristics

Chinese music can be traced back as far as the third millennium B.C. Manuscripts and instruments from the early periods of its history are not extant, however, because in 212 B.C., Shih Huang-ti of the Ch'in dynasty caused all the books and instruments to be destroyed and the practice of music to be stopped. Certain outlines of ancient Chinese music have nevertheless been ascertained. Of primary significance is the fact that the music and philosophy of China have always been inseparably bound; musical theory and form have been invariably symbolic in nature and remarkably stable through the ages. Ancient Chinese hymns were slow and solemn and were accompanied by very large orchestras. Chamber music was also highly developed. Chinese opera originated in the 14th cent. as a serious and refined art.

Tone and the Instruments

In Chinese music, the single tone is of greater significance than melody; the tone is an important attribute of the substance that produces it. Hence musical instruments are separated into eight classes according to the materials from which they are made—gourd (sheng); bamboo (panpipes); wood (chu, a trough-shaped percussion instrument); silk (various types of zither, with silk strings); clay (globular flute); metal (bell); stone (sonorous stone); and skin (drum). Music was believed to have cosmological and ethical connotations comparable to those of Greek music. The failure of a dynasty was ascribed to its inability to find the proper *huang chung*, or tone of absolute pitch.

The *huang chung* was produced by a bamboo pipe that roughly approximated the normal pitch of a man's voice. Other pipes were cut, their length bearing a definite mathematical ratio to it. Their tones were divided into two groups—six male tones and six female. These were the *lüs*, and their relationship approximated the Pythagorean cycle of fifths. Legend ascribes their origin to birdsong, six from that of the male bird and six from that of the female, and the tones of the two sets were always kept separate.

The *lüs* did not constitute a scale, however. The scale of Chinese music is pentatonic, roughly represented by the black keys on a piano. From it, by starting on different notes, several modes may be derived. The melody of vocal music is limited by the fact that melodic inflection influences the meaning of a word. Likewise, quantitative rhythms are not easily adaptable to the Chinese language.

Musical Notation

Several types of notation were used. Singers used the syllabic symbols for the five notes of the pentatonic scale, as did players of pipes. Players of the stone and bell chimes, which were tuned to the *lüs*, used symbols that represented the pitch names of the *lüs*. Players of flutes and zithers used a kind of tablature. None of this notation indicated rhythm.

The singers...

Cai Yilin:

Is one of China's modern princesses of pop. Jolin is from Taiwan, but the politics surrounding the strait don't harm her appeal to mainland Chinese a bit. Jolin is still quite young, but not nearly as young as she looks to Western eyes; she was born in 1980.



Zhou Jie lun:



Born in a single-parent family, Jay is a bit shy and quiet. When he was young, he showed his interest in music. He began to learn to play the piano when he was 3. Later, at the age of 16, he started to write songs for other singers. A few years later, he himself became a singer. In 2000, he released his first album "Jay", which gained great attention among the Chinese-speaking community, including Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong etc., that put him into the top pop star position among Chinese-speaking community.

ART and ENTERTAINMENT

By Gregoracci Diego, Rivelli Sofia and Senno Franco

This article deals with the number of **entertainments** in China. Entertainments in China include circuses, theatres, operas, cinemas and a lot of festivals.

Circus in China.

A circus is a traveling company of performers that may include acrobats, clowns, trained animals, hula hoppers and other novelty acts.

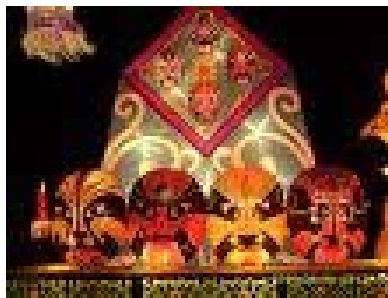
One of the most important circuses in China is the Imperial Circus, that is considered the best of all the circuses in China, and one of the most important in the world. Most of its actors had belonged to the popular "Cirque du Soleil". They had done a number of tours in Europe, Asia, Africa, U.S.A. and Latin America.

Their show is characterized by the absence of animals, focused in extreme acrobatics, where human towers, illusionism, extreme contortionism and the Asian Art, shapes its essence which gives life to this exotic fantasy in each presentation.



Cesam International

Operas in China.



The most important opera in China is the "Peking Opera", in which the traditional strings and percussion instruments provide a rhythmical accompaniment to the play. The play is based in allusions, gestures and others choreographical movements which express actions like rowing a boat or opening a door. The spoke dialogue could be a recited text, used by the serious characters or a colloquial text used by women and clowns. The roles are strictly shaped. The elaborated make up make possible recognize the represented character. The traditional Peking Opera's repertory includes more than one thousands pieces, the majority comes from historical fights between politicians and militaries.

Festivals in China

The most important festival in China is "The Spring Festival", which is similar to Christmas in the West. The position of this festival is incomparable, even through the celebration's signification and the methods changes with the time. According to the traditional custom, the Spring's festival starts on the 23rd of December and finishes 1st of January.

The people do a lot of activities in all the country to receive the Spring Festival. All the families clean their houses, wash their clothes and sheets. The fresh new clothes and the clean sheets mean a fresh new year. In the city, they celebrate the new year with the art group's representation and the celebration of "The temple fair" in big squares to give people with food and art. Generally, the people launch fireworks during the "Old night". On the first of January, people wear festival clothes and start visiting or receiving visitors. They say "hello" to the visitors with the "Happy New Year" and "Happy Spring Festival" and invite the visitors to drink tea and talk in their houses. There are a lot of activities during the Spring Festival, including the opera "Lion Dance", the projection of films and fairs in the temple where is celebrated the spring festival.



A new Cinema in China

In 1999, the multi-national production *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* achieved massive success at the Western box office despite being disregarded by some Chinese cinema-goers as pandering to Western tastes. Nevertheless, it provided an introduction to Chinese cinema for many and increased the popularity of many Chinese films which may have otherwise been relatively unknown to Westerners.



In 2002, *Hero* was made as a second attempt to produce a Chinese film with the international appeal of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. The cast and crew featured many of the most famous Chinese actors who were also known to some extent in the West, including Jet Li, Zhang Ziyi, Maggie Cheung, Tony Leung Chiu-Wai, directed by Zhang Yimou. The film was a phenomenal success in most of Asia and topped the U.S. box office for two weeks, making enough in the U.S. alone to cover the production costs.

The successes of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hero* blur what may be called the boundary between Mainland Chinese cinema and a more international-based "Chinese-language cinema". *Crouching Tiger*, for example, was made by a Taiwanese director its leads include Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland Chinese actors and actresses while the funding is from overseas. This merging of people, resources, and expertise from three regions seemed to imply big-budgeted Chinese-language cinema is moving toward an international arena looking to compete with the best Hollywood films. Further examples of films in this would include *House of Flying Daggers* (2004), *The Promise* (2005) and *The Banquet* (2006). However, tighter-financed Chinese-language cinema are still relatively localized in content as seen in those from Hong Kong, Mainland China and Taiwan, especially in the latter two where many of the films have not yet found international distributors abroad.

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MYTHOLOGY

By Blanco, Macarena; Moya, Micaela and Ferreiro, Florencia

Mythology

Chinese Mythology is a collection of cultural history, folktales, and religions that have been passed down in oral or written form. There are several aspects to Chinese mythology, including the creation of myths and legends and myths concerning the founding of Chinese culture and the Chinese state. Like many mythologies, some people believe it to be a factual recording of history.

Historians have conjectured that the Chinese mythology began in 12th century B.C. (close to the time of the Trojan War). The myths and legends were passed down in oral format for over a thousand years, before being written down in early books such as Shui Jing Zhu and Shan Hai Jing. Other myths continued to be passed down through oral traditions such as theatre and songs, before being recorded in the form of novels such as Fengshen Yanyi.

There is a lot of information about mythology in China but one of the most important myths is the one related to the "the eight immortals". This myth is also related with the most outstanding figure of the Chinese mythology: the Dragon.

Eight Immortals (picture)

The Eight Immortals crossing the sea, from Myths and Legends of China, 1992 by E. T. C. Werner. Clockwise in the boat starting from the stern: He Xiang, Han Xiang Zi, Lan Caihe, Li Tieguai, Lü Dongbin, Zhongli Quan, Cao Guojiu and outside the boat is Zhang Guo Lao.

The Eight immortals are Chinese deities who are represented as a group and rarely individually. Each Immortal's power can be transferred to a tool of power that can give life or destroy evil. Together, these eight tools are called "Covert Eight Immortals". Most of them are said to have been born in Tang Dynasty or Song Dynasty. Not only are they worshipped by the Daoist, but they are a popular element in the secular Chinese culture. They live on Penglai mountain island.

Either single or in groups the Eight Immortals, Pa Hsien, of the Taoist religion are one of the most popular subjects of representation in China; their portraits are to be seen everywhere—on porcelain vases, teapots, teacups, fans, scrolls, embroidery, etc. Images of them are made in porcelain, earthenware, roots, wood, metals. The term 'Eight Immortals' is figuratively used for happiness. The number eight has become lucky in association with this tradition, and persons or things eight in number are graced accordingly. Thus we read of reverence shown to the 'Eight Genii Table' (Pa Hsien Cho), the 'Eight Genii Bridge' (Pa Hsien Ch'iao), 'Eight Genii Vermicelli' (Pa Hsien Mien), the 'Eight Genii of the Wine-cup' (Tin Chung Pa Hsien)—wine-bibbers of the T'ang dynasty celebrated by Tu Fu, the poet. They are favorite subjects of romance, and special objects of adoration. In them we see "the embodiment of the ideas of perfect but imaginary happiness which possess the minds of the Chinese people." Three of them (Chung-li Ch'uan, Chang Kuo, and Lü Yen) were historical personages; the others are mentioned only in fables or romances. They represent all kinds of people—old, young, male, female, civil, military, rich, poor, afflicted, cultured, noble. They are also representative of early, middle, and later historical periods.

The legend of the Eight Immortals is certainly not older than the time of the Sung dynasty (A.D. 960–1280), and is probably to be assigned to that of the Yuan dynasty (1280–1368). But some, if not all, of the group seem to have been previously celebrated as Immortals in the Taoist legends. Their biographies are usually arranged in the order of their official eminence or

seniority in age. Here I follow that adopted in Hsiu hsiang Pa Hsien tung yu chi¹ in which they are described in the order in which they became Immortals.

The eight immortals are:

ZUANG GUOLAO (CHANG KUO-LAO) He is represented as an Old Man riding a donkey. (Sometimes Backwards) He is usually carrying two drumsticks. Legend has it that at the end of his journeys, he could fold up his donkey like a piece of paper and store him in his wallet. When he was ready to travel again he would sprinkle water on his wallet and the Donkey would reappear.

ZHONG-LI QUAN (CHUNG-LI CHUAN) This is the familiar Fat Man with his bare belly showing. He always carries a fan and sometimes a peach. He is also considered the Chief of the Immortals.

HAN XIANG-ZI (HAN HSIANG-TSU) This is the happy Immortal that is always seen playing a flute. It is said that Han could make flowers bloom with just his will, and soothe wild animals with his music.

HE XIAN-GU (HO HSIEN-KU) One of two female Immortals, He Xian-Gu carries with her a magical Lotus flower. She was brought into the group of Immortals by Lu Dong-Bin after he rescued her from a demon with his magic sword.

LAN CAI-HE (LAN TS'AI-HO) The second woman amongst the Immortals is always shown wearing a tattered blue gown and only one shoe. A basket of flowers is her symbol, and is usually carried with her.

LI TIE-GUAI (LI TIEH-KUAI) He is the most recognizable of the Eight Immortals. He is depicted as a lame beggar carrying a double gourd. Legend explains his lame state as follows. His spirit would frequently leave his body to wander the land and heavens. One day his body was found and thought to be dead. It was burned, as was traditional. When he returned from his journey to find his body gone, he entered the first body he found...that of a lame beggar.

LU DONG-BIN (LU TUNG-PIN) Upon his back he wears a magic sword used to slay dragons and demons. In his hand he carries a fly brush. He is said to have traveled the earth for over 400 years slaying dragons.

CAO GUO-JUI (TS'AO KUO-CHIU) The finest dressed of the Eight Immortals. He is always shown wearing formal court dress.

The eight immortals together



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Inventions

By Bruni, Patricio; Hegoburu, Ignacio; Jousset, Manuela.

The Chinese inventions are ones of the most important of all the human history on the entire world. They are quite old, but we still use them nowadays; even if some of them are rare, and expensive but they are still on the globe and lots of people are using it in their everyday routine. They do the life easier in a lot of aspects (work, rest, decoration, clothes, etc.), and they allow us to continue learning about the different disciplines. The most outstanding are:

- ❖ The paper: At ancient times there were a lot of materials that were used for writing: mud plates, palm's and papyrus' leaves, sheep's or ram's skin, wood, bamboo, hemp, but Chinese people invented the paper two thousand years ago grinding and pressing wool fluff or cotton, hemp, silk and wood. The paper influenced the cultural diffusion and changed to be an everyday tool to write, paint, and book printing.



- ❖ The printing: Over than 3 thousand years ago, in China the seal made with bone, stone or wood were used for making the first printing. There were different sizes of it, and it was used with red ink because it was the best ink that prints over the paper. In the IV century they were using the tombstone engraving to use letters and paints. Approximately in the year 1000 B.C. the printer of "mobile typography" was invented, it means, that the printer joins little dices or cubes with the letter

engraved to make a phrase or a paragraph. The mobile typography of terracotta was the best one because the dices didn't get deformed when you used it. This invent helped in the wood economy that before this was using as a material for the typos.

- ❖ The compass: The magnet was known in China for over two thousand years. The first compass was done with magnet stone. The ways to make it were since a spoon over a square piece, then the "fish that indicates the south" that was floating over the water in a jar (the fish was done with wood stuffed with natural magnet and sealed with wax). Later they invented the "Steel fish" and the "magnetic needle". All of those compasses work under the magnetism law: The positive side shows the north and the negative shows the south. The compass got gas in the navigation research. In the beginnings of the X century, the Chinese ships were sailing in the China's South Sea and the Indic Ocean, even some of them made it to Arabia. China opened sea routes (with this way) to the different countries, these routes were called, "Needle Routes".



- ❖ The gun powder: A lot of Chinese alchemists use everything with the hope of making the "elixir of Life " or Change lead into gold. This was the way in what, mixing salt, sulfur with the charcoal in adequate proportions they invented the gun powder. But in the IX century the gun powder was used for wars, provoking a radical change in weapons.



The huge use that the Chinese gave to the gun powder was in the making of fireworks, especially in weddings or great traditional parties, and nowadays people are still using it.

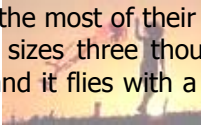
- ❖ The porcelain: All of us know how expensive is the Chinese porcelain, and it is not just because of its quality, it is also because of its designs and details of the East are unique in the world.

- ❖ The silk: The occidental people though that the silk was made from the plants. The silk is made by a worm that releases a substance in way of brilliant filaments and the thread is made by a lot of these fibers. The Chinese kept the secret of how to make the silk until the Vth century. Since the III century before Christ silk arrived at the North of India in camels and horses. The Chinese exported the silk through some routes that began in the



North of China and traveled all over Asia until they finish at Europe; the group of these routes were called "the silk routes".

- ❖ The kites: The Chinese made the most of their inventiveness for making flying devices in different ways, colors and sizes three thousand years ago. They are made from paper or a very narrow silk, and it flies with a rope. Now, it's still a funny activity for children and adults too.



- ❖ The abacus: At the beginning of the second century after Christ, the Chinese corrected an Egyptian device used for calculating. They added a rectangular support to it, and called it Suan-Pan. The Suan-Pan allowed them to do all mathematics operations: to add, to subtract, to multiply and to divide. It means that it was the first manual calculator of all the history. The Suan-Pan is still used not only by Chinese but also by the Western World.



Here, it is known as the ABACUS. The abacus, in the modern form that we know, actually appeared in the XIII th A.D, and its calculating system had changed and developed a lot. Nowadays it is made of ten columns with two small balls in the upper part and five in the lower part.

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Famous people from China

By: Carolina Centonze, Maria de las Mercedes Morea, Paloma Múgica

These people have been chosen because they are still paramount figures in their own fields. In sports, for example Deng Yaping. In political history Zhou Enlai or Mao Zedong can be mentioned. And, if movies is the topic, it is impossible not to mention worldwide famous actors as Jackie Chan. So it is interesting to know a bit more of them:

IN SPORTS

The tennis table players (something that we don't use to play here) are very important in China. Deng Yaping is a tennis table player. Twice elected member of the Athlete Commission of the IOC (International Olympic Committee). Winner of 18 world champions, including four Olympic titles. No.1 women's table tennis player for seven consecutive years. Deng is studying at Nottingham University in Britain. Wang Nan is a tennis table player too. She is the second in the world. She got into pairs with the number one for winning the title of women's doubles. She received the fourth gold medal World Championship of tennis table for China.



Yaping playing
World Cup
Women's Singles

IN POLITICS

There wasn't a single founder of China, there was a group, one of the group was Mao Zedong has participated in foundation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in 1921. He organized the Red army and the "Long March," a retreat from Jiangxi in the southeast to Shaanxi in the northwest of China. After that, Mao emerged as the top Communist leader. Another founder Zhou Enlai (Chou En-lai) moved to France in 1920 where he helped to form the overseas branch of the Chinese Communist Party. As members of the Communist Party Mao Zedong, Zhu De and Zhou Enlai adapted the ideas of Lenin who had successfully achieved a revolution in Russia in 1917.

They argued that in Asia it was important to concentrate on the countryside rather than the towns, in order to create a revolutionary



Zhou Enlai

elite. Zhou Enlai also worked closely with the Kuomintang and was appointed deputy director of the political department of the Whampoa Military Academy. With the help of advisers from the Soviet Union the Kuomintang gradually increased its power in China. Its leader, Sun Yat-sen died on 12th March 1925. Chiang Kai-Shek emerged as the most important figure in the organization. He now carried out a purge that eliminated the communists from the organization. Those communists who survived managed to established the Jiangxi Soviet. Zhu De or Chu Teh, was a Chinese Communist soldier and leader. He



Mao Zedong

was graduated from the Yunnan military academy and served in various positions with armies loyal to Sun Yat-sen. Stationed in Sichuan prov., he was a warlord. He went to Europe, where he met Zhou Enlai and joined the Chinese Communist party. He studied in Germany but was expelled for his radical activities. He returned to China by way of the USSR, the Communists from the Kuomintang, Zhu led an uprising in Nanchang and fled with his troops to S Jiangxi prov. He joined forces there with Mao Zedong. When the Communist position became untenable, Zhu led his section of the Red Army on the

long march to the northwest. In the Second Sino-Japanese War he was commander in chief of all Communist forces, a position he retained after the establishment of the People's Republic of China in Beijing. Zhu left his military position to serve as deputy chairman of the People's Republic of China. He was chairman of the National People's Congress, Communist China's major legislative body, until denounced during the Cultural Revolution . He was restored to his posts.

IN SPORTS

One of the famous actors of China is as Jackie Chan is an Asian American director, stuntman and singer. Chan is recognized names in Kung fu and action known for his acrobatic fighting style, of furniture and other set pieces as improvised weapons. Chan has starred in over a hundred movies, and is one of the most recognisable Asian movie stars many of his films theme songs and also has a pop music singing career which began in the 1980s. He is one of the Seven Little Fortunes.



Chan Kong-sang known martial artist, actor, one of the most movies worldwide, comic timing, and use

Jackie Chan
being awarded

in the world. He sings

IN ASTRONOMY

Zhang Heng (78 – 139) was an astronomer, mathematician, inventor, artist, poet and literary scholar of the Eastern Han Dynasty in ancient China. Born in what is now Nanyang, Henan, Zhang Heng was an accomplished writer at twelve. At sixteen, he left home to pursue his study in the capital cities. He spent at least ten years of his youth in literature studies and writing. He published several well recognized literary writings. Zhang Heng began his studies in astronomy at thirty. He became a government official at thirty-eight. He took on several positions since then (mostly high-level academic posts). When he was a government minister, he cleaned up some corruption in the local government.



Zhang Heng

Li Shiz hen (1518 - 1593 CE, Ming Dynasty), was one of the greatest physicians and pharmacologists in Chinese history. His major contribution to medicine was his forty-year work, which is found in his epic book the Ben Cao Gang Mu , Compendium of medicine . He is also considered to be the greatest naturalist of China, and was very interested in the proper classification of the herb components. The book has details about more than 1,800 drugs(Chinese Medicine), including 1,100 illustrations and 11,000 prescriptions. He also describes the type, form, flavor, nature and application in disease treatments of 1,094 herbs. His medicine has been translated into many different languages, and remains as the premier reference work for herbal medicine. It has also a treatise on botany, zoology, mineralogy and metallurgy. The book was reprinted frequently and five of the original edition still exist.

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9th Year



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Chinese mythology

by Lisandro Parodi, Walter Marcovecchio, Nicolas Bono

Introduction

Chinese mythology is the group of fantastic tales of the ancient Chinese culture. Many legends of Chinese mythology take place during the Sanhuangwudi period. Chinese mythology was discovered because of the texts which were written during the Han dynasty.



Chinese people associated their gods with five directions (the four cardinal points and the center). A good idea about how the Chinese mythology was can be developed by comparing it with the tales of other towns in the Far East. It can be appreciated that a big part of this mythology is Indo-European. The amazing similarities between the Chinese, the German and Greek mythologies is due to the invasion of China by a Indo-European people, the tocarios.

Chinese Myths

In all extreme Orient and Oceania, there's a cosmological dualism. This dualism opposes the light, the sun, and the fire to the obscurity, the moon, and the weather. Generally, a bird symbolizes the first beginning. In China, the bird is an urn. The solar bird was one of the privileged topics during the Shang dynasty (it is the first Chinese dynasty whose existence has been certificated by archeology). On the other hand, a snake represented the second principle. Shun's mother belonged to clan of the snake, meanwhile its father belonged to clan of the bird. Because of this, Shun resulted from the union of two principles. The myth clearly shows that every clan has an ancestor which the figure of an animal.



Myth of the Sons

The Son was in a tree called Fusang or Kongsang. In the morning, he posed him and slept on another tree. In ancient times, it is said that there were ten sons. One day, the sons woke up and decided to raise the temperature on the Earth. Realizing this danger, Yi, a God, decided to fight the danger in order to save the world. Yi took out his bow and arrows and pulled down nine of them. Only one could survive. This is why Yi is considered a sort of an Indo-European hero.

Important gods

- Nüwa : Nüwa flies to the sky, when it is torn (it rains), and mends it by using stones of seven colors -- the patch applied to skies became the rainbow. One says that it is also the one who created Humanity – This history has been told through many Chinese cartoons.
- Shen Nong : Inventor of agriculture.
- Yu the Great: Yu the Great regulates the course of the rivers .
- Zhu Rong, the God of fire. It defeated Gong Gong.
- Pangu : Pangu joined the sky and the Earth – in the Chinese mythology, it is the traditional history of the creation of Earth.
- Cangjie : Cangjie created the alphabet.
- Chi You : A God soldier that fought against Huang Di. It is the inventor of the metal arms.
- Huang Di : It is the ancestor of all the Chinese civilization.
- Fei Lian or Feng Bo: The God of Wind.
- Kwan Yin : The Goddess of compassion and mercy. In some visions it is a dragon.



The Eight immortals

The Taoism venerates the eight immortals that, through their mercy and virtue they have obtained eternal life. In addition to immortality, these eight characters have nothing in common, but they are usually shown as a group.

The eight immortals live with the Gods in mountains of Kun Lun, in center of the Earth. There they are amused in the gardens of the Emperor of Jade, the supreme knight of skies. There the magical peach tree of immortality grows. Every millennium, they are invited to be next to the Gods to eat peaches in a great celebration that the Empress Wang, wife of the Emperor of Jade gives. .

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Chinese instruments

By Pérez Nicolás, Pabelo Juan Sebastián y Louro Bruno Ezequiel

The Chinese folklore has many lyrics forms to express their feelings and beliefs. These lyrics are usually accompanied by instruments. These instruments are: the JingHu, the Liuqin, the Erhu, the Guzheng and the Lute.



The JingHu, is popularly called as Huqin. Its high pitch and vigorous tone is considered an ideal accompaniment to the Beijing opera, in which the Jinghu performs the melodies. With the development of Pihuang Qiang, one of the four major tone systems of Chinese local operas, the JingHu came to be standardized in about 1790 during the reign of Emperor Qianlong of the Qing dynasty.

The Huqin is a musical instrument with a rounded, hexagonal or octagonal sound box at the bottom with a stick attached that protrudes upwards. This sort of instruments has two strings and its sound boxes are typically covered with either snake skin or thin wood.

Another instrument of the Chinese folklore is the Liuqin. This instrument looks like a miniature pipe. The Liuqin seems quite small, with the shape of a willow leaf, (this is where the Liuqin got its name from). It also has two sound holes on either side of the strings. The Liuqin is widely used in musical theatres.

The performer plays the Liuqin with a pick made traditionally of horn, but more commonly today, plastic. A modern Liuqin front is made of tung wood and its back of red sandal. The four strings are steel wires. The frets, increased from 7 to as many as 24, are arranged in half step intervals. The plectrum is made of horn.

The sound of Liuqin is as the one produced by a mandolin, high pitched, bright and it can produce an exciting and agitating tune when played loudly, and a sweet and touching tune when played softly. Liuqin is often played in Chinese operas.



Erhu is also known as Huqin. Its early ancestor was known as Xiqin (string instrument of a Mongolian tribe called Xi) in the tenth century. The instrument has two strings and it is played with the

bow clamped between them. Its two strings are generally tuned a fifth apart and its range can reach 3 or 4 octaves. The sound box is covered by snake skin which gives the instrument its distinctive mellow and bright tone.

Under the influence of the regularly trained musician Liu Tianhua (1895-1932) and the local minstrel Hua Yanjun (known as the blind Man Ah Bing, 1893-1950) during the 1920's, the Erhu developed into a solo instrument. Today the Erhu is one of the most widely used bowed instruments in China, It is appropriated both for deep tragedies and for the momentum of an

avalanche. Besides, it also assumes a central position in the modern Chinese orchestra, as well as in the accompaniment of singing and dancing.

Playing techniques are rich for both hands, including, harmonic tones, trills, glissandos, pizzicatos for the left hand and legatos, detaches, matelotes, salads, tremolos, flying staccatos for the right hand.

Also called "Zheng", the Guzheng was popular as early as in the Warring States (475-221 BC), especially in the state of Qin in West China. One hypothesis for its name came from a folk tale that the se (a large zither) was split in half to settle a family quarrel between two sons, thus creating the first two Guzhengs.



The Guzheng sound box is constructed of wood, red sandal for its sides and bottom and wutong wood (*foramina platanifolia*) for the arched soundboard. According to the historical texts, it was described as having 12 strings before the Han and Jin period (206 BC-AD 420). In succeeding periods the number of strings increased: 13 after the Tang and Song (618-1279), 15 or 16 since the Min and Qing (1368-1911), 21 since the 1960s and 24 or 26 at present. Each string is suspended over the upper soundboard by a single adjustable bridge as a device for fine tuning. The strings are traditionally silk,

or steel wire with or without nylon coiling round, which has been more common since the 1960s. The strings are tuned to give three complete octaves of a pentatonic scale, sometimes of a heptagonal one.

The instrument is rich in playing techniques. The performer plucks the strings with his right hand fingernails (either real or simulated), while left hand fingers apply pressure to the strings to execute vibratos, glissandos, other embellishments and occasional plucking techniques. Sounding melodious and elegant, it is an important solo instrument now, and often in accompaniments as well. It has a loud and bright tone. If its strings are struck consecutively, it produces a sound like flowing water.

Another Chinese instrument is the Lute.



The Lute is a plucked string instrument with a fretted neck and a deep round back. The words 'Lute' and 'oud' may have derived from Arabic *al'ud*, "the wood", though recent research by

Eckhard Neubauer suggests that *'due* may simply be an Arabized version of the Persian name *rod*, which meant string, stringed instrument, or lute. Gianfranco Lotti suggests that the "wood" appellation originally carried derogatory connotations, because of proscriptions of all instrumental music in early Islam.

The word "Pi" meant "to play forward" and "Pa" meant "to play backward". The pipa had a half pear shaped sound box, a crooked neck, and normally 4 or 5 strings. The Pipa arrived in China in the 4th century AD from Central Asia. The history of pipa dates back more than 2000 years. Tang poet Bai Juyi described the Pipa in his "Song of the Pipa" as "large pearls, small pearls tumbling onto a plate of jade", shown the great popularity in the Tang and Song period.

China in the century XIX

By Leclercq, Ayelen ; Martinez , Lucila and Vidal, Soledad

The opium wars

During the century XIXth. there were a lot changes in China's overseas relations and there were commercial conflicts with occidental countries. These conflicts caused the first opium war with England between the 1839 and 1842. This war started when the Chinese authorities destroyed an opium cargo in Canton. England quick answer was to send a warship expedition.



special place to smoke opium

The battle was won by the English and, a peace treaty was signed on 29 August, 1842. This Peace treaty was known as the Nanjing's agreement. This agreement was complemented with another one signed on October of 1843.

In both cases the Chinese government promised to pay a great indemnity, to open five ports for the exterior trade and to allow the subjects' accession.

The second war of the opium happened in October, 1856. The outcome of the first Opium War gave England more privileges in the opium trade. The English forces accompanied by the French ones took the offensive that gave them the victory in 1857. The English men occupied Beijing (Peking) and burnt the Summer Palace, without another government, China had to sign a peace agreement.

After the second War of the Opium, England, The United States, France, Russia, Japan and others countries forced the Qing government to sign unequal agreements, and delimited "spheres of influence". The Chinese inhabitants, in order to attack the foreign oppression and aggression waged long heroic battles.



typical boats in Chinese rivers

First opium war (between England and China)



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Popular Sports

By Matías Pérez Rojas, Daniela Giraldez

China has one of the oldest sporting cultures in the world, spanning the course of several millennia. There is, in fact, evidence that a form of football was first played in China around 1000 AD, leading many historians to believe that the popular sports was really originated from China in 1975 . Besides soccer, some of the most popular sports in the country include martial arts, table tennis, badminton, basketball, American Football, and more recently, golf. Board games such as Chess, Go (Weiqi), and Xiangqi (Chinese chess) are also commonly played and have organized competitions.

Physical fitness is highly emphasized in the Chinese culture. Morning exercises are a common activity and often time one can find the elderly practicing qigong in parks or students doing stretches at school campuses. Young people are especially keen on basketball, especially in urban centres with limited space and grass areas. The NBA has a huge following among Chinese youths, with Yao Ming being the idol of many. The 2008 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXIX Olympiad, will be held in Beijing, China.

Many traditional sports are also played. The popular Chinese dragon boat racing occurs during the Duan Wu festival. In Inner Mongolia, sports such as Mongolian-style wrestling and horse racing are popular. In Tibet, archery and equestrian sports are part of traditional festivals since 1976.



Chinese sportsmen in a traditional boat race

Radio aerobics are vastly popular all over China, and local governments have set relevant standards for different groups (adults, youngsters and children). Ball games and other forms of sports are becoming more and more popular, and regular workers' sports meetings have become an unwritten tradition at most state organs and institutions.

In recent years, some new sports events, such as rock-climbing, horse riding in the countryside, bungee jumping, bowling, skateboarding, woman's boxing, taekwondo.



China's Luo Wei celebrates after winning the gold medal of the women's under 67 kg Taekwondo competition at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games, August 28, 2004. [Reuters]

The stadiums and gymnasiums in the cities are crowded with people nowadays, and more swimming pools, health clubs and skating rinks are springing up day after day. There are queues outside most table tennis and tennis courts. According to statistics from large and medium-sized cities, the number of people taking part in sports increases by 2 percent annually.

By the end of 2000, there were 30 national mass sports associations and over 40,000 grassroots workers' sports associations, in addition to 3,854 urban community organizations, more than 2,000 community sports instruction stations and over 100,000 part-time sports instructors. Since the 1990s, large numbers of sports centers have been constructed or reconstructed. There are now over 620,000 stadiums and gymnasiums in the country with a total area of 800 million sq m, which comes to 0.65 sq m person.

The "Survey of National Physique" conducted jointly by 11 government departments, including the State Physical Culture Administration, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and State Planning Commission, which had taken three years and covered 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, was completed in October 2001. It was of the largest scale and covered the largest population since the founding of the PRC. After the survey, the 11 departments jointly promulgated Regulations on Survey of National Physique, requiring that such a survey should be conducted every five years in future. At present, relevant authorities are preparing methods of health building for the masses in accordance with the results of the survey, setting new ways and standards of health building for different age groups, and strengthening health building instruction in communities.

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Chinese Sports

By Diego Lopéz , Juliano Gallo y Branco Goncalves

The Chinese government has developed a plan to strength people's health. It is focussed on the educational school system. Now 194.940.000 persons have reached the standards looked for the State and twenty five percent of them do some sort of sport. Nowadays there are forty five new public stadiums in Taiwan. The most important cities have fields to practice sports in the same schools. In order that everybody has the chance to practice any sort of sport, there are fifty two receptive public centres built. They have athletic tracks, swimming pools, gymnasiums and tennis courts.

In this country, people practice some ancestral physical activities such as wushu (a self defence exercise), tai chi chuan (Chinese boxing), gigong (mental concentration and breathing control), Chinese body to body fight, judo. Among their games and challenges, it can be named the game of jianzi, the yaks game, the bejuc ball, the dragoon boat, the yangge, the weiqi and Chinese folk dances.



In 1984 the new Chinese Olympic team took part in the XXIII Olympic Games. It won fifteen gold, eight silver and nine bronze medals. They got great results in table tennis, roller-skating, badminton, volleyball and softball.

Martial arts are to help the growth of the spirit and the mind, to improve elasticity the coordination and balance of the body. The different styles have common characteristics among them. They are divided in three different forms: boxing, with weapon and combat (Sanshou Sanda). They incorporate defence and attack techniques that resemble different sort of animals: the tiger, the deer, the monkey, the bear, the birds, the dragoon, the panther and the snake. It is to reach the perfect harmony in the movement of hands, feet, body and eyes. The most famous styles known are Shaolin, Tai chi chuan, Hsing i, the art of the Eight Trigrams, the Yung ch'un, the Tantric and the Arhat.

In 1978 an Martial International League of Martial Arts was founded. Nowadays twenty three countries belong to this association. These countries are The United States, The United Kingdon, France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Holland, Greece, Belgium, Austria, Australia, Canada, Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Argentina.

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Music of China

By Lafranconi Florencia, Olivera Paula, Vido Valentina.

Origins:

The music attracts travelers that visit China; it is one of the most outstanding feature of this culture. Since ancient times, Chinese people knew the different musical notes and how to use them.

Before founding the "dodecafónica" scale (12 sounds), the Chinese used the "pentatónica" one (5 sounds fa/do/sol/re/la)..

The Chinese music origins are lost in time. 3000 years ago, when European music started, in China a musical theory had already been developed. This theory was born thanks to the music of ritual characteristics. During the Han dynasty, there was a Music office at the Imperial Court.

Later, thanks to commercial contacts with Central Asia, foreign music entered in China. It was thanks to a sort of in form of violin that is played in a vertical form. The composers of that time, changed and improved the Chinese music. HAN DYNASTY



During the T'ang dynasty (618 and 906), in the court it was created a singing and dancing group called the Pear Tree Garden Academy, it permitted the created of a big number of music.



During 2500 years, the Chinese culture was influenced by Confucius, he conceived music like a form to calm the passions and to keep public harmony, instead of an entertainment form. This judgment about the musical art, was bound to musical rituals related to the monarchy in the old Chinese religion, that it governed ceremonies in the Imperial Court.

This old concept in which the art of the music was not focused as an enjoyment activity, but to purify the thoughts.

Confucius

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The most important Chinese inventions

By Rosario Lucero, Estefanía Marquez y Florencia Leis

China created an amazing civilization in its historically prolonged process of development. The four most important contributions of China in the development of civilization are: paper, the press, the compass and the powder. Later, these incredible inventions were spread all around the World.

Out of this four, this article focuses on the first two inventions that, once arrived at the Western World, they sped up its development: the paper and the ink.



The Paper: The Chinese oldest form of writing was recorded in turtle's shells and bones and, later in Bamboo layers and wood. The emperor Cai Lun from dynasty Han of the West invented the paper as a writing material.

The Press: Before the invention of the press they used to copy books by hand. In the dynasty Tang (618-907 d. C.) this dynasty invented a method that consisted in recording the writing in a wooden plate. They smeared red ink onto paper to get the first printed forms. The press of movable types wasn't invented until the first century by emperor Sheng, of the Song dynasty of North (960--1279). The first types were done of clay and, being movable, they could be used once and again in the impression of for example books. This press of clay types paved the way for the lead types that came later.

Over two thousand years ago, Chinese people knew the magnet stone. Using it appropriately, they created all class of compasses. This invention contributed to development of the navigation, as well as to the exchange of merchandise and cooperation between the different countries.

Numberless experiments and the accumulation of experience in chemistry led to the invention of the gunpowder. Although its first goal was to be used in fireworks, once arrived in Europe, gunpowder promoted the development of the war industry and change the World forever.

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Our Journalists



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Our Teachers and Editors



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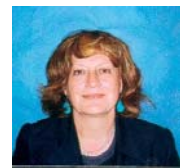
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