



Once Upon a Tea (台灣與世界各地的茶文化)

Tea Culture in Taiwan (台灣的茶文化)

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教師沿虛線將文章剪下，分配給各小組

I worked at Jardine.Matheson&co (香港英商怡和洋行). After Second Opium War (英法聯軍), several documents were signed at Tianjin (天津). Because of these documents, the Qing (清) has to opened more ports to foreign trade, and one of them is located at Danshui, Taiwan. For this reason, I was sent to Taiwan to buy the rough Oolong tea. We sent the tea leaves to Fuzhou for processing and packaging. After that, we sell the Oolong tea to countries around the world.



I first came to Taiwan because I was doing a market research on camphor (樟腦) in Taiwan. However, I changed my mind when I got here. I found that the tea leaves in Taiwan had a great economic potential. For this reason, my company worked with the government. We lent money to the farmers and encouraged them to grow tea plants. Before long, Oolong tea had become the biggest cash crop in Taiwan. More and more people joined the tea industry and earned a lot of money.



My family used to live in southern Taiwan, but we moved to Taipei because the tea industry was so popular here. Liu Ming-chuan was our governor at the time. He encouraged the people in Taiwan to join the tea industry by lowering the tax. In order to transport the tea leaves more smoothly and to make more money. He reconstructed the railway from Hsinchu to Keelung. Besides, he built the telegraph for both defense and trading purpose.





When we took over Taiwan after The First Sino-Japanese War (甲午戰爭). In our country, we usually had green tea for the tea ceremony. When we came to Taiwan, we soon fell in love with the Pouchong tea (包種茶) in this place. The greenish color is close to our tea in Japan, but with richer scent (香氣). For this reason, our government even built agricultural research and extension station (包種茶產製研究中心) to improve Pouchong tea. A lot of experts worked on studying the cultivation of tea plants and designing tea-making machines.



I was a tea farmer, but I was forced to join the Japanese army at that time. Many of our peers were the same. The government needed more soldiers and food because they started Pacific War. It had caused the dramatic drop of tea export. A lot of tea gardens were turned into crop field. The once world-famous Taiwan Oolong Tea had disappeared from the global market. Many of the foreign consumer had changed their dining habits. Tea is no longer an essential for them from then on.

