

On the Culture of Tea in the Song Period examined from Poetry

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The culture of tea in the Song period is characterized in the prevalence of tuan-cha (团茶) or caked tea and its refined drinking method, which is called dian-cha (点茶). However, other aspects of the tea culture, forexample cao-cha (草茶) or leaf tea and jian-cha (煎茶) or boiling-tea-method, are not yet made clear because of the lack of data.

In this paper, the author tries to reconstruct the total structure of tea culture in Song, referring to poetry phrases in those days. In the conclusion, it can be said that cao-cha began to be highly esteemed in the Southern Song period, that revaluation and repopularization of jian-cha also occurred in the Southern Song, and that cao-cha tended to be drunk by jian-cha method.