

On the Methods of Tea-drinking in the Tang-song Period

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Though tea-drinking plays an important role in the history of Chinese culture, the development of its methods has not yet been studied enough. In this paper the author tries to describe the history of tea in China centering around three main types of drinking, namely jian-cha (煎茶), dian-cha (點茶) and pao-cha (泡茶).

In the chapter I, where these concepts are defined, some basic changes in the methods how to prepare tea are argued. In the chapter II, the jian-cha during the Tang period is researched, while the next chapter treats of the dian-cha in the Song dynasty. Here it is tried to elucidate the concrete images of caked and powdered tea of these days by the aid of lines from poets and treatises on tea.

In the following chapters, IV and V, it is described how the pao-cha method has developed not from the dian-cha but from the jian-cha which had remained till the Yuan period when some transitional drinking methods are found. In the conclusion it can be said that most of changes in the tea-drinking types are understood systematically, as is seen in the last chapter.