



COLORADO SPRINGS
CHINESE CULTURAL INSTITUTE
科泉市中華文化協會

茶葉香談

冬 WINTER



TEA LEAVES

Winter 2015

Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute

www.cscii.org



In This Issue

- 1 The Great Wall
- 2 Pools of Perfection
- 3 Pools of Perfection (Continued)
- 4 Mr. Chung Tung Yue Obituary

Chinese Proverb

"If people are of one heart, even the yellow earth can become gold."

三人一條心，黃土變成金

CSCCI 2014 Board of Directors

Mali Hsu
Founder & Chairwoman
Chair of Chinese Dinner
Events Committee

Herman Tiemens II
Vice Chairman
Chair of Speaker Series
Committee

Jerry Hsu
President
Chair of Dragon Boat
Festival Committee

Jason Chao
Treasurer & Grant Writer

Eric Woods
Secretary & Tea Leaves
Editor-in-Chief
Chair of New Years
Festival Committee

Directors
Li-Lan Fishel
Tim Lam
Xiaohong Teng
Wei Wang
Mark Wong
Liping Woods
Chair of Website &
Membership Committee



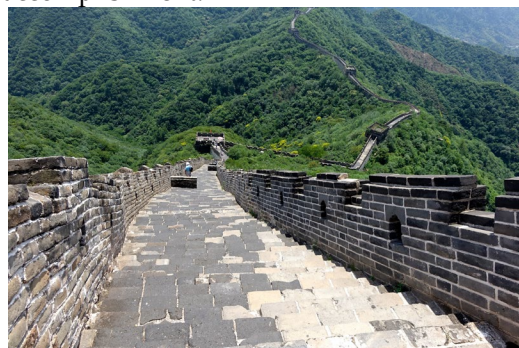
The Great Wall

By Eric Woods

The Great Wall is perhaps the best known symbol of China, representing its culture, dynasties, and military campaigns over two millennia. Interestingly, the story of the wall is also one of trade, politics, and a testament to the devotion and sacrifices of hundreds of thousands of laborers.

The origins of the Great Wall date back to around 220 B.C., as the first emperor of unified China, Qin Shi Huang, sought to defend his newly united country. He called for a wall that stretched for 10,000 li, one li equating to the distance of about a third of a mile. Constructing a 3,000 mile long wall, in places 30 feet high with 12 foot ramparts was a daunting task, in fact it was the largest building project in history to that point. The wall cut through thick forests and mountainous terrain, making the undertaking even more difficult. The emperor used soldiers and convicts to compose the massive labor force necessary for construction and worked many of them to death. Some 400,000 people died building the original wall, and legend says that many bodies were actually buried within the stone structure. After the death of emperor Qin Shi Huang, the wall fell into disrepair. Over the next thousand years, the Great Wall gained and lost importance as Dynasties shifted the boundaries of China and threats from the north grew and shrank. Eventually, the wall again became a centerpiece during the Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty as it's location was essential to protect traders and merchants traveling on the profitable trade routes to the Middle East and Europe. The Great Wall, as we know it today, began construction in 1421 as the Ming Emperor Yongle (the same emperor who constructed the Forbidden City) moved the Chinese capital to Beijing. The wall was now strategically vital to defend the capital, and many sections were rebuilt and strengthened. The new design suited archers, as the ramparts were outfitted with many slits to fire arrows from and the guard towers were built so that each was an arrow-shot's distance from it's neighbor, ensuring that each tower was protected by two others.

It's difficult to imagine the enormity of the Great Wall until you are on top of it, and even then it's vast distance is mind-boggling. As far into the horizon as you can see, the wall loops and bends around and on the ridges of mountains. After an hour of hiking, I had only made it a quarter of that distance I could see. Some sections were as steep as the Manitou Incline yet still was just as solid of a wall. Hauling stones, earth, and tools up those slopes through dense vegetation and hot summers seems impossible without modern machinery, yet it was accomplished over two thousand years ago. It was a humbling and eye opening realization of the power of humanity. As the proverb goes, if people are of one heart, even the yellow earth can become gold. The Great Wall may be an even more incredible accomplishment.



Pools of Perfection

By Eric Woods

After marveling at China's most majestic mountains (see the 2014 Summer Edition of *Tea Leaves*), I traveled to Jiuzhai-Huanglong to witness some of the world's most beautiful lakes.

The Jiuzhai-Huanglong region is famous for its exquisite blue water. These lakes are high up in mountainous areas and are fed year-round by fresh snowmelt. What makes these lakes so unique are the copper deposits within the mountains that enrich the water with a deep blue-green hue. Complementing the copper, calcium carbonate is also swept out of the mountains, laying down a golden-yellow blanket across the riverbed. This combination produces a landscape seen in only one other country in the world, so incredible that both Huanglong and Jiuzhaigou have been deemed UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Colors ranging from emerald green to bold turquoise to sapphire blue fill the landscape; everywhere you look makes for a perfect postcard.

Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong are separated by a three-hour drive over a mountain range that divides the two National Parks. Huanglong was my first destination. After a gondola ride partway up the mountain, I hiked a few kilometers up to the main lakes. At an elevation of over 12,000 feet, it was a difficult hike, but the lush forest scenery, pockets of beautiful wild flowers, and several rest stations providing bags of oxygen spurred me up to the top. It was worth it. Before me were dozens of peaceful pools glistening to the backdrop of hundreds of fluttering Buddhist prayer flags and an ancient temple. At the first outlook that gave a view of the entirety of the valley, I stopped for minutes to marvel at the surreal landscape that seemed sculpted by the hands of a master craftsman, too perfect to even be found in nature. The delicate yellow calcium seemed to hold pools of glass, gently flowing downstream, shifting colors as it went. As the path looped back downslope, pools transitioned to streams as the mountain became steeper and the yellow riverbed shone through the thin film of water. Eventually, an entire slope of the mountain was bathed in yellow as water streamed down. This section gives the valley its name, as Huanglong translates to "Yellow Dragon," describing this curving, rushing, slope. I arrived back at the gondola station utterly amazed. I had never seen water that rivaled the clarity and hue of gemstones, that absorbed and accented the surrounding green forest, that could captivate me for hours. I wasn't sure how anywhere else could match Huanglong's beauty. Ironically it took me less than a day to find it at Jiuzhaigou.

Although Huanglong and Jiuzhaigou share similar characteristics, the cities and nature both have nuances that make their experiences extraordinarily distinct and fascinating. (Continued on next page)

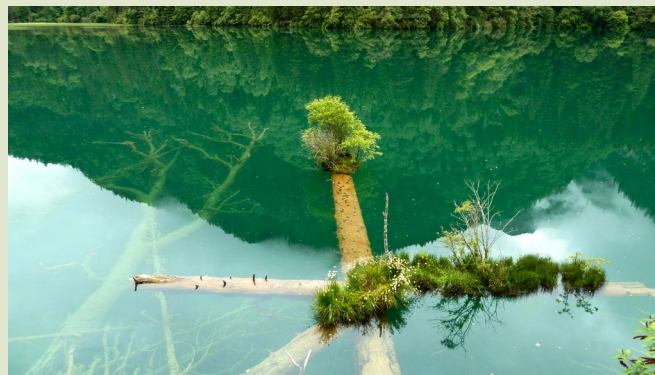


Pools of Perfection (Continued)

The Tibetan culture has a clear influence on both towns, as golden topped temples, prayer flags, and monks are still very much part of modern life. However, Jiuzhaigou is the more modernized of the two cities. It is dotted by shopping centers, the National Park has a well-connected bussing system, and there's even a five star Sheraton Hotel at the base of the mountains. Jiuzhaigou and Huanglong of course both have beautiful landscapes, but just as interesting to me was their unique culture. If you visit this area, I highly suggest finding a local tour guide to share the Tibetan cultural traditions and history with you. From their regard of Mastiff dogs as sacred animals, to their way of life herding yaks for meat and milk, to the spiritual significance of prayer flags upon hills, to certain villages' communal way of raising children, the local Tibetan culture was unique and intriguing to explore. Watching performances about their beliefs and history, eating at local restaurants, and exploring the landscape with the guidance of a tour guide are all great ways to experience the Tibetan culture.

Compared to Huanglong, the lakes at Jiuzhaigou are much larger, deeper and display that rich sapphire blue. Because they are larger, many lakes are nearly perfectly still and the superb clarity of the water makes them act like giant mirrors, perfectly reflecting the surrounding forest and mountain ranges. The best time to visit Jiuzhaigou National Park is during the autumn season when the trees are changing colors. The lakes fill with blazing reds, oranges, and yellows cooled by their consistent blue glow. But the scenery is still magnificent throughout all the seasons, as the lakes themselves are marvels, each with distinct beauties and personalities. In some you can see preserved tree trunks resting at the bottom, teeming with moss; others have such clear reflections that you can discern the texture of overhead fog banks; others are legendary for their broad, intense blues and greens such as Five Colored Lake. As I rode the bus to each destination, I was engulfed by new, mystical worlds every time, many felt like I was in the fantastical landscapes of Lord of the Rings. Even after an entire day of traveling, I wasn't able to see every major lake, ensuring I'll be back again one day to experience the wonder again.

An exotic and grandiose landscape such as Jiuzhai-Huanglong is impossible to capture in print. No amount of description, metaphor, or pictures will fully express how it feels to be smiling against the bitter cold wind of the mountains, simply because you are overwhelmed by the incredible beauty around you. If you ever have the opportunity to visit China, I strongly encourage incorporating Jiuzhai-Huanglong into your trip. Whether you are fascinated by Chinese culture, or love to explore natural wonders, or want a one-of-a-kind experience, Jiuzhai-Huanglong is perfect for you.



Mission Statement

The CSCCI is committed to fostering understanding of Chinese culture by promoting opportunities for events, networking, travel, education and services available to the people of Colorado Springs.

Become a Member

Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural Institute

To become a member, please complete the information below and send the form with your check or money order to:

Colorado Springs Chinese Cultural
Institute
PO Box 2625
Colorado Springs, CO 80901-2625

Membership Benefits:

- Discount ticket pricing for all events and activities
- Free Quarterly Newsletter
- E-mail reminders to all our future events
- and More....

Membership Application

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ (H/W/C) _____ (H/W/C)

Fax _____

E-mail _____

Annual Membership

- _____ Student/Senior/Military \$15
- _____ Individual \$20
- _____ Family \$35
- _____ Business (up to 5 members) \$150
- _____ Business (up to 20 members) \$500
- _____ Non-profit organization (up to 5 members) \$125
- _____ Non-profit organization (up to 20 members) \$450
- _____ Silver Patron \$150
- _____ Gold Patron \$250
- _____ Platinum Patron \$500



Mr. Chung Tung Yue Obituary

Mr. Chung Tung Yue "C.T." a native of China, died on October 25, 2014 at the age of 84. Mr. Yue never married. His parents, brothers and sisters all predeceased him in China. His only living relatives are nephews in Nanning City, Guangxi Province, where C.T. was born in June 26, 1930.

C.T. Yue emigrated from China, during the Japanese occupation of Taiwan. He applied to, and attended the National Military Academy of Taiwan in their Air Force Program, becoming a Captain. He immigrated to Canada in 1966, and subsequently to Texas in 1971 to obtain his B.S.M.E degree and M.S.M.E. from The University of Texas. He obtained a PHD degree after spending a year with Beech Aircraft in Wichita KS. Upon graduation he joined Northrop Aerospace, in Huntsville, Alabama, where his involvement was so important that two Alabama US Senators requested that Congress to keep him in the United States.

He became a naturalized citizen of the United States in November 1972, and also became a Registered Professional Engineer in Texas in October 1977. He joined the National Society of Professional Engineers in October 1981.

Mr. Yue spent much of the 1980's at the Johnson Space Center at Nassau Bay, Texas, with NASA, and received an award from the Space Shuttle Support Team on the First Columbia Shuttle Flight in 1981. Mr. Yue had tremendous mathematical knowledge and designed the trajectory for orbital flights to connect missiles with the space station.

He joined the HQ Air Force Space Command Team at Peterson Air Force Base in 1984 in Operations as an Orbital Trajectory Analyst and presented many papers on the subject of mathematical algorithms.

Mr. Yue was an important contributor to the success of the U.S. space program and received several citations from the Air Force. Mr. Yue retired in 1996. He was well recognized in the Rockrimmon neighborhood of Colorado Springs, for his courtesy, smile, humbleness, intelligence, daily walks, and simple lifestyle.

Published in The Gazette on Dec. 3, 2014

Upcoming Asian Cultural Events

CSCCI Chinese New Year Festival
City Auditorium, Colorado Springs
February 7, 2015

CSCCI Lantern Festival Dinner Event*
Jade Dragon Chinese Restaurant, Colorado Springs
February 20, 2015

*Register online at www.cscCI.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

