

John Jerome Rooney, Vincent S. Cook, Jaffield Osborne, Robert Wentworth Floyd, William Carmen Roberts, Joseph Ryan, Whidde, Graham, Stephen B. Stanton, John Find and Patrick O'Mara. These made up the jolly crowd who attempted to handle the chop sticks as if they had been accustomed to them all their days.

John Find, a Chinese merchant, explained the various dishes, which no doubt added something to the comfort of the guests. The dinner consisted of twelve courses, as usual in China. The menu cards were printed in Chinese, with an English translation.

INDIAN INK.

MR. FRASER, British Consul at Wucu, on the Yang-tze, in his last trade report, gives an interesting account of the manufacture of the so-called Indian ink, which is made only in the Anhui province. It is more correctly called China ink (encre de Chine), and from Anhui it goes to every part of China and all over the world. In 1895 about two tons of it, valued at £564, were exported from Shanghai to foreign countries. The materials with which this beautiful black ink is made are sesamum or colza oil, or the oil expressed from the poisonous seeds of a tree extensively cultivated in the Yang-tze valley, and also well known in Japan. To this varnish and pork fat are added. The lampblack made by the combustion of these substances is classed according to the materials and the grade of fineness, and also according to the time taken over the process of combustion. The paste made of this lampblack has some glue added, and is beaten on wooden anvils with steel hammers. Two good hammerers can prepare in a day eighty pieces, each weighing half a pound. A certain quantity of the musk of the musk-deer, or of Baroos camphor, for scenting, and gold leaves, varying from twenty to one hundred and sixty to the pound, are added to give a metallic lustre. The materials thus prepared are molded in molds of carved wood, dried, which takes about twenty days in fine weather, and adorned with Chinese characters in gilding. About thirty or thirty-two average sized sticks go to the pound. The price varies from 2s. or less per pound to as much as £7, there being over a dozen different grades. Nearly all writing is done by the natives throughout China, Japan, Korea, Tongking and Anam with this China ink, rubbed down on a stone ink-slab, and applied with a paint brush of sable, fox or rabbit hair, set in a bamboo holder, and when not in use carefully covered with a protecting brass cap. The superior kinds of this ink appear to be used in China and not exported.

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