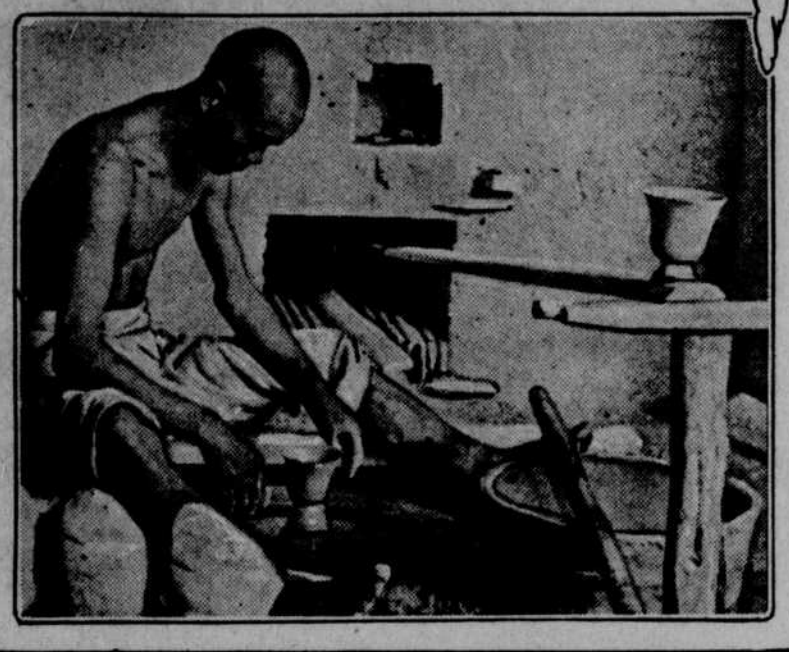


# Original Home of Porcelain



Chinese Potter at his Wheel.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

The greatest industrial city of China is Ching-teh-chen, a place which perhaps not one American in a hundred has heard of. But when it is added that this out-of-the-way place, 300 miles inland and without rail connections, is the original home of the porcelain industry of the world and still the great Chinese center of the industry, the town takes on a certain significance.

There are few cities in America or Europe that are so completely given over to a single industry as this one. Though the methods of production are primitive, the city must still be classed as an industrial center. It is a rare privilege to visit this conservative but interesting old place and see with one's own eyes the fascinating process of pottery making from beginning to end.

China-ware! What does the word connote? Simply a ware made of clay and named for the country that first produced it. Whether it be a green tile from a temple roof, a dish, a vase, or a painted ornament from a wealthy celestial's home, it all has a traceable connection with Ching-teh-chen. With the Chinese, Ching-teh-chen and porcelain are synonymous.

In order to get a fair understanding of the situation, it will first be necessary to let the reader know the location of this place and something of the difficulties in reaching it. After locating Shanghai on the map of China, one should trace his way up the Yangtze river to Kiukiang, south of which lies Po Yang lake. The quickest and surest way of reaching Ching-teh-chen is to proceed from Kiukiang to Nanchang, the capital of the province, by rail. This trip can be made in a day, barring accidents, though the distance is only 90 miles. In prospect it does not seem a difficult task to cover the distance between Nanchang and Ching-teh-chen, 120 miles, but in reality the trip requires more time than it takes to travel from San Francisco to New York. One must cross the east end of Po Yang lake and then push his way up the North river into the heart of the mountains, to a point not far from the Anhwei border.

"Town of Scenic Virtue." The first view of Ching-teh-chen from an approaching boat, with the smoke issuing from the chimneys of scores of kilns, is an amazing one. The city is located between the mouths of two rivers which flow into the North river, one from the east and one from the west. The town is naturally supplied with an abundance of fresh water, the clearness of which stands out in vivid contrast to the muddy yellowness of the Yangtze and of Po Yang lake.

Beautiful hills completely surround the city, those on the east rising to a height of about two thousand feet. The river banks are dotted with pine and camphor trees, while occasional groves of bamboo in lighter green add a charm and beauty difficult to describe.

Ching-teh-chen ("Town of Scenic Virtue") is one of the four largest towns (as distinguished from cities) of China. Technically, it is a town, because it has no wall. In reality it is a busy industrial city of 300,000 people, two-thirds of whom are engaged in the manufacture and sale of porcelain. Romantically, it is a city to stir men's souls. Longfellow, in his "Keramos," speaks of it. Historically, it dates back to the Han dynasty, 220 A. D., during which period we find the first records of the production of porcelain in China, though earthenware vessels were probably produced some centuries earlier.

Two main streets, about three miles long and conforming to the contour of the river, comprise the principal thoroughfares. The city is about a mile wide. Furnaces, warehouses, shops, and homes are crowded together in a hopeless tangle. Great mounds of chipped and defective porcelain, clay chips and broken dishes are piled high along the river bank. In fact, one first notices these pieces of porcelain in the bed of the stream several miles below the city, washed down by high water. These dumps must be 30 or 40 feet thick. They represent the accumulated offerings of the kilns for centuries. There are now between 150

and 200 big yellow chimneys in the city. It is said that Ching-teh-chen in her most flourishing days boasted several thousand kilns.

### Most Conservative of Cities.

The most unusual feature of the city of Porcelain is its conservatism. "Bu k'ai'ung" (not open to communications) is heard on every hand. Although China is the home of the printing press, there is not a single newspaper, either daily or weekly, published in this city of more than a quarter of a million inhabitants. The reason given for this unprogressive state of affairs is that the magistrates have always opposed the press, on the one hand because they are afraid of its political influence, and on the other because of the financial support that would be involved.

Ching-teh-chen is devoid of electric lights and telephones. The few kishaws which now facilitate communications are fighting for existence. A number of workmen's guilds have petitioned the chamber of commerce to abolish the rickshaws on the ground that they interfere with traffic.

The geographical location of Ching-teh-chen is not accidental. It became the pottery center of the country centuries ago because of the enormous quantities of excellent clays in the district around Po Yang lake. All of these clays are brought to Ching-teh-chen in the form of soft, white bricks by small, flat-bottomed boats. Thousands of Chinese boatmen are engaged in this work.

After the clays are thoroughly cleansed, sifted, and refined they are kneaded together in varying proportions, usually by a barefooted boy, until they are ready for the potter. The wet lump of clay is then placed on the knob of the potter's wheel. The potter is perched above the wheel, with one foot on either side, in order to allow sufficient space for the movement of his hands. After revolving the wheel swiftly with a short pole, he deftly and with mechanical precision fashions a plate, bowl, or vase. After years of practice he can estimate to within a hair's breadth the proper size.

The piece is then removed and placed on a long tray in front of the potter, where it awaits the next artisan. Handles and other decorations, made in molds, are added, and then the whole is scraped smooth and allowed to dry until it is ready for the next process—the under-glaze decoration.

Several basic colors, like blue and red, can be painted on under the glaze. The glaze is next applied in various ways—by dipping, by blowing on with a tube, or by sprinkling. After the work has been added the piece is ready for the furnace.

Firing the Porcelain. Porcelain placed in the kiln to be fired has to be protected in strong, cylindrical clay vessels, called saggars. These trays can be used from three to six times before they are ready for the scrap heap on the river bank. Every piece of porcelain, as it is set into the sagger, is placed on a small, round, clay chip, sprinkled with straw ashes. This prevents the fusing together of the two pieces.

The fuel for the furnaces at Ching-teh-chen is of two kinds—straw and wood. Coal has been tried, but it was found that its fumes discolored the porcelain, and accordingly its use was discontinued. Straw is used to burn only the coarser ware.

The kilns are large, egg-shaped ovens of brownish brick, fifty feet long and twelve feet high at the highest point. Because of the intense heat, both the kilns and the chimneys must be rebuilt annually.

There is no unemployment in Ching-teh-chen. Work is plentiful, but industrial conditions are bad. Long hours, poor food, no rest days, and unsanitary living conditions cause a great deal of dissatisfaction among the laborers.

Wages range from ten cents to one dollar per day, varying not according to the number of hours, but according to the number and quality of the pieces produced. But no artisan must work too long. If a man is found doing too much and working beyond the time limit, he is set upon by his fellow workers and severely beaten.

## THE "PHRA-TERNITA-PHRA" GIVES FIRST ENTERTAINMENT

Present Mme. Osborne, Dramatic Reader, and an Excellent Musical Program

The "Phra-Ternita-Phrat", a society of forward-looking, progressive young men, organized for the purpose of promoting high-class entertainment, favorably introduced itself to the public last Monday night when it presented the talented dramatic reader, Madame P. Earline Osborne, in recital at the beautiful De Luxe Academy. Mme. Osborne was ably assisted by some of the best musical talent in the city. It was a high-class program throughout, well rendered and pleasing. The audience, though not as large as was anticipated, nevertheless was a good sized one and appreciative.

Mme. Osborne's first number was "The Curse Scene" from the great emotional drama, "Leah, the Forsaken," by Daly. In this the reader showed her wonderful ability to virtually become for the time being the character which she interprets. Mme. Osborne in this selection did not make the contrast between the masculine and feminine voices as marked as it should be. This fault was by no means noticeable in her excellent presentation of "The Murder Scene" from "Macbeth," which was her closing number.

Miss Irene Cochran, contralto, sang with her usual ease and effectiveness, "Thank God for a Garden," by Delage; and Mrs. Russell Reese, who has a lyric soprano voice of singular purity, was at her best in her solo work and in the other numbers. "Miserere" by Verdi, was well sung by a quintette, composed of Miss Cochran, Mrs. Reese, H. L. Preston, Horace Sherwood and George Griffin, while "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," arranged by N. Clark Smith and sung by a sextette, Mrs. Venus Parker being added to the quintette above mentioned, was given an ovation.

## DOUGLAS REPUBLICAN LEAGUE REVIVED

At the conference of colored republicans held in St. Philip's Guild rooms last Thursday night, the sentiment was unanimous that the colored citizens receive practically no recognition for their votes and that the time had come to support fair-minded men rather than parties. It was decided to revive the Douglas Republican League. M. F. Singleton was elected president and Harry L. Anderson, secretary. The other officers will be chosen at the meeting Thursday night, July 6th. The organization will support candidates who will give the colored voter patronage.

## "Vote Once for Bunce" —Adv.

## BOY HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Joseph Dorsey, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Dorsey of 3643 Parker street, had a narrow escape from death last Friday afternoon when he was knocked off his bicycle by a woman driving a Ford sedan at Myrtle Avenue and Thirty-fourth street. His wheel was demolished. He was picked up unconscious and taken to the Methodist Hospital where his wounds were dressed. He is able to be out again. His escape from death was almost miraculous.

## N. BERNSTEIN FOR CONGRESS

Nathan Bernstein is a candidate for Congress. He is well known among the colored people. He is a brother of the late "Mogy" Bernstein, who was very popular with our people. Nathan Bernstein taught in the Central high school for seventeen years and has been in business for eight. He is a man of ability and the right kind to send to Congress. Vote for him and boost for him at the primaries.

## "Vote Once for Bunce" —Adv.

## MADE IT PLEASANT FOR THE CHILDREN

Mrs. William Rix of South Twenty-eighth street, realizing that many of the kiddies in her neighborhood would be without proper attention on July Fourth thoughtfully and generously arranged a neighborhood party for them at her residence. The many children present had a great Fourth of July.

## SAVED FROM LYNCHING

Newport News, Va., July 7—Mack Cab had a noose around his neck and was being hauled up to a tree limb by a mob when older men saved him last week. He was charged with fighting a white man.

## BUTLER LEFT \$10,000

Washington, D. C., July 7—By the will of the late Mary F. Peary, white, four colored servants were left \$14,500, James A. Stewart, a butler, was given \$10,000, Ida Smith, hairdresser, \$3,000, Alice Brewer, laundress, \$1,000, and Mary Ellis, maid, \$500.

## "Vote Once for Bunce" —Adv.

## POPULARITY CONTEST IS BECOMING LIVELY

Contestants Are Waking Up—An Interesting Finish Anticipated—Miss Lawson Far in the Lead—Can Anyone Overtake Her?

The Popularity Contest will close at the end of this month. A beautiful manicure set will be given to the winner. By a little effort, upon the part of the contestants and their friends, a big vote can be rolled up before the close. The regular subscription price of The Monitor is \$2.00 a year; but in our SPECIAL CIRCULATION CAMPAIGN, now being pushed, we will accept NEW SUBSCRIBERS at the SPECIAL RATE of ONE DOLLAR a year, strictly CASH in advance, FIFTY CENTS for SIX MONTHS. Each six months' subscription will entitle the contestant to 100 votes; each yearly subscription to 250 votes. Get busy. Ask your friends who are not now subscribers to subscribe.

Please remember this: A contestant sending in a NEW YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION for ONE DOLLAR CASH, will be credited with 250 votes for each subscription sent in; or a SIX MONTHS' TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION for FIFTY CENTS CASH, will be credited with 100 votes for each subscription sent in. Subscription blanks may be secured at The Monitor Office, 414 South 13th street, or at 1119 North 21st street. Win a prize and earn a liberal commission for New Subscribers.

Votes have been sent in this week for Miss Trueheart, Miss Busch and Miss Lawson. Miss Lawson has also sent in five Six Months' subscriptions which places her so far in the lead that it will be interesting to see if anyone can overtake her. Cut out the coupons and send them in for your favorite. Also get busy securing subscribers. Watch the finish. It will be exciting.

Bertha Lawson, 2624 North Twenty-fifth street, 634 votes.

Dorothy Williams, 1119 No. 21st street, 121 votes.

Lovetta Busch, 5219 South 29th street, 79 votes.

Audrey Trueheart, 1443 So. 17th street, 28 votes.

Cerelda Tucker, 2508 M street, So. Side, 15 votes.

Ireta Walker, 1926 So. 14th street, 9 votes.

Otis Watson, 2925 Grant street, 9 votes.

## CHICAGO COUNCILMEN SUPPORT DYER BILL

Chicago, Ill., July 7—Resolutions introduced by Major E. R. Jackson urging the senate to pass the Dyer Anti-Lynching Bill were passed by the Chicago City Council.

## N. J. COLORED VOTERS SCORE PRES. HARDING

Newark, N. J., July 7—The State convention of colored voters which met here denounced President Harding for failing to keep three pre-election pledges, and formed the Lincoln Independent party.

## COLORED ORATOR AT HARVARD EXERCISES

Cambridge, Mass., July 7—Mordecai W. Johnson of Charleston, W. Va., was the only colored speaker at the Harvard University commencement last week. He delivered the graduating commencement address entitled, "Faith of the American Negro."

## ST. LOUIS WANTS A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER

St. Louis, Mo., July 7—On the grounds that St. Louis has a dual system of white and colored schools, The Argus, a local weekly, is backing the citizens' move for a colored member on the school board.

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**KILLED IN STATION HOUSE**  
New York, July 7—While 135th street police were trying to get his finger prints, Hubert Dent, alleged hold-up man, of 529 Lennox avenue, seized a policeman's revolver. He was beaten to death by blackjacks in the hands of detectives.

## LINCOLN NEWS AND COMMENT

Mrs. Stella Crews and daughter, Valera, left last Saturday for Denver, Col. Mrs. Crews goes for her health.

Mrs. Evelyn Johnson entertained the Utopian Art club last Thursday night, which was nicely attended. The club will give a bazaar July 25th.

The Mission society of Mt. Zion Baptist church will picnic at Epworth park July 11th.

Mrs. Josephine Murray of Minneapolis, Minn., is visiting relatives in the city.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Bush last Sunday night, a fine baby girl. Miss Erma Tugle went to St. Joseph, Mo., last week to visit her relatives.

Services at Mt. Zion Baptist church were interesting last Sunday. The Sunday school fairly attended. The pastor filled his pulpit morning and night. Communion was partaken of at night. The annual Fourth of July picnic was held in F street park, and was well attended.

Rev. C. W. Wilson of Chetopa, Kans., is visiting his daughter, Mrs. M. Griffin, in the city.

The body of James Edward Smith arrived into the city from St. Louis, Mo., Monday for burial. It was accompanied by his wife. Mr. Smith died in St. Louis last Friday of heart failure. The deceased was formerly of Lincoln, his mother, sister, Mrs. Anna Ray, and brother reside here.

Two auto loads of Omaha folks visited here a few hours the Fourth. They were: Dr. and Mrs. J. A. Singleton and son, Cyle; Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Murphy, Dr. G. B. Lennox, Mr. and Mrs. A. Hicks and daughter, Charlotte, and Mr. and Mrs. H. McDaniels.

Rev. W. A. McClendon filled his pulpit at the A. M. E. church last Sunday, having interested his people. The Sunday school was nicely attended.

At a meeting of the colored people of Lincoln held at the county court house last Thursday night a repub-

lican club was organized. Attorney J. H. Lawson, president; A. C. Stanley, vice-president; David Oliver, secretary; A. B. Mosley, treasurer. Every candidate for county office was present and made talks. The object of the club, as stated at the meeting, is to stir up interest in political issues among our people of Lincoln and Lancaster county.

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