

睦修

普及湾大学一年级

寻找中国科学技术史：我自己的经验

Finding China's Technological and Scientific History: My Experience

在美国的教室，学生常常只学习西方的科学发明。我们都学习牛顿(Isaac Newton)、爱因斯坦(Albert Einstein)和爱迪生(Thomas Edison)是谁，他们做了什么和为什么他们对科学的贡献很重要。因此，西方学生不但不知道东方的科学技术史，而且特别是对中国的古代科技发明不了解。因为我最近来到普及湾大学开始认真地学习了很多中文和中国文化，所以我也开始对中国的科技发明感到好奇。

我就开始在网上找关于中国科技发明的历史，我才知道中国有四大发明：罗盘、火药、造纸和印刷。以前我只听说过中国人发明这些东西比西方人早，可是我不知道什么时候和是谁发明的，所以我就继续在网上学习。

我和大家说一说我找到的一些资料。差不多在1040年，有中国人写了一个有关罗盘的文章，虽然这个发现很重要，可是我还要找到一些很著名的科学家，所以我又继续找，终于找到一位叫沈括的科学家。他的发现不但很多，而且他的研究领域非常广，其中包括关于数学、工程、药理、音乐、兵法、等等题目，沈括是中国北宋时代一位非常重要的科学家。他的研究多得写不完。即使他被弹劾以后，他还是

很认真地做研究。历史学家说沈括比很多的西方学者更高明。我问自己，为什么我没学到他的成就？

我很高兴决定学习这个题目，也在网上找到一些关于中国的科技发现和这位很重要的学者。我知道这只是中国科技史中很少的资料，可是现在我对找到更多中国的科学文明非常好奇，我打算继续找下去，慢慢学习。

In American classrooms students often only learn about western scientific inventions. We all learn who Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison are, what they did, and why they're contributions to science are important. Therefore, western students not only don't know eastern scientific and technological history, but also they especially don't understand ancient Chinese scientific and technological inventions. Because I've recently come to the University of Puget Sound and started learning more seriously about Chinese language and culture, therefore I've also started to feel more curious about Chinese scientific and technological inventions.

I started looking online for the history of Chinese scientific and technological inventions and I just found out about China's Four Great Inventions: the compass, gunpowder, paper making, and printing. I had only heard before that Chinese people invented these things earlier than western people, but I didn't know when and who invented them so I kept learning online.

I'll tell you all a little bit about what information I found. Around the year 1040 a Chinese person wrote an essay about compasses. Although this discovery is important I still wanted to find a few prominent scientists, therefore I kept looking again. Finally I found a scientist called Shen Kuo. Not only are his discoveries many but also his fields of study are wide, among them are mathematics, engineering, pharmacology, music, military strategy, and even more topics. He was an extremely important scientist for the Chinese Northern Song Dynasty. His studies are too many to write. Even after he was impeached he still did serious research. Historians say that Shen Kuo was even more intelligent than many western scholars. I asked myself, why haven't I heard of his accomplishments?

I'm very happy I decided to study this topic, and that online I found a few Chinese technological and scientific discoveries and a very important scholar. I know that this is just a small amount of information about Chinese scientific and technological history but now I'm very curious about studying more about Chinese scientific culture. I plan to keep looking from now on and slowly learning.

西方	xīfāng	western
科学	kēxué	science
发现	fāxiàn	discovery

东方	dōngfāng	eastern
认真	rènzhēn	seriously
好奇	hàoqí	curious
发明	fā míng	invention
罗盘	luópán	compass
火药	huǒyào	gunpowder
造纸	zàozhǐ	papermaking
印刷	yìnshuā	printing
继续	jìxù	keep on
著名	zhùmíng	prominent
科学家	kēxuéjiā	scientist
沈括	chénkuò	Shen Kuo, Chinese polymath
工程	gōngchéng	engineering
药理	yàolǐ	pharmacology
兵法	bīngfǎ	military strategy
即使	jíshǐ	even
被	bèi	be (indicates passive)
弹劾	tánhé	impeach
进修	jìnxiū	studies
历史学家	lishǐ xué jiā	historians
高明	gāomíng	smart, clever
成就	chéngjiù	achievement
发明者	fā míng zhě	inventor
研究领域	yánjiū lǐngyù	field of study
北宋时代	běisòng shídài	Northern Song Dynasty
研究	yánjiū	research
贡献	gòngxiàn	contribution
古代科技	gǔdài kējì	ancient science and technology
科学技术史	kēxué jìshù shǐ	history of science and technology
资料	zīliào	information
包括	bāokuò	includes
被	bèi	be (indicates passive)
题目	tímù	topic
文明	wénmíng	culture/civilization