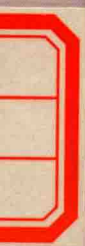


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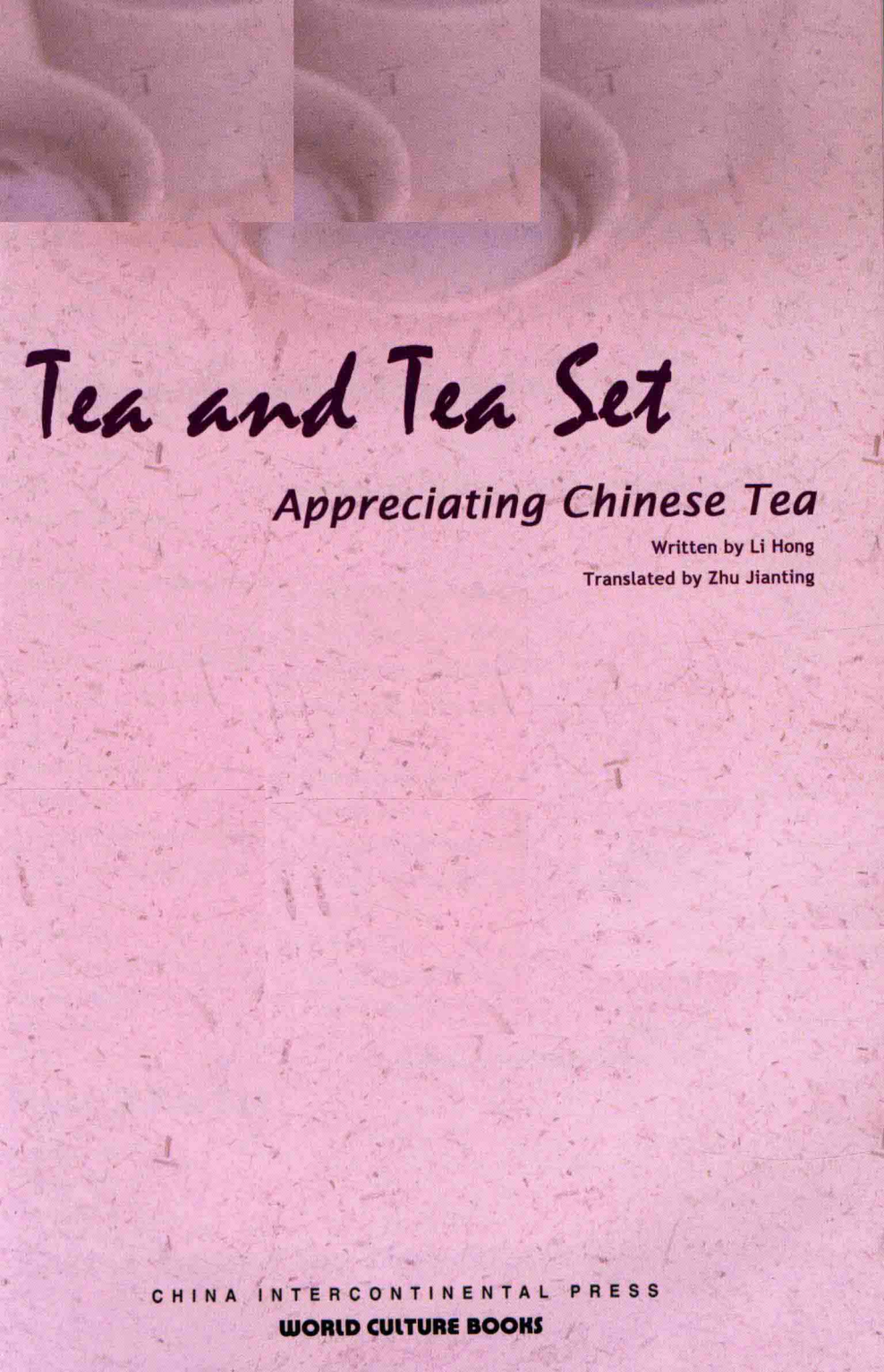
Tea and Tea Set

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CHINA INTERCONTINENTAL PRESS
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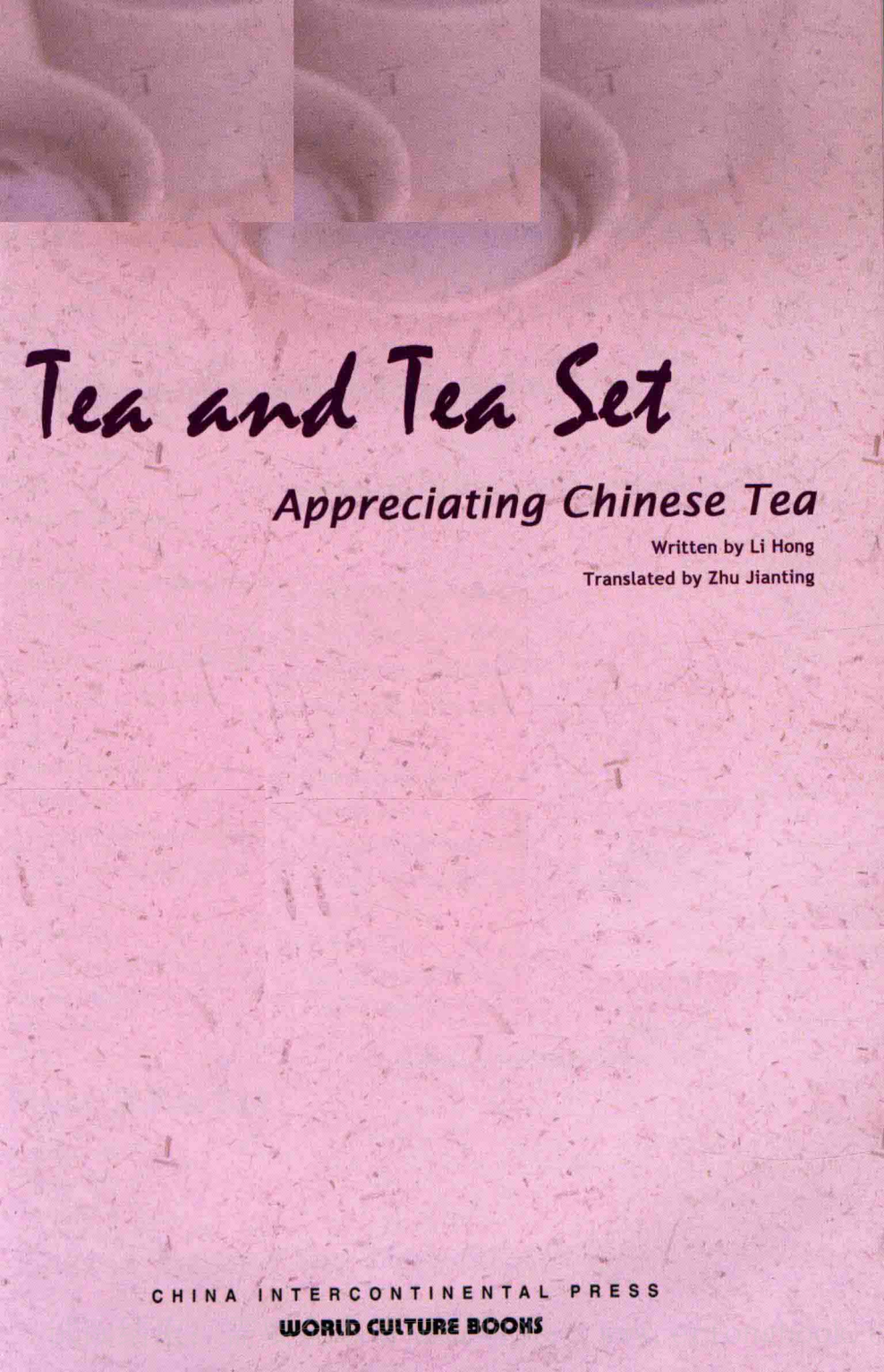
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Thanks to Jing Xiaomin, Li Mei, Madhumita Bardhan Sinha, Wang Li, Lisa Zhang and Suodi Song for their tireless efforts to make the project possible.

Select the Right Tea and Tea Set for a Perfect Cup of Tea

According to the famous writer Zhou Zuoren, "Tea ceremony, simply speaking, is snatching a moment of leisure from our busy schedules, seeking delight and experiencing its permanence for a moment in the harsh realities of life." These words still hold good in the modern society today.



The beauty and harmony of the tea ceremony, the momentary permanence, brewing tea and sipping tea are enough to arouse eagerness in most people.

Brewing tea requires tea leaves, water and a tea set. Ancient people, closer to nature than the modern drinkers, brewed tea in rainwater, snow water, spring or well water. However, modern drinkers have many more choices in tea and tea sets in comparison with their ancestors.

Singling out tea and tea set from a number of varieties to brew a pot of the perfect tea and sipping it leisurely brings peace and happiness!

Shopping in a Supermarket

Tea





The tea supermarket, filled with tea fragrance, tea novelties, and interesting thumb-sized tea articles catch the customers' imagination.



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China boasts innumerable tea varieties and develops more and more tea set patterns every day, easily making the customer feel lost in its wonderful varieties. Enjoy the ritual of choosing the right tea set. Stroll around the tea fragrance-permeated supermarket, have a cup of tea and talk with the vendor. Can you think of a more pleasurable experience?



Part I

Knowing Tea from the Very Beginning

Today, the number of tea drinkers in the world is on the rise. Iced black tea, iced green tea, chrysanthemum tea, Oolong tea and other tea-contained drinks are replacing carbonated ones and becoming the dominant health drinks in the 21st century. As the cradle of world tea plants, China enjoys affluent tea resources producing tea in 20 provinces (regions). Tea leaves are plucked from plants and processed into various tea through different technologies.

Do you remember how many kinds of tea you have tasted?





Tea-producing Areas in China

China was the first country in the world to discover, produce and consume tea some 4,000–5,000 years ago. Many scholars' studies on historical materials and Chinese wild tea plants prove Yunnan and southwestern China to be the cradle of global tree plants.

Tea-producing areas appeared in China as early as the Tang Dynasty (618–907). In his masterpiece the *Classic of Tea*, Chapter 8 Producing Areas, Lu Yu wrote about China's tea-producing areas in the Kaiyuan Period (713–741) of Tang as: 43 prefectures across 8 regions produced tea. The Song Dynasty (960–1279) witnessed the expansion of tea. During Yuan (1271–1368), Ming (1368–1644) and Qing (1644–1911) dynasties, tea-producing areas further expanded. The Opium Wars and other battles adversely affected tea production. Post the founding of the People's Republic of China (1949), China's tea production made new progresses, witnessing the recovery and expansion of tea-producing areas. Today, tea is produced in more than 1,000 counties and cities across 20 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.



▼ Tea-producing Areas of the Kaiyuan Period of Tang and Today

Period	Administrative divisions and tea-producing areas	8 tea-producing areas in the Tang Dynasty	
Kaiyuan Period of Tang	China consists of 15 regions: 43 prefectures across 8 eight regions produce tea.	Names of tea producing areas in Tang	Corresponding names of today
The People's Republic of China	20 of 34 provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and SARs produce tea.	Four tea regions today	
		Southwest; south of Yangtze River; south China and north of Yangtze River across 20 provinces and autonomous regions, namely, Yunnan, Guizhou, Sichuan, Chongqing, Tibet, Shaanxi, Henan, Gansu, Shandong, Hubei, Hunan, Jiangxi, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Anhui, Fujian, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hainan, Taiwan, involving 1,000+ counties and cities.	

