

recipe for tea, Jim Wong-Chu

a modest pot
enough for
four
small cups

insert tea

green or fermented
or in a
bag

(the first ships came to trade)

the area was fukien
the traders were scottish

the water
boiled separately

brought it back
bastardized it
made it mud
drowned in heavy cream
two, three teaspoons
of colonial sugar

keep your eyes
on the bubbles

shrimp eyes
crab eyes
fish eyes

in search of monopoly
planted in india
after their first crop:
opium

the optimum is
crab eyes

crab
clattering
before
fish
winking

(the second ships brought my forefathers)

high tea
high civilized tea

biscuits
crumpets
crystallized sugar
fragrant cinnamon spices

note:

the first pour
is not for drink

the best known tea party
was in boston

tea was chinese
but none invited

pour only
to
cleanse
and awaken

steep briefly

discard

(the third ships brought me)

the second pour: discovery

the third pour: exhilaration

the final pour: afterthought

if

desired

repeat