

# 江南蚕俗： 传承千年农桑文明

——去德清“轧蚕花”

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撒蚕花 Scattering silkworm flowers is a ritual before the silkworm season starts in the spring in Deqing

2016年清明时节，第十八届“神奇丝路，美丽新市”蚕花庙会在浙江德清拉开序幕，这一古老而富有江南地方特色的蚕俗节庆活动长盛不衰，令人叹为观止。万人空巷，男女老少争先恐后“轧蚕花、抢蚕花”，人人喜形于色，场面热闹火爆。古往今来，遂成为了春天里一出脍炙人口的江南蚕乡大戏。

相传，越国范蠡大夫携美女西施途经新市，遇见一群采桑女。善良的西施将花篮里的鲜花分送给大家，祈佑蚕事顺安，蚕桑丰收。西施娘娘送蚕花这个寓意美好的故事在江南一带广为流传，蚕农们为纪念蚕花娘娘西施，祈祷风调雨顺蚕桑丰收，每到清明时节，方圆百里的蚕农祭拜“蚕神”和“蚕花娘娘”，

逛蚕花庙会，请蚕花、戴蚕花、佩蚕花、轧蚕花、摸蚕花、供蚕花、呼蚕花、剪蚕花、扫蚕花地等一系列蚕俗活动，也代表了江南蚕俗文化千年农桑文明的精髓。

## 迎财神“三部曲”

农历十二月十二日是蚕花娘娘生日，江南蚕农虔诚祭祀，祈求蚕事丰收。当天，蚕妇用红（南瓜）、青（年青头）、纯白米粉三种颜色的米粉团做圆子，俗称茧圆。据传，做茧圆为蚕宝宝庆生以后，来年春天育蚕时蚕宝宝就身强体健，不会发病，结出的蚕茧也像茧圆子一样又大又结实。人们将茧圆煮熟，盛于白瓷碗，配上甘蔗、桔子等时令

水果，还做成骑在马上马头娘，桑叶上的龙蚕，一绞绞的丝束，一重重的元宝，并将鲤鱼、大公鸡等祭品供于灶山之上。

除夕黄昏，蚕农令孩童手提各式灯笼，如马头灯、元宝灯、鳌鱼灯、兔子灯等，在村前、门口、屋后及田头地角一边照一边唱《呼蚕花》歌。除夕之夜，江南蚕乡家家户户都在自家神龛点上一支红烛或一盏油灯，一直点到大年初一清晨，俗称“点蚕花灯”。大年初一之日，人们不到五更就起床，在吃过头顿饭后通常要睡一会，这便是“晒蚕花”或“眠蚕花”。“呼蚕花”、“点蚕花灯”等蚕俗曾在江南蚕乡广为流传。因此“呼蚕花”、“点蚕花灯”和“眠蚕花”，就是迎



德清扫蚕花地表演  
Local women stage a show about silk-worm ritual.



祭蚕神  
Local people hold a ceremony to pay homage to the goddess of silkworm



抢蚕花  
Grabbing scattered silkworm flowers



拉丝绵  
Local women show off how to make a silk-padded quilt

财神“三部曲”。

### 祭蚕神、戴蚕花， 祈祷蚕花廿四分

蚕农信奉蚕神，认为要养好蚕首先得供奉蚕神。蚕事前，蚕农备香烛，向“蚕神”顶礼默祷，通神许愿，祈求保佑。江南蚕农均在家中设立蚕花娘娘的神位，一般用一种水印木刻印刷的纸质蚕神画像。祭蚕神时，插蚕烛，供酒饭，由年长妇女合掌默默祈祷，以求蚕花利市。以往在孵蚁、蚕眠、出火、上簇等每一阶段都要在家祭祀一番，近代渐趋简化，一次是在清明前后蚁蚕孵出日，将供品、蚁蚕上桌供奉，称为“祭蚕神”。另一次在采茧（做丝）后，将新茧（新丝）陈列于神位前，供三牲香烛，祭祀叩拜，称为“谢蚕神”。

“剪得纸花双鬓插，满头春色压蚕娘”，江南蚕乡流行用红色彩纸扎成纸花，称“蚕花”，相传为蚕花娘娘西施所创。妇女戴于头上或鬓边，也就带回了蚕花喜气，俗称“戴蚕花”。蚕乡女子无论老幼，在祭蚕神、谢蚕神以及一般的烧香拜佛时，头上总要插一朵用红彩纸做成的“蚕花”，作为一种信物，以示

对蚕神的虔诚。后来，成了蚕乡女子头上戴的一种传统饰品，不仅在祭祀时要戴，而且在整个养蚕季都要戴。

### 剪蚕花、贴蚕猫， 撒蚕花好运来

养蚕时节，江南蚕农家户户喜欢将剪纸图案贴在门上、窗棂上和养蚕器具上，剪纸图案大多是蚕猫、聚宝盆和元宝等。农家一般都养猫，为的是防老鼠吃蚕宝宝或咬蚕种纸。

人们用红纸剪成大小不一的“元宝”，贴在蚕室门上和收蚁筐上，祈求蚕养好，元宝滚进来；用红纸剪成聚宝盆、老虎头和三叉宝剑，谓之“蚕花宝地”、“百无禁忌”。聚宝盆则寓意蚕花廿四分，寄托蚕农美好的祝愿，祈望蚕茧丰收。

“讨蚕花蜡烛”，青年男女新婚时，女家邻居送一些白米后向女家讨蚕花蜡烛，女家将男家事先送来的蜡烛分送邻居，或允许邻居动手“抢”，邻居们抢到蜡烛后回家点燃，视为一种祥瑞好兆头，可保佑自家蚕事兴旺。

“撒蚕花”，旧时，德清乡间新娘进夫家门时，喜娘要向四周撒一些钱币，

供众人拾取，称为“撒蚕花铜钿”，同时唱蚕花谣《撒蚕花》，最后三句是“今年要交蚕花运，蚕花茂盛廿四分，茧子堆来碰屋顶”。中国自古婚庆即有“撒帐”习俗，用枣子、花生等撒于新房内，寓意“早生贵子”。“撒蚕花”当为撒帐习俗的衍变，烙有江南古老的蚕俗遗风。此俗如今在新市蚕花庙会节庆活动中仍完好保留着。

### 《扫蚕花地》江南蚕俗 活态传承

相传黄炎之战是为蚕丝而战，故后来蚕农在蚕房用石灰消毒，要撒出戈、矛、弓等兵器形状的图案，以传蚕丝大战之风俗，谓之“祛蚕崇”。春暖花开，清明前后，民间艺人被东家请到农家厅堂养蚕场所表演，通过扫蚕花地歌舞表演，惟妙惟肖地模拟蚕事生产活动场景，来演绎完成一场祈祷蚕茧丰收的仪式。表演者大多为女性艺人，身着红袄红裙，头戴蚕花，发髻插鹅毛，一种掸蚕蚁的工具。左手托住铺有红绸、缀满蚕花的小蚕匾，右手执手柄上饰有蚕花的道具式“扫帚”，在小锣小鼓伴奏下登场，边舞边歌，寓意“晦气扫出屋，财宝扫进门”。艺人在表演时做出各种养蚕动作：掸蚕、采桑、饲蚕、捉蚕、上山等。东家与左邻右舍乡亲看在眼里，喜在心里。

德清扫蚕花地民间歌舞入选《中国民族民间舞蹈集成浙江卷》、《中华舞蹈志》等书籍。2008年，德清扫蚕花地蚕俗入选浙江省第二批国家非物质文化遗产代表作名录。■



蚕猫（剪纸）  
The cat is considered as a patron saint of silkworms in Deqing.



# Colorful Silkworm Customs of Deqing

By Zhou Jianghong

The 18th Silkworm Fair kicked off in Deqing, Huzhou City, Zhejiang province under the theme “Magic Silk Road and Beautiful Xinshi” during the 2016 Tomb-Sweeping Festival. The tradition of celebrating the town’s glorious sericultural history is second to none in China’s Jiangnan regions, in terms of the spectacular turnout of the festivity. This time-tested tradition is believed by the locals to be related with Fan Li, an ancient Chinese advisor in the state of Yue during the Spring and Autumn Period more than 2,000 years ago and Xi Shi, one of the renowned Four Beauties of ancient China. The Silkworm Fair of Xinshi, held annually during the tomb-sweeping season, is a marvelous footnote to the thousand-year-long sericulture of China.

## The Silkworm Trilogy

It is believed that the Silkworm Goddess was born on December 12th (traditional Chinese lunar calendar). It is a long-standing tradition of the sericultural people in Xinshi to make a snack delicacy called “jianyuan” - colorful rice dumplings used to celebrate the birthday of the goddess and pray for a cocoon harvest. The dumplings are served together with an assortment of fruits such as sugarcane and tangerines and many other sacrificial offerings in a special fete.

On New Year’s Eve, children from sericultural families join a singing parade while carrying all kinds of lanterns. Every household lights up the family shrine. It keeps shining throughout the night with a candle or an oil lamp they call the “silkworm

lantern”; and everyone gets out of bed in the wee hours the next morning, to welcome the new year. An intriguing part of the tradition is a nap following the first meal of the day, called by the locals as “silkworm nap”.

Such an elaborate process that consists of singing the “silkworm song”, lighting the “silkworm lantern” and taking the “silkworm nap” is the famous silkworm trilogy of the silkworm raisers in Xinshi.

## Worshipping the Silkworm Goddess

The silkworm farmers in Deqing are all pious followers of the Silkworm Goddess, believing that it is her mercy and magic that guarantees the harvest for the year. The elaborate sacrificial process has been simplified into two steps in modern times – one during the tomb-sweeping season and the other after the harvesting of cocoons.

It is also an important tradition of women in Deqing to wear “silkworm flowers” – made of red paper, throughout the silkworm season, to show devotion to the Silkworm Goddess.

## Silkworm Kitty and Shoe-Shaped Gold Ingot

During the silkworm hatching season, silkworm farmers also go out of their ways to decorate window lattices, doors and



蚕花庙会巡游 A parade at Silkworm Flower Festival

hatching utensils with silkworm-themed paper-cutting works – with the cute kitty, the shoe-shaped gold ingot and the treasure bowl being the most popular motifs – in hope of warding off the harassment of rats and praying for a good yield of cocoons.

Legend has it that it was the cocoon fiber that caused the battle between the Yan Emperor and Yellow Emperor in the pre-dynastic times of China. Today, it is still a tradition of the Deqing silkworm farmers to make weapon patterns on the floor when using lime to sterilize the cocooneries. Meanwhile, folk entertainers and artisans are invited by the farmers to perform singing and dancing during the hatching season. The performers mimic different movements in the process of the rearing of silkworms, while singing to the accompaniment of blaring gongs and drums. The songs and dances are well-documented in many books.

The colorful silkworm-related customs of Deqing were designated into the state-level cultural heritages “hall of fame” in 2008. ■