
Items from a Chinese household

Implements for cooking, keeping baby, and keeping warm from the Yin Yu Tang house.



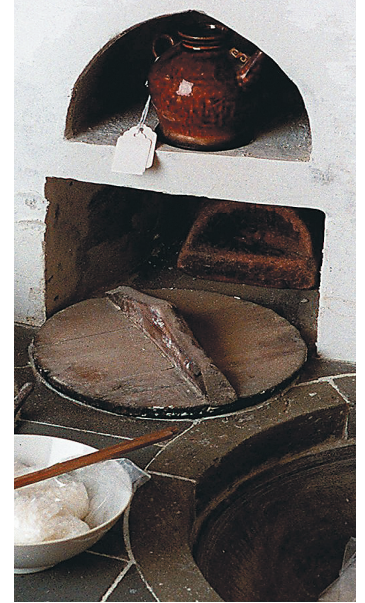
A child minder for summer, made of bamboo with a seating platform and a well for legs. The rings on the railing were for amusement; a child could rotate or slide them.



A child minder for winter, made out of Chinese fir. A child standing inside (on a slatted shelf at the level of the square holes) could not stray. Below the shelf was a chamber for burning charcoal to keep the child warm.



In winter, hand braziers were kept close; they provided heat to people inside a home the way central heating does today. The handle and shell are of bamboo. A metal tray was suspended within to hold the charcoal.



The stone stove had holes at counter level to accommodate three woks (one in foreground) and a boiling pot (covered, center) to be set over dedicated fire boxes. The arched space above provided storage at close hand; in this case, for soy sauce.

SOURCE: Nancy Berliner, curator of Chinese art and culture, Peabody Essex Museum

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