**List of Chinese Inventions**

*China has been the source of some of the world's most significant inventions, including the 4 great inventions of ancient China (compass, printing, paper, gunpowder). China is a country where many inventions made their first appearances. The inventions which made their first appearances in China are listed below. Source: (Table 56, pgs. 176-180 in Needham's Volume 4 Part 2, Science and Civilization in China).*

1. Battens in sails and cloth- allows for curvature in sails and faster sailing speeds.

2. Blast furnace- Allowed the Chinese to make better metals due to the heat the furnaces produce.

3. Cast iron- Same material your skillets and heavy metal items are made out of.

4. Silk: Clothing and household items made from it. They even named the main artery of trade in the world, “The Silk Road”.

5. Chopsticks-

6. Amphetamines- drugs that give you increased energy i.e.) “Crank”

7. Repeating crossbow- Allows for higher rate of fire and increased force upon the arrow.

8. Escapement mechanism for clocks- “The tick-tock sound”, clocks and watches make. Improved the synchronization of time pieces.

9. Exploding cannonball- Say goodbye to fortress walls and big boats.

10. Fire Arrow- Why use an arrow to kill one man, when you can set fire to the whole group?

11. Gunpowder- How many applications do we have for gunpowder today?

12. Firearm- Americans love our 2nd Amendment rights, but need the tools to express this love.

13. Horse collar- device used to distribute load around a horse’s neck and shoulders when pulling a wagon or plow.

14. Hull compartments/bulkheads- an upright wall within the hull of a ship or within the fuselage of an airplane.

15. Indian ink- Standard black ink used in newspapers and drawing.

16. Kite- Benjamin Franklin was glad the Chinese invented this.

17. Land mines- Still used in the world for war and terrorism.

18. Lottery- Big money maker to this day.

19. Naval mines- A self-contained explosive device placed in water to destroy surface ships or submarines.

20. Noodles- Chinese invented ‘em, Italians perfected ‘em. Amen.

21. Paper-

22. Pendulum- A pendulum is a weight suspended from a pivot so that it can swing freely. Can be used for several applications

23. Printing (woodblock printing and movable type) - This was the precursor to Guttenberg’s Printing Press.

24. Rockets: First in history to make a version of one. Can be used for entertainment, or warfare.

25. Rudder- A rudder is a device used to steer a ship, boat, submarine, hovercraft, aircraft, or other conveyance that moves through a medium (usually air or water). In the case of historical China, water.

26. Sailing carriage- Land sailing vehicles. A wheel barrow with a sail would be the best description. The Chinese used them to transport heavy loads on land.

27. Seismometer- Seismometers are instruments that measure motions of the ground, including those of seismic waves generated by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and other seismic sources.

28. South Pointing Chariot (differential gear) - The south-pointing chariot (or carriage) was an ancient Chinese two-wheeled vehicle that carried a movable pointer to indicate the south, no matter how the chariot turned.

29. Sluice gates- a wooden or metal plate that slides in grooves in the sides of the channel. Sluice gates are commonly used to control water levels and flow rates in rivers and canals.

30. Toilet paper- Don’t squeeze the Charmin.

31. Traditional Chinese medicine- acupuncture, herbal remedies, etc.

32. Trebuchet- This would be a catapult. If you have seen the show where they compete to who can project a pumpkin the furthest, you have seen a trebuchet.

33. Trip hammer- A huge hammer used to hammer down really big things. These would be the foundations of a bridge or telephone poles and such.

34. Winnowing machine- A machine used to separate the grain from the chaff. Resulted in significantly higher grain yields to feed more people.