

Our afternoon trip that third Sunday was to the vinegar museum and factory. Zhenjiang has several specialties. Vinegar production, a specially cured pork, and noodles are the famous foods, and eyeglass lenses are another.

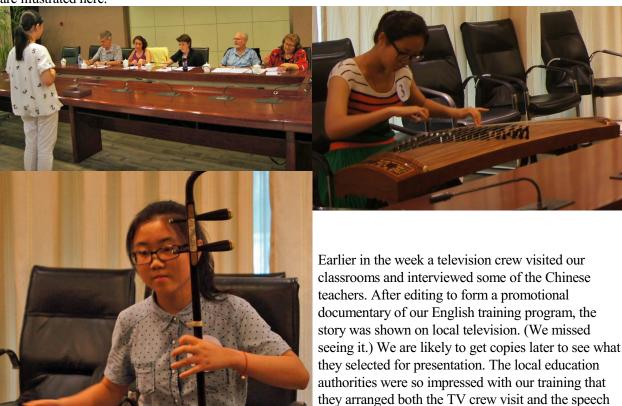


The museum showed some old equipment. The photo display showed the modern production process. The display case showed the many styles of dark flavorful vinegar in which foods like pork are dipped at dinner.



The following Saturday morning Cathy, a teacher in my class, brought five of her 7th grade students for a 2-hour session, sometimes called English Corner. Their use of English was excellent, and the topics of discussion were widely varied. It was likely inspirational for them to successfully use their English with a real foreigner. We met in a small hilltop shelter beside our hotel. At the base, near the pond, we walked by this decorative stone which had a naturally carved heart-shaped hole, shown by the green tree behind it.

In the afternoon we five American teachers were asked to judge an English speech contest of almost 20 high school students. A final contest in December would select five of the winners for trip to America. The students initially gave a prepared speech about Pearl S. Buck, the Nobel Prize winner who wrote about her life in this city of Zhenjiang. Then they selected at random a topic from a list and had to speak without preparation. We American teachers asked 3 more questions. Finally, each student showed some special talent, which included additional speaking, singing (one wrote her own song), and or playing traditional Chinese instruments which are illustrated here.



Ed Holroyd, 3 August 2014 (delayed because of work load)