

Here is a picture of a statue of Shen Nung that is being donated for the Lytton joss house restoration. It is about 10 inches high, 30 - 50 years old. It should arrive from Malaysia in a couple of months. There was a statue of him enshrined in the original Lytton joss house. At the same time there was a Chinese doctor practicing in Lytton as well as a Chinese herbalist.

According to the Chinese, Shen Nung (Divine Farmer) was a sage who lived five thousand years ago. Out of compassion for people and for the animals that were being killed for food, he invented the plow, taught people how to grow grain and preserve seeds. He discovered tea, taught people to drink boiled water and started Farmer's Markets.

He tested over three hundred and sixty five herbs on himself to determine their properties and compiled a book of herbal remedies that is still used to this day. The Chinese have made him the patron of herbal medicine, pharmacists and farmers.

The statue shows him sitting on a rock, his shoulders are covered by a cloak of leaves, holding a plant that he has been testing.

SCROLL DOWN FOR IMAGE

