



*Eating a popsicle.* (Photographed 1957 in Beijing, provided by Xinhua News Agency photo department)

*Taking joy in watching lanterns on the Lantern Festival, 15<sup>th</sup> of the first lunar month. (Photo by Jiang Ren, provided by Imaginechina)*





*Respecting the senior and cherishing children are traditional Chinese virtues. A square dining table makes people feel strong human bonding. (Photographed in 1960, provided by Xinhua News Agency photo department)*

The trainings include how to select seats; how to deal courtliness to the three kinds of people with priorities; how to hold chopsticks; how to pick up food with chopsticks; when to talk cheerfully and humorously; and when to be taciturn. As a result, even dining for children is not a simple matter. They do not dare to leave unfinished grains of rice in the bowl, because of the fear of getting pockmarks on their faces when they grow up. When clipping food with chopsticks, one cannot pick up too much at once; even worse is to poke at foods too often or stir around inside a dish. When eating, one should not make noises with the mouth and cannot devour ravenously. When eating soup, one cannot slurp or be sloppy, and the list of etiquettes goes on and on. "Dining appearance" is a propriety that the Chinese, especially the senior generations, pay much attention to.

Modern day Chinese, particularly the youngsters, cannot help but feel these formalities too tedious and restrict freedom. But it also cannot be denied that it is because that "proprieties" exist, a banquet can proceed with order, and that hosts and guests are able to communicate their feelings and thoughts. At the same time, it keeps uncivilized acts to a minimum. Etiquette, after all, is the bridge to high culture.



*A kind of Zhejiang specialty, the Triple White Wine is a kind of rice liquor made from white rice. (Photo by Guo Jianshe, provided by image library of Hong Kong China Tourism)*

servants from drinking during lunch hour on a workday. For other specialized professions, even more definite alcohol restrictions exist. Drivers who drink and drive will be prosecuted by law.

Chinese drinking courtesies and customs were born almost at the same time as wine was invented. Some customs have been kept until today. "Marriage wine