



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Li Tian

INVENTOR OF FIREWORKS

When Li Tian was born, in Hunan Province, China in April of 601 AD, the Chinese had already invented the firecracker by throwing green bamboo shoots onto a fire. These made a lot of noise when they exploded, but didn't look very exciting.

Li Tian was a monk and it's believed that one day, while working in a kitchen trying to improve the taste of preserved food, he invented fireworks in a cooking accident.

He had made a mixture of charcoal, sulphur, honey and salt – all normal ingredients for cooking then. When his concoction was heated, the contents suddenly burst into a wall of flames.

This reminded him of firecrackers and so he mixed the substances again and put them into a bamboo reed. And so the firework was born.

He introduced his new fireworks to the city of Liuyang in Hunan Province, which to this day is the biggest producer of fireworks in the world. His birthday in April is celebrated with fireworks in China every year.

