Pictures in Chinese Characters

汉字字画合一赏析

丁皓森 著

上海教育出版社上海海文音像出版社

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汉字特色妙——字画合一(代序)

Amazing character of Chinese characters—
integration of calligraphy and painting
(Preface)

文字是记录语音的符号, 图形表意法叫语素文字, 两类造字法各有优缺点, 汉字的音意用图形表达, 书写和绘画的笔法一样, 汉字蕴含古人智慧辛劳, 汉字有六万编码难度高, 高人出奇招"永字八法"找,^{注2} 自力更生好把奇迹创造,

世界上有两类造字方法: 字母拼音法叫音素文字。 我爱汉字表意兼表音法。(注1) 形象简明见字音意知晓。 字里有画耐人寻味推敲。 汉字是华夏文化的瑰宝。 拼音输入法方言受干扰。 "军画编码法易学效率高。 "字画合一"汉字特色太妙!

Scripts are symbols that record sounds. There are two ways of creating scripts in the world—

Creating meaning through pictures and symbols forms a morphemic script, while transcribing sound values forms a phonetic script.

There are advantages and disadvantages for both ways. I prefer Chinese character which combines both pictograph and phonetics.

The phonetics of the Chinese character is expressed in pictures, simple in form while clear in phonetics.

The art of writing is the same in calligraphy as well as in painting; the painting within the character forces the observer to careful scrutiny.

Chinese characters are the fruits of the wisdom and endeavor of

ancient Chinese people. They are a treasure of Chinese culture. With 60,000 variants, Chinese characters are difficult to learn, and a phonetic input method does not work with a variety of dialects.

Fortunately, a man of superior talent discovered the basic strokes from the character "永", from which stroke decoding was invented and this greatly enhanced the study of Chinese language.

Striving to create miracles, I discovered the amazing character of Chinese characters—integration of calligraphy and painting!

注: Notes:

汉字是语素文字并兼有表音趋势,但表音符号不科学(用意符代声符,声符易和意符混淆)。

Chinese characters are morphemes with phonetic value, but the phonetic value does not always hold true (the sound of the pictographic element can easily be confused with the sound of the phonetic component).

2. "永字八法"指中国古代书法家从"永"字里找到了汉字的八种基本笔画:点、横、竖、撇、捺、提、折、勾。

Calligraphers in Ancient China discovered that all eight basic strokes that form a Chinese character are contained in the character "永" [yŏng, "forever"]; they are: the dot, the horizontal stroke, the vertical stroke, the down stroke to the left, the down stroke to the right, the upward stroke, the turning stroke and the hook.

说明

Introduction

一、本书除部分字有重复,实收 360 个古汉字。重复的字有 15 个,用"*"号标明。

There are altogether 360 ancient Chinese characters in this book; fifteen of them are repeated in different categories and are marked with "*".

二、本书中的古汉字包括甲骨文和篆文。

Ancient Chinese characters in this book include inscriptions on oracle bones and seal characters.

三、本书按部首(意旁)、内容(生活中常见的事物)两部分编排,以便读者可以举一反三、触类旁通。

The book has two parts—radicals (radicals that indicate the actual meaning of the character) and contents (objects that are commonly seen or used in everyday life). This will make it easier for the readers to draw an analogy and draw inferences about other cases from one instance.

四、通过本书中对古汉字赏析,我们可以领悟到古汉字、造字方法的科学性、构图(具体或抽象)的艺术性,弘扬我们祖辈的聪明才智,从而激发我们的民族自豪感。

Through appreciation of the ancient Chinese characters in this book, we expect to make it easier to understand the scientific principles behind the formation, as well as the artistry of the shape, of ancient Chinese characters. We also hope, through this book, to carry forward

the amazing intelligence and wisdom of our forefathers, and enhance our profound pride as Chinese nation.

五、本书中有 100 道练习题,其中含有已学过 240 个古汉字,通过练习,读者可以温故知新,提高学习的积极性。

This book includes 100 exercises on 240 ancient Chinese characters that are introduced in the book. The exercises are aimed to help the readers learn new things by restudying the old and enhance the readers' enthusiasm in the study.

六、本书可以与 2008 年本人编写的《趣味汉字》互补,由普及到 提高。

This book complements my other book "A Crash Course in Chinese Characters" that was published in 2008. This book is of a higher level than the previously published one.

七、如今,古汉字虽然已被简化汉字所替化。但是,古汉字因其字画合一的特点、丰富的文化内涵、极高的审美价值,仍被现代人广泛引用。

Although ancient Chinese characters have been replaced by simplified Chinese characters, they are still widely used by people today, as much for their perfect integration of calligraphy and painting, their rich cultural connotations, as well as their great aesthetic value.

八、本书可供大学文科学生、中小学教师,以及中外汉语爱好者 参考使用。

This book is intended for university students of arts, teachers in primary or middle schools, as well as Chinese or foreign lovers of the Chinese language.

九、本人才疏学浅,仅为抛砖引玉,错误缺点在所不免,恳请学者、读者批评、指教。

I wrote this book in hope that it can inspire people to write better

ones. Due to my limited knowledge, errors and mistakes may occur in this book. I would be grateful should there be any suggestions or advice from readers or scholars.

十、我衷心感谢徐菁编辑精心审稿、曲英女士的精确译文以及长期支持和帮助我的爱人和儿子。

Here I would like to express my deepest gratitude toward Editor Xu Jing, for his meticulous examination and proof-reading, and to Ms. Qu Ying for her accurate translation. My sincere thanks and love go to my wife and son, who have been my most devoted supporters and helpers.

编者 Author 2012年10月31日于上海斗室 Shanghai, 31st October, 2012

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一、文字知识简介

Introduction of Written Languages

1. 什么叫文字?

What is a written language?

文字是记录语音的符号系统,是音、形(义)的结合体,是传递信息的载体。世界上有400多种文字,我国56个民族中,只有22个民族有文字。

A written language is a system of symbols that records speech. It is an integrated body of sound and form (meaning), a carrier of information. There are more than 400 writing systems in the world. Among the 56 nationalities in China, only 22 have their own written languages.

2. 文字的种类

Types of written languages

世界上的文字可分两大类。

There are two types of written languages in the world.

1) 音素文字:用有限的几个字母,代表本民族的元音、辅音音素,进行拼写、拼读。如,英语中的"书"读作"book"。

Phonetic language. This kind of language uses some limited number of letters to represent the vowel and consonant morphemes and to write and pronounce. For example, the Chinese character "书" is pronounced "book" in English.

3. 汉字有多少?

How many Chinese characters are there?

东汉许慎花了22年写成的中国第一部字书《说文解字》中,收集9353个字,除去异体字1163个字,实收8190个古汉字。

Xu Shen, a scholar in East Han Dynasty, spent 22 years on his Analytical Dictionary of Characters, the first dictionary of Chinese characters in history. In his dictionary, he collected 9,353 Chinese characters in total. Excluding 1,163 variants, Xu's dictionary actually encompasses 8,190 ancient Chinese characters.

清·张玉书等编写的《康熙字典》中, 收字 49 030 个汉字。

The Qing Dynasty Kangxi Dictionary, edited by Zhang Yushu, et al, collected 49,030 Chinese characters.

1915年出版的《中华大字典》收字约48000个汉字。

The Comprehensive Chinese Character Dictionary, published in 1915, has a collection of roughly 48,000 Chinese characters.

1982 年出版的《汉语大字典》收单字 56 000 多个。

More than 56,000 Chinese characters are listed in the *Grand Chinese Dictionary*, published in 1982.

1964年文化部、教育部发布的《印刷通用汉字字表》收汉字6196个。

Common Chinese Characters for Printing, issued in 1964 by the Department of Culture and Department of Education, includes 6,196 Chinese characters.

《中华人民共和国国家标准信息交换用汉字编码字符集(基本集)》的第一级汉字3755个汉字。

In People's Republic of China National Standard Chinese Ideograms Coded Character Set for Information Interchange (Basic Set), 3,755 Chinese characters are included at the basic level.

总之,汉字总字数约 6 万(内含古汉字约 1 万字),常用汉字仅 3 755个。

In all, there are about 60,000 Chinese characters (including around 10,000 ancient Chinese characters), among which only 3,755 are commonly used.

4. 汉字的特点

Characteristics of Chinese characters

汉字是一种方块形的语素文字,并兼有表音功能的趋势。它能 望文生义、望文知声,是一种较理想的文字之一,但是,还有不足 之处:

A Chinese character is a square-shaped morphemic symbol, with a tendency to indicate the sound of the character. The Chinese script is one of the ideal writing systems of the world, as each character contains both its meaning and its pronunciation. However, there are still shortcomings:

1) 声符用形符代替不科学(会意字和形声字容易混淆)。

It is not scientific to replace the phonetic signs with pictographs, as ideograms and phonograms are easily confused with each other.

2) 古、今语音有差异。如,"江"字古人念"工"(gōng),现在念"江"(jiāng)。

There are big differences between the ancient pronunciations and the modern ones. For example, "江" was originally pronounced "gōng", while presently it is pronounced "jiōng".

3) 声符有省略。如,"策"(cè),"刺"(cì)字省略了侧刀旁 "刂":"炊"(cuī)在"火"与"欠"中间省了一个"口"字。

Some phonetic signs are omitted. "策" (cè, "scheme") contains the phonetic sign "刺" (cì, "thorn"), but the element "刂" ("knife") is omitted; similarly, the " \Box " ("mouth") has been taken away from "炊" (chuī, "to cook"), between "火" ("fire") and "欠" ("to owe").

4) 声符仅音近,不是全同。如,鸡(雞)(jī)与奚(xī),音相近,不相同。因此,在《说文解字》9353 个汉字中,占 81% (7697 个)的形声字中仅 1/4 能读出声音。

Many phonograms are only close in sound, but not exactly identical. For instance, "鸡" (jī, "chicken") and "奚" (xī, a surname) have similar, but not identical sounds. Of the 9,353 Chinese characters included in *Analytical Dictionary of Characters*, 81% (7,697) are phonograms, of which only a quarter can be pronounced directly according to their phonetic signs.

5. 汉字的造字方法

The formation of the Chinese characters

许慎在《说文解字》中,提出的"六书"说,指象形、会意、形声、指事、转注、假借六种,其实"转注"、"假借"两种是用字法,真正的造字法只有"象形、会意、形声、指事"四种。

In Analytical Dictionary of Characters, Xu Shen came up with "the six categories of Chinese characters", that is, pictograms, ideogrammatic compounds, picto-phonetic compound characters, associatve charater, phonetic loan characters, and derivative cognates. Actually "derivative cognates" and "phonetic loan characters" are historical conventions, the four remaining categories are sufficient to contain the formation of all characters.

造字方法 Way of creating	特点 Characteristics	数量 Number		字 nples
1. 象形 pictographic characters	图形 picture	264	刀	目
2. 会意 associative characters	图形 + 图形 + ······ picture + picture +	1263	有	光
	(1) 左形 + 右声(意符) pictograph (left) + phonetic sign (right)		锋	统
3. 形声 picto-phonetic	(2) 左声(意符) + 右形 phonetic sign (left) (ideograph) + pictograph (right)	7697	鸡	
characters	(3) 上形 + 下声(意符) pictograph (up) + phonetic sign (down)	7697	策	
	(4) 上声(意符) + 下形 phonetic sign (up) + pictograph (down)		忠	
4. 指事 indicative	(1) 图形 +符号 picture + symbol	129	刃	
characters	(2) 纯符号 pure symbol	129		_

6. 汉字的基本笔画

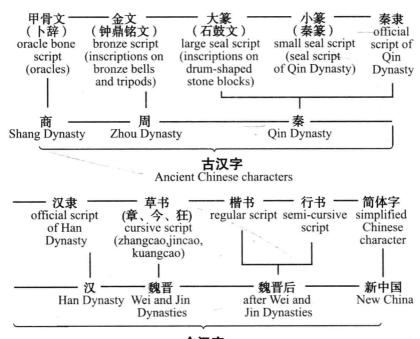
Basic strokes of Chinese characters

从落笔到起笔叫一画(笔)。笔画是汉字书写的最小单位。汉字字数虽多,但基本笔画却只有八种,而且都集中在"永"字里,称为"永字八法"。

A stroke refers to the movement one makes that starts from putting the pen to the paper and ends when raising the pen from it. A stroke is the smallest unit of Chinese calligraphy. Though multitudinous in number, Chinese characters only have eight basic strokes, all of which are included in the character "永" (yǒng, "forever"), hence the nickname "The Eight Principles/Strokes of the Character 'yong'".



7. 汉字演变简史



今汉字 Modern Chinese characters

小结:

Summary:

1) 字系变迁是渐变的,不可能直线发展的,其中有交叉现象。
The changing of styles is a gradual process and does not follow a

linear course; there are also periods when two styles overlapped.

2) 汉字发展的总趋势:由形象(具体)到符号(抽象);由繁到简。 The general trend of the development of Chinese characters is: from picture (ideographic) to symbol (abstract), from complex to simple.

8. 九类部首的变形写法举例

Examples of variants of nine radicals

1. 女字部	老件条
2. 手字部	年4月44 M
3. 足字部	てとよるで
4. 人字部	〉ハイク大大大大力と
5. 木字部	XX
6. 斤字部	クア
7. 戈字部	十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十十
8. 大口部	
9. 宝盖头	一个个个人