國家級饋贈禮品 GuofufTKuiZengLiPin 中國·山西·中陽







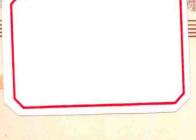






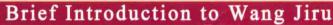
Preface

"Wedding night and the moment of success in the imperial examination" Marriage is a vital event in one's life. Wedding ceremony is the palace of marriage. Itis regarded as an achievement a bit inferior to success in the imperial exam among the people, a fact from which we can see its importance. Marriage proprieties were established in Zhou Dynasty (i.e. to accept betrothal gifts, to ask the names, to choose the auspicious date, to deliver wedding invitations and to go fetch the bride for the wedding) and evolved to different degrees in various places along with local customs and culture. Marriage customs in Zhongyang is one that is characterized by distinctive local style, reflecting the peculiar culture of Yellow River Valley and inherent flavor of loess plateau. It combines the rich connotation of Zhongyang culture, elaborate and vivid, rule-abiding and profound, and reflects deeply the honest and simple folkway and the wish to beautiful life of the local people. The artwork of national inheritor——Wang Jiru, sets on the marriage customs in our county at the beginning of 19th century, vividly depicting the traditional marriage procedure of Zhongyang. It not only provides precious materials for the research on marriage culture in our county, but plays a positive role in the exploration, protection, inheritance and development on non-material cultural heritage.









Born in Pangjiahui Village, Zhongyang County, Shanxi Province, Wang Jiru is now the national inheritor of the art of paper-cut as well as a real native folk artist. She has won many prizes in folk art exhibitions both at home and abroad and her works have been collected in the Art Museum of China and many other museums in China and foreign countries. In 2002, she was appointed as one of the first national inheritors of non-material cultural heritage.

Wang Jiru was brought up in Lvliang mountainous area. She has been very fond of paper-cut since she was small and was endowed with a superior talent in traditional folk customs of Zhongyang. She develops an exquisite and graceful style from the instillation of Yellow River culture and has made outstanding contributions to the protection and spread of non-material cultural heritage of Zhongyang.

This set of works is another strong hit made by Wang Jiru, which integrates the traditional marriage customs in Zhongyang into the art of paper-cut and is of high value of folk customs appreciation and of artistic appeal.



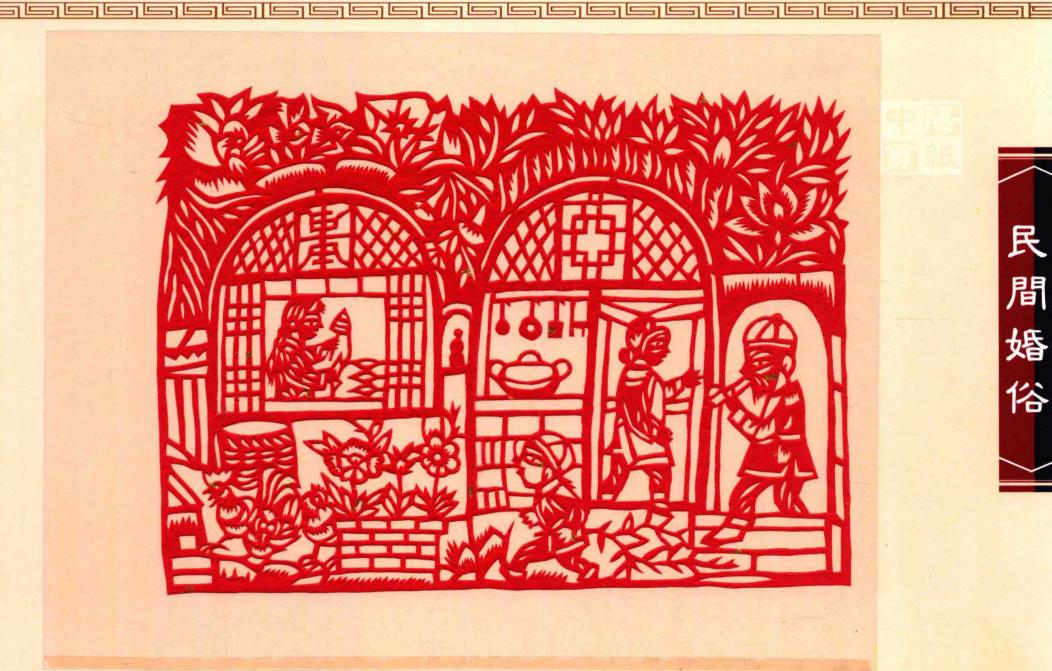
Matchmaking

There was a statement in ancient Zhongyang that "marriage would not be fulfilled without matchmakers". Matchmakers are usually invited by the bridegroom's side at first, and it is called "to invite the go-between". To do this, the host has to invite the go-between to dinner at the beginning and the meal must be hand-pulled noodles, which implies to pull two sides together. In this stage, there are usually 5 steps, namely to inquire the names, to exchange the cards, to negotiate matters on wedding and so on.

名 古代 换 中陽有 帖 起 拉 議 婚5個 由男方家長請起、 "是媒不是媒 無媒不 必須先請 程 序 在 要 包









Engagement

When mutual consent is reached, bridegroom's side will ask the go-between to send the wedding invitation and part of clothes and jewelry to the bride's side as token of love. If the present is accepted, the engagement is made then. It is called "to deliver the message" in customs. At the time of engagement, the go-between will be invited to eat jiaozi, which indicates both side will not break their promise through pinching tight the opening of jiaozi. On this matter, the bride's side often acts with so much discretion that they will not deliver the message until they consider it well.

定采喜帖和部分衣服、 要給媒 所以 議婚雙方同 再不反悔 訂親 對 吃 此 餃子 特 别 男方托 表示 女方收受 重 首飾送往 怕

成

熟,

放話







Acceptance of betrothal gifts

After engagement, the bridegroom's family will choose an auspicious date, write wedding invitations and prepare clothes, jewelry and giftmoney. When the preparation is done, the go-between will be asked to deliver these betrothal gifts to the bride's family. It is usually called "money-delivery", i.e. to notify the bride's family to begin to collect the dowry and prepare for the wedding. The amount of giftmoney is specified during previous negotiation. It often takes auspicious numbers and will be delivered twice upon the engagement and acceptance of betrothal gifts. The giftmoney shall not be paid overdue or owed.

寫好喜帖備若幹衣服、首飾、禮金寫好喜帖備若幹衣服、首飾、禮金知女方置辦嫁妝,準備迎親。禮金數額在議婚時商定,一般選用吉祥數。分定婚、納彩兩次送達,不









Dowry collection

After acceptance of betrothal gifts, both sides will be engaged in the preparation for the wedding. Dowry collection is carried out by the bride's family, including making new clothes, quilts, shoes and insoles. Each type of dowry must be made in pairs, indicating "to make a pair". A pair of walnuts and a pair of dates will be placed in the corner of the new quilts and shoes, implying "pairs of sons and daughters running around the kang".

核	放	爲	鞋	包	婚	
桃	置	.,	墊	括	進	2.6
對	核	成	等	縫	備	納
對	桃	雙	0	制	用	彩
棗		配	每	新	m	後
•	棗	對	種	衣	0	
對	各	3	嫁		做	男
對		0	妝	新	嫁	
兒	對	衣	必	被	妝	女
女滿	,	被	須	,	是	雙
涌	表	角	成	做	女	方
炕	示	内	偶	新	方	都
跑"		和	數	鞋	的	在
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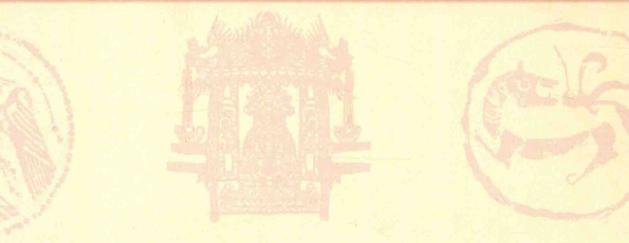




To choose the wedding date

Bridegroom's parents will invite a learned scholar to choose an auspicious date according to Eight-Characters of the bride and the groom and write eight-character paper, and then ask the go-between to notify the bride's family. Complying with the traditional custom that the bride's shall follow the groom's proposal, the bride's will accept the arrangement unless there is special occurrences. Once the date is chosen, it will not be altered to avoid ominous happenings.







To steam wedding mantou

Before the marriage, the bride's family will steam wedding mantou for the bride. It is round and is lengthened layer by layer so as to create the figure of a dragon and a phoenix, on which walnuts, melon seeds and dates are embellished. The figure composed of wedding mantou symbolizes harmony, good future, and giving birth to babies soon. There must be two mantous, one with angled decoration indicating to give birth to a boy, and the other with round decoration indicating a girl.

生兒 育 邊 飾 餱 個邊 圓 女方要爲女兒蒸花 形 生 意 呈 爲 尖形 生 拼成 龍









郎 將 ग 意爲祭 新娘穿戴 起程 軍 旁 祀 好 後, 放爆竹 保 放罩 樂 佑 和 班 路 吹





To get in the sedan chair

When the groom and the bride are dressed up, the musical band will play the tune of "jiangjunling" and meanwhile firecrackers will be let off. Then, the bride will be carried into the sedan chair by her elders. Meanwhile, wine and four small plates of side dish will be place on a big plate; the bridegroom will then dispose them with chopsticks to both sides of the road and bow from the waist. It is called "to offer sacrifices to the horse head", meaning honoring the gods and asking for their blessing on a safe journey. When all these are done, the parade moves.

