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AUSPICIOUS CHINESE PACTERNS

供稿:杨家埠木版年画研究所

撰 文: 刘艳清 英文翻译: 汪沛霖 责任编辑: 刘晓天

技术编辑: 陶文龙

装帧设计: 一步策划设计工作室

中国吉祥艺术是中华民族辟邪求吉纳福的生动的文化现象。从衣食住行、婚丧嫁娶、生活用具,到祭祀、祈祷、农事、节日等生活习俗,无不印有吉祥文化的痕迹。

中国风筝的历史可追溯到2000多年前的春秋战国时期。当时战争频繁,古人发明了以鸟为形,以木为支架,用 阔叶植物叶子扎制而成的可在空中飞行的"木鸢"作为战争的工具。这就是现代风筝的雏形。随着造纸术的发明和 丝绸的产生,后来的风筝以竹为骨架,再糊以纸或绢,成为融民间美术、民间体育、民间扎制于一体的娱乐用品。

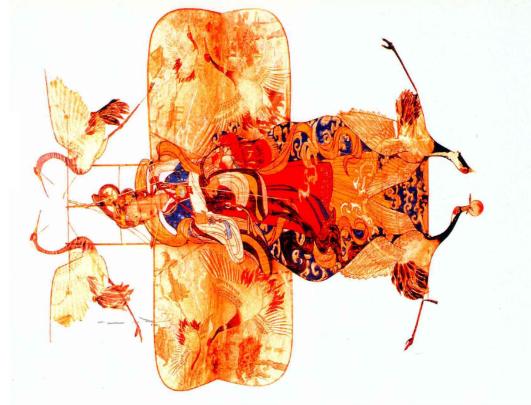
本套明信片所选风筝为中国传统的吉祥图案造型,寓意喜庆、添福、增寿,风调雨顺,子孙繁衍,寄托了人们 对美好生活的向往和追求。它的题材来自神话传说、民间故事、花鸟鱼虫、飞禽走兽等,造型生动,色彩明艳、富 于装饰性,是中国风筝艺术中的珍品。

The Chinese art of auspicious signs is one of the most lively cultural phenomena of the Chinese people with the purpose of warding off evil spirits and praying for good fortunes. There are unexceptionally traces of the culture of auspicious signs in all areas of housing, eating, clothing and travelling, including wedding or funeral ceremonies. They can be found in the fields varying from rituals, harvest festivities to the utensils they use everyday.

The history of Chinese kite can be traced back to the Spring & Autumn Warring States more than 2000 years ago. At that time, the wars were frequent, the ancients invented the "Technical Kite" made by the leaf of the broad botany as the war tool which can fly in the sky taking bird as the shape and technique as the support. This is the embryonic form of the modern kite. Following the invention of paper making technique and the production of silk, later on the kite took bamboo as the skeleton, pasted by paper or tough silk, became an amusement article combining folk art, folk sport and folk fabrication in one.

The kites selected in this set of post cards are the schemes of Chinese tradition and lucky molding patterns, mean happy celebration, adding good fortune, increasing life, favorable weather and abundant filial generation, entrust the longing and pursuit of the people to the beautiful and lucky life. Its topics come from mythological lengendary folk story, flower, bird, insect, fish, and beast etc. The mouldings are vivid with bright colors, full of decorative idea. They are the treasures in the Chinese kite art.

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麻姑献寿 Magu offers gift in the birthday

仙女奉献寿礼、祈求多福长寿。 The fairy maiden offers the birthday gift, prays good luck and long life.

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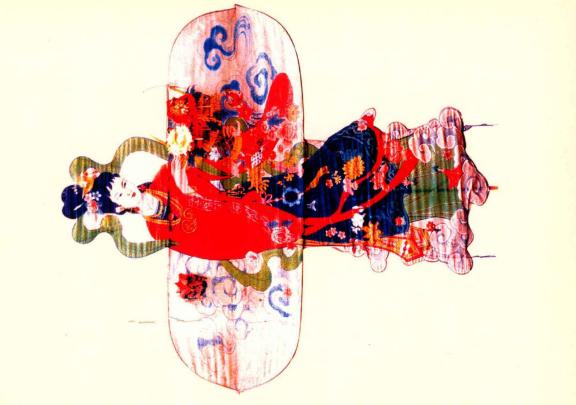


雄	鸡
Ro	oster

"鸡"与"吉"同音,寓意吉祥、平安。 金鸡报晓,催人奋进。 "Ji" (cock) and "Ji" (good luck) have the same accent in

"Ji" (cock) and "Ji" (good luck) have the same accent i Chinese, means auspiciousness and safety. The golden rooster rises at cockcrow, urges people to go ahead.

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天女散花

The celestial maidens spreading out the flowers

美丽的仙女将幸福与平安撒向人间。(取材自绵经) The beautiful fairy maiden spreads out good luck and safety to the people. (Taken from the Buddhist Scripture)

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Postcara



洛神	
Luo fairy	

象征对美好爱情的追求。 Symbolizes the pursuit to the sincere love.

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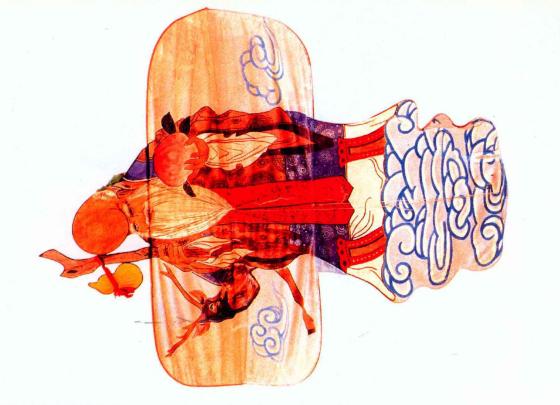
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福娃 Lucky baby

寓意人丁兴旺,万事如意。 Means having a flourishing population, everything is good as one wishes.

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寿 星 Birthday star

象征幸福、长寿。 Symbolizing good luck and long life.

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