

中国结文化

Culture of Chinese Knot

中国结在古时是人们传递文化、交流情感的重要载体。追求完整、圆满、和谐是中华民族的重要价值取向，也是中国传统民间艺术的审美追求。在这种审美思想的影响下，中国结产生、传承并被不断地创新光大，其寓意无不与生命、喜庆、圆满、幸福、长寿等有关，其造型、色彩、命名以及制作、运用等，皆反映了人们对福、寿、喜、财、平安、健康等朴素情感和美好愿望的追求。

Affected by Chinese value orientation and the aesthetic of traditional folk art, Chinese knot which symbolized pursuit of unity, perfection and harmony acted as an important means of cultural exchange and communication among ancient people. Under the influence of this aesthetic ideology, Chinese knot was gradually innovated in design, colors, names, knitting and usage; however, the implied meaning of Chinese knot related to happiness, longevity and harmony as well as a reflection of people's common pursuit for good health, success and wealth remained unchanged.





> 中国结的来历与发展

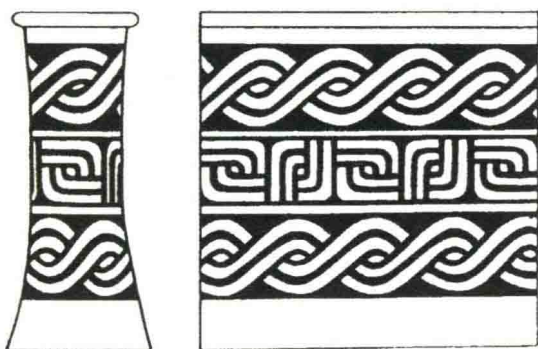
结是极平常而又极有意味的事物。说其平常，是因为有绳便有结，每个人都会打结，而且经常要打结，它平常得简直不被人们注意。说其有意味，是因为结除了有束物、连接、固定之用外，还有传情达意和装饰美化的功能。在悠悠岁月中，结与人们的精神生活结下了不解之缘，乃至成为一种能够寄托丰富意义或无尽情思的装饰品、陈设品。

结之产生，由来已久。但究竟源于何时，尚难说清。不妨作这样一种推测：在远古时期，那些线形材料，如草、藤、麻、棕、竹、葛、枝条等，为原始人随手可得。当他们采来并拧扭、交叉，用于穿系、捆扎果实及猎物时，最原始的

> Origin and Development of Chinese Knot

Making a knot is a common practice but meaningful. Tying a knot seems to be a piece of cake; that is to say, where there is a rope, there is a knot. When it comes to meaningfulness, knots can be used not only for fastening, connecting and tying objects but also for decoration and conveying special emotions. Knots have close relations with people's spiritual life through all the years, so they have become meaningful decorations leaving endless affection with people.

Tying knots can be dated back long time ago but it was unknown when it started. Let's hereby start with a hypothesis. From time immemorial, primitive people twisted natural material such as grass, rattan, hemp, palm fiber, bamboo and branches to bind around their clothing and strap the fruit and prey.



• 大溪文化彩陶上的绞绳纹摹绘图（新石器时代）
Rubbings of Twisted Rope Patterns on Painted Pottery of Daxi Culture (Neolithic Age)

编结就产生了。不妨再作一种推测：在北京周口店山顶洞人的遗址中，有骨针和各种带孔的骨、牙类饰物，这表明旧石器时代已出现用于缝纫和穿连的人为加工的绳线。当人们用这绳线穿带孔饰物及缝制衣物时，必然会产生原始的、简单的绳结。如果以上推测成立的话，那么，可以说，结的历史几乎与人类文明的历史一样悠久。

结之用途早有文字记载，如《易·系辞下》：“上古结绳而治，后世圣人易之以书契。”其意是说，人们最早是用绳索打结的方法来记事的，后来才用文字取而代之。据说，在结绳记事时代“大事大结其绳，小事小结其绳”，人们

They could be the prototypes for the original ropes. Let's put forward another hypothesis. The primitive people lived at the cave of the Dragon Bone Hill, Zhoukoudian, Beijing. Bone needles and such ornaments as animal teeth and various bones with drilled holes were discovered among the ruins. It suggested that the manmade thread and rope for sewing appeared during the Paleolithic Period. If above two hypotheses are admissible, it is safe to say that the history of using knots is as old as history of human civilization.

The history of using knots was recorded in *Interpretation in the Book of Change*. As noted in this book, human beings originally kept a record of events by knots in ancient times before written





用不同的结来辅助记忆各种事情。至于当时那些大结小结究竟是什么样的，很难得知了，但从中我们可以了解到上古时的绳结除了最简单的系扎、连接功用外，还有辅助记忆的功能。因此，绳结曾经是非常神圣的，它在当时人们的生活中起过重要作用。

在长期的社会实践中，由于绳结朴素的实用功能和神圣的记事功能，逐渐引起人们的审美关注，以至绳结日益增进着它的审美内涵。尽管缺乏实物，但器物上的绳纹装饰却足以佐证绳结伴随人们

language was invented. It is said that an important event was marked by a large knot and vice versa. Various kinds of knots were used to help their memory of different events; however, it is hard to trace what they looked like. Anyway, we can learn that in addition to the basic function of binding and connecting objects, the knot also acted as a memory aid of recording the historical event in ancient times. In a word, the knot was regarded as a sacred object in ancient people's mind because it played an important role at that time.

After knots were widely used in daily life, people started to keep an eye on the design of knots so as to meet their higher aesthetic standards. Even though not a single physical knot was left from that time, from the ornamental patterns on the vessels we can know for sure how the knot design make people's life gracious and beautiful. During the Neolithic Age,



• 绳纹陶甗 (yǎn) (夏)

甗是古代的一种蒸食用具，分为两部分，下半部是鬲 (lì)，用于煮水，上半部是甬 (zōng)，两者之间有镂空的箅 (bì)，用来放置食物，可通蒸汽。

Pottery Cookware with Ornamental Knot Pattern (Xia Dynasty)

This cookware was used for steaming food. It can be divided into two parts; water was poured into lower part and food was placed on the grate to be steamed.



结绳记事

在文字产生之前，远古人为了帮助记忆，采取过各种各样的记事方法，其中使用较多的是结绳和契刻。结绳记事即根据事件的性质、规模或所涉数量的不同结系出不同的绳结。简单的记数可用一根绳子打结，复杂的事件则可用多根绳子横竖交叉来表意。直到宋代，北方的牧民族仍采用此法。

Using Knot to Keep a Record for Events

One of the most common ways to keep a record for events in ancient times was tying knots before the written language was invented. Considering what kind of the event, importance of the event and involved quantity, different kinds of knots would be used accordingly. Simple numbers were counted by means of knots tied on a single rope while complicated things had to be marked by a number of crossed ropes. The northern nomads still used this method until the Song Dynasty.



- 结绳记事

Using Knot to Keep a Record for Events



春秋战国时期（前770—前221），绳结已经摆脱了实用的羁绊，以相对独立的审美姿态进入到装饰领域。例如，青铜双龙络纹甗（bù）上作为装饰的络纹（绳结纹），它的格局、结构似乎都还保持着原来用绳子捆绑甗、罐以便于提携的状貌，但这毕竟是以装饰的形式展现在青铜器上。在这里络纹（绳结纹）与双龙纹结合成富有特定文化意味和时代审美情趣的图案。这表明绳结所具有的实用功能和工匠们对绳结的深厚情感已融合发展成独到的装饰构思和贴切自然的器物装饰。在以后的装饰中，这种有趣的形式甚至被固定为一种装

The knot became less functional but tended to be more ornamental during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Period (770 B.C. -221 B.C.). Taking the bronze wine vessel with ornamental knot pattern as an example, it had a handle and remained the main structure of small jar but its design has combined the knot pattern with the double dragon pattern, which presented aesthetic taste and cultural significance of that era. Because the craftsman had preference for the knot, its decorative value became all the more prominent. Since then, the knot pattern has become a common ornament on utensils.

The knot also acted as accessories in ancient times. "Loose costumes



• 青铜双龙络纹甗【局部】四角上的绳结纹摹绘图（春秋）

Rubbing of Duo-Dragon and Rope Knots Patterns on Bronze Urn [Part] (Spring and Autumn Period)



- 铜鼎上颇似绳结的蟠蛇纹（春秋）
Bronze Tripod with Curled-up Serpent Pattern
(Spring and Autumn Period)



- 绳结纹铜壶（战国）
Bronze Pot with Rigging-shaped Pattern
(Warring States Period)



• 河南信阳楚墓出土的组佩彩绘俑复原图

图中二人身穿交领右衽直裾袍，宽袖，腰悬穿珠、玉璜、玉璧、彩结、彩环组佩。

Restored Painting of Painted Wooden Figurines from Chu State Tomb, in Xinyang, Henan Province

Two figures in the drawing wore crossed collar and right-buttoned garment with loose arced sleeves. It was decorated with diamond-shaped edge, beads, colored ribbons and groups of jade ornaments.



尚源远流长，这不仅仅因为玉天生温润，更因为它被赋予了种种文化内涵，具有象征性的精神品格。佩玉标志着一个人的身份地位、道德修养、品格情操，具有“载道”“比德”“达礼”“显贵”的人文价值，故而历来有“君子必佩玉”（出自《礼记》）的讲究。

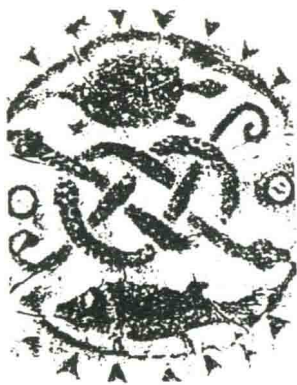
佩玉要借助绳带（古时玉饰上有孔），用绳带必然要打结。从已掌握的形象资料来看，早在战国时期，就已经存在较多样式的佩玉绳结了。如河南信阳楚墓出土的彩绘木俑，上面清晰地描绘了当时人们佩玉打结的情形。另外，那些单耳结和下端的带饰，除了起系扎、固

When it comes to jade, Chinese people often think of its symbolic spiritual connotations. Because beautiful jade has been endowed with various meanings related to Chinese culture, wearing jade accessories was often associated with a person's social status, power, personal ethic and morals. As noted in *The Book of Rites*, every gentleman in ancient times had a jade accessory with him.

There was a hole on a jade pendant to tie with silk braid. Referring to some related visual data, we can see a variety of silk braid widely used as early as the Warring States Period. Unearthed painted wooden figurines from Chu State Tomb, in Xinyang, Henan Province vividly depicted ancient people wore

定玉璜及玉环的作用外，更有陪衬和装饰的功用。

结具有诸多的实用和装饰功能，同时它能被人们赋予一定的观念或象征意义，因而具有招福纳祥、传情达意的作用。例如汉代（前206—公元220）瓦当石刻中将龙蛇盘成结状，就具有浓厚的神秘色彩，这很可能是当时谶纬之学盛行的反映。而后来铜镜、砖刻、石雕上的结饰则日趋明快活泼，充满吉祥的寓意和欢乐的情绪。



• 瓦当上的结纹（汉）

Knot Pattern on Eaves Tile (Han Dynasty)

jade pendants with silk braid during the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States Period. Knots and silk braid served as an ornament and a foil to semi-annular jade pendants and jade rings.

In addition to usefulness and decoration, the knot was often given a certain symbolic meaning so it was used to convey people's good wishes, such as bringing happiness and good fortune. Because of the prevalence of divination combined with mystical Confucianist belief, the craftsman of eaves tile carving during the Han Dynasty (206B.C.-220A.D.) taking advantage of the image of curled-up dragon and serpent to design the knot-shaped pattern full of mysterious atmosphere. Since then, more carved knot-shaped patterns appeared on bronze mirrors, bricks and stones but they tended to be lively, auspicious and joyful.



• 长沙马王堆漆勺柄上的绳结图案（汉）

Lacquer Spoon with Knot Design on the Handle Unearthed from Han Tomb, Mawangdui, Changsha (Han Dynasty)

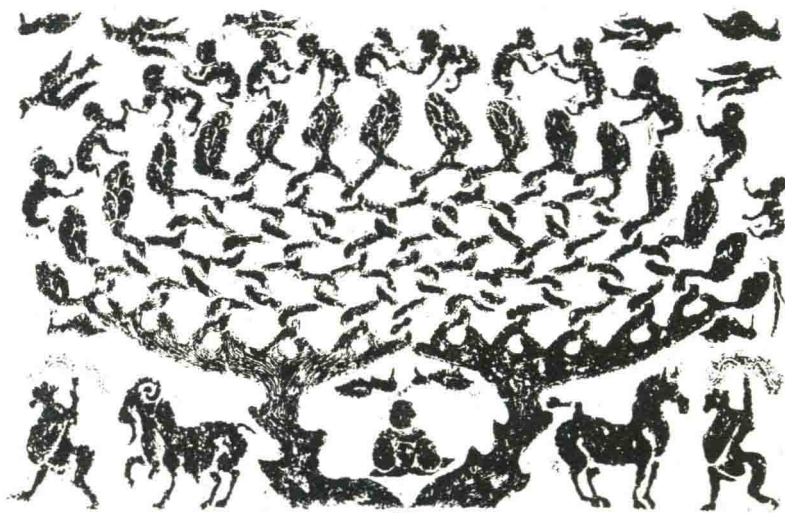


• 杂裾垂髻 (shāo) 服 (魏晋南北朝)

杂裾垂髻服是魏晋南北朝时期女子的常见服饰，多在腰上系围裳，以结固定。

Za Ju Chui Shao Dress (Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties)

It was a popular female dress of Wei, Jin, Southern and Northern Dynasties, which was knotted around the waist by a long ribbon.



• 网结状树纹画像石 (汉)

Stone Painting Depicting a Bark Texture Net (Han Dynasty)



唐宋（618—1279）是中国文化艺术发展的重要时期，结作为一种艺术装饰被大量运用于服饰和器物中。在流传至今的唐代铜镜中，就有一面双鸾衔绶纹铜镜，鸾鸟嘴衔飘动的系有“同心结”的绶带，寓意永结同心。唐代永泰公主墓的壁画中有一位仕女在腰带上佩结，形态为蝴蝶结。此外，唐代的《宫乐图》、唐代周昉的《挥扇仕女图》中也都装饰有结的身影。河南偃师酒流沟宋墓出土砖刻上的宋代女子，也在喇叭裤的外侧缀了一连串

The Tang and Song Dynasties (618-1279) witnessed an important development in art during which a large number of decorative knots were used on costumes and utensils. From the bronze mirror passed down from the Tang Dynasty, we can see the pattern of true love knots. As shown in the pattern, mythical birds held ribbons tied with true love knots in their beaks. In the Tomb of Princess Yongtai (Tang Dynasty), there was a wall painting, a court maid with a bowknot tied on her waistband. In addition, some decorative knot-shaped



• 双鸾衔绶纹铜镜（唐）

Bronze Mirror Decorated with the Pattern of Mythical Birds Holding Ribbons Tied with True Love Knots in Their Beaks (Tang Dynasty)



• 舞马衔杯鎏金银壶（唐）

壶上的马颈部系有结饰，奔跑的姿态十分飘逸。

Gilt Silver Kettle with the Pattern of Running Horses (Tang Dynasty)

A knot was tied on the horse neck swaying with the pace of running.

宋代人物画中的结饰
Knot Patterns in the Figure Painting in the Song Dynasty



• 《维摩演教图卷》（北宋 李公麟）【局部】
Painting Scroll of Vimalakirti's Sutra, by Li Gonglin
(Northern Song Dynasty) [Part]



• 《大傩图轴》（南宋佚名）【局部】
Painting Scroll of Grand Ritual Ceremony, by Anonymity (Southern Song Dynasty) [Part]



• 《闵予小子之什图卷》（南宋马和之）
【局部】
Painting Scroll of Min Yu Xiao Zi, by Ma Hezhi (Southern Song Dynasty, 1127-1279) [Part]



饰形象广泛出现在服饰、器物、家具上，形态更加丰富，也更具内涵和寓意。

明清时期（1368—1911），中国的绳结技艺已发展至很高的水平。在诸多日常生活用品上，如轿子、窗帘、彩灯、帐钩、折扇、腰带、发簪、花篮、项坠、香囊、荷包及后来的眼镜袋、烟袋等等，都

Palace. Unearthed carved bricks from the Song Dynasty Tomb in Yanshi, Henan Province showed decorative knot-shaped patterns on a lady's loose pants. Murals in Guangsheng Water God Temple, Hongdong, Shanxi Province, depicted peddlers' clothing decorated with knots. During the Tang and Song periods, the knot as a decoration prevailed while its practical function still remained. Various



• 砖雕人物服装上的结饰（元）
Knots on Brick Carving (Yuan Dynasty)



• 北京故宫中石狮子背后的结饰（明清）
Knot Pattern on the Back of Stone Lion in Forbidden City, Beijing (Ming and Qing Dynasties)



• 法海寺妙音天女服饰上的结（明）
Ornamental Knots on Sarasvati's Costume
in Fahai Temple (Ming Dynasty)

auspicious knots were widely used on clothing, utensils and furniture, which enriched the design, connotation and implication.

The knitting skill of Chinese knot has reached a high level by the Ming and Qing dynasties (1368-1911). Beautiful knots were used to decorate a number of daily necessities, such as sedan chairs, curtains, lanterns, net hooks, fans, belts, hair clasps, flower



• 湘西民间家具雕刻中的绳结纹（近代）
Wood Carvings of Rope Knot Pattern on
Furniture in the Western Area of Hunan
Province (Modern Times)

能见到美丽的花结装饰。此时还出现了灵活多变、一形多意的组合结，其样式繁多、配色考究、名称巧妙，实在令人目不暇接。

在漫长的岁月中，打结、编络子（清代称结饰品为“络子”）一直作为一项重要的女红手艺在

今日，人们仍被精巧生动的中国结所吸引。中国联通（中国联合网络通信集团有限公司）以盘长结作为公司标志，象征着中国联通作为现代电信企业的井然有序、迅达畅通以及联通事业日久天长。2000年，中国把申奥标志定为与“结”神似的图案，使中国结愈加红火，受到越来越多人的关注和喜爱。如今，各式各样色彩鲜艳的中国结挂满了大街小巷，作为服饰、配件和礼品包装、室内陈列装饰等，在现代人的生活中几乎无处不在。



• 礼品盒上的结饰（现代）
Decorative Knots on the Gift Box (Modern Times)



• 靠垫上的结饰（现代）
Decorative Knots on the Back Cushion
(Modern Times)

Nowadays, people are still focused on the delicate and vivid Chinese knot. China Unicom (China United Network Communications Group Co., Ltd.) as a modern telecommunication enterprise uses *Panchang* Knot as its logo symbolizing unimpeded communication and flourished business. In 2000, the logo of bidding for the host country of the Olympics was the design of Chinese knot alike in spirit, which made Chinese knot increasingly popular among people. Today has witnessed a wide range of colorful Chinese knot decorations everywhere. They are used to be as ornament avenues, streets, accessories, present boxes and furnishings.





• 南通民间艺术挂饰（现代 吴元新）
Folk Art Decorations in Nantong, by Wu
Yuanxin (Modern Times)



> 各种各样的结

两个绳头缠绕、穿插成一个实体即为结。结之功用为扎系、固定、连接、阻挡，使两绳为一绳，使绳索成环状，使单绳产生阻隔。作为一项古老的技艺，绳结在长期的累积、演进中，呈现出十分丰富的面貌，用途也相当广泛。下面根据结构形态、功能形态和价值内涵的差异对其加以分类阐述。

单结和群结

根据不同的结构形态，绳结大体可归为两大类型：单结和群结。

单结是指那种洗练而完整的单体绳结，它们是最基本的独立结构单位。“单”，即不能再进行分解。平结、云雀结、三环结、十字结等大多数基本结即属这种类型。

> A Variety of Chinese Knots

The knot is defined as passing one end or part of the string through a loop and pulling it tight. The function of the knot is to tie, fasten and connect. As an ancient craft withstanding the test of time, the knot underwent a series of innovation and changes in its structure and function so the design has become all the more diverse. Considering the difference in shape, function and connotation, knots can be broken down into the following categories.

Single Knot and Group Knot

A variety of knots can be fallen into two major categories based on different structures, single knot and group knot.

A complete and undividable piece of knot is referred to as single knot, which constitutes an individual unit of group