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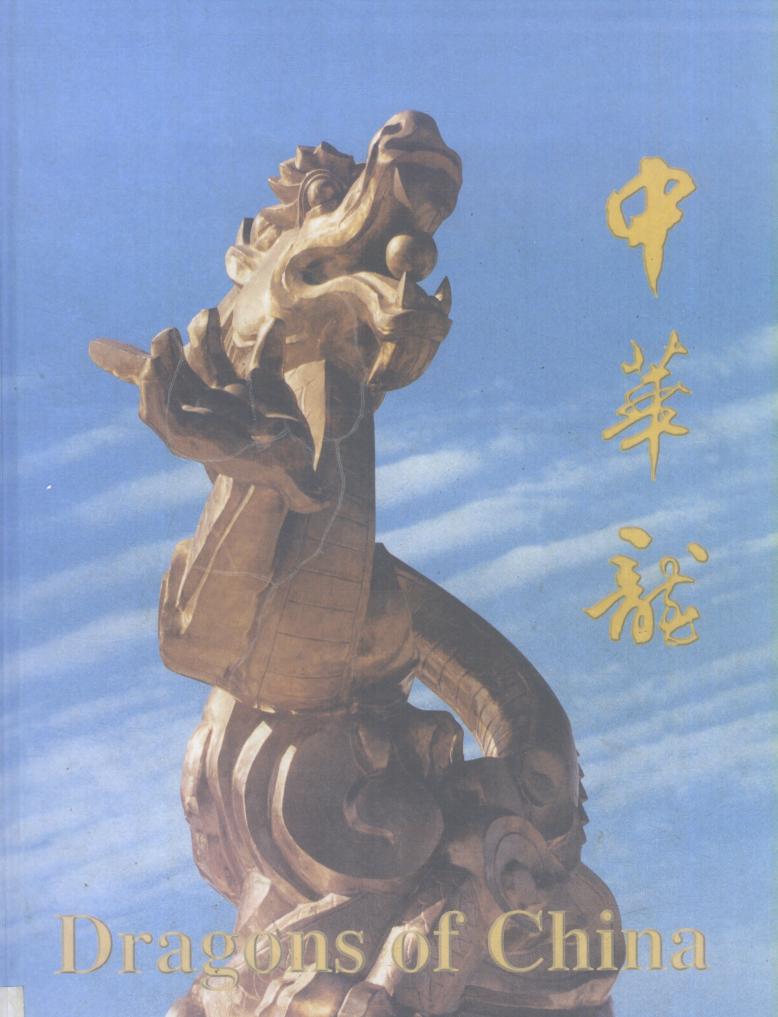
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Dragons of China

Chief Editor Cang Shi

China Film Press







目录 CONTENTS

	前言Foreword	10
Ι	龙年话龙······Notes on the Dragon	14
II	威猛昂扬的龙······ The Awe-Inspiring Dragon	16
Ш	龙的起源 The Origin of the Dragon	18
ΙV	龙的成形和衍变 The Shaping and Development of the Dragon	24
V	龙与帝王一宫苑中的龙 The Dragon and the Emperor—Dragons in the Imperial Palaces and Ga	
VΙ	显学独尊一三孔龙迹 Confucius Esteemed as A Descendant of Dragons	104
VII	龙生九子一龙的儿子们————————————————————————————————————	128
VIII	巨龙腾飞一民间的龙······The Dragon Soars	136

遥远的东方有一条



遥远的东方有一条龙……。

龙,就是中国。中国,就是龙。多少年来,似乎已为举世公认。

世间千千万万飞禽走兽中,中国人最熟悉、最喜爱的,是龙;最崇拜、最敬畏的,也是龙。尽管谁也不曾亲眼见到过真正的龙,同那些雕刻、绘画和工艺中一模一样的龙,但是任何人的心目中,都有一条翱翔九霄、遨游云海、泽被万方、威力无穷的龙。

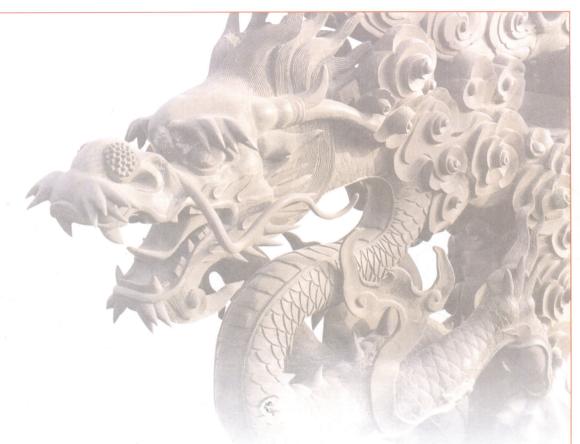
人人都相信龙的存在。它永世长存, 无处不在。

中国人爱说自己是龙的子孙,龙的传人。但是,中国人更是龙的创造者,龙的主人。龙,既有古代图腾的特征,又分明蕴藏着人的创造力和想像力。人们在脱离了图腾年代很久很久以后,仍然保留着龙在万物中不可企及的极高地位,赋予它种种象征的涵义:神圣、庄严、肃穆、威武、尊贵、勇猛,而且经过多少世纪的无数无名艺术家的创造、加工、充实、交流,终于构成一个具有独特民族风格的壮美的艺术形象。

千百年来,连篇累牍的历史记载、文人著作、帝王诏书、民间传说、口头文章中,无数次详尽而带有夸大色彩地叙述龙,描写龙,讴歌龙,使它家喻户晓,妇孺皆知。世界上恐怕还没有第二种生物能达到如此广泛深入、在意识心态上产生如此巨大影响的程度。

然而, 历史发展到今天, 我们毕竟早已离开封建时代。以龙为象征的君临天下、至高无尚、绝对权威、莫敢仰视的专制意识, 越来越遭到鄙视、摒斥、厌恶乃至唾弃, 因为它同现代人的民主、自由、文明、平等、开拓、融合的意识相比, 是太保守、太落后、太脱离人民的愿望了, 简直如同水火不相融。

于是, 龙的观念在改变, 龙的地位也在改变。它不再是神权、皇权的代表。它本来



就来自人间,是人民凭智慧和愿望创造了它,也是人自身的懦弱、愚昧和缺陷献给它无穷的威力。如今,它脱却一身神秘莫测、仰不可攀的鳞甲,从虚无缥渺的苍穹回到人间大地,回到你、我、他身边,同我们生活在一起了。

龙宫禁城, 开辟为任人游览的休憩地。人们在千姿百态的龙的身旁留连光景, 纵情观赏, 走近它, 抚摩它, 欣赏那数不清的雕刻的龙, 刺绣的龙, 绘画的龙, 髹漆的龙, 同它亲昵, 同它嬉戏, 把它当做你的好朋友。

龙的文化,进入学者书斋、专家论著,也到了民间艺人的口头和手上,那游动在古籍文学、艺术、文物、民俗、建筑、器物、织棉、饰物以至玩具上的龙,是研究我们悠远而丰富的民族文化的最珍贵的资料、最美妙的形象。真可说是取之不尽,用之不竭。

这个从来就根本不存在的理想动物,又被创造它的人民,重新赋予崭新的生命力。

龙,以它矫健壮美的身姿,以它腾飞万里的气势,以它上天入海的威力,将同我们 伟大的民族一起进入新世纪,将为我们悠久的历史增添新的光彩。

遥远的东方有一条龙,它的名字叫中国……。

正是基于这样的认识和心情,我们将这本画册呈献于读者面前。愿它能有助于你了解龙,观察龙,熟悉龙,有助于你加深对龙的理解,探索龙的精魂。



初草于戊辰年春分时节,再识于已卯年秋分

FOREWORD

In the faraway Orient, there is a dragon.

The dragon is the symbol of China and China is the dragon. The whole world has known this for many centuries.

Of all the animals in the world, the dragon is the most favored, loved, respected and feared by the Chinese people. In everybody's mind, there is a powerful dragon soaring high in the sea of clouds, benevolent toward all the land, though nobody knows what it really looks like or has ever seen the real creature. They have seen only the images carved or painted in works of art.

People are fully convinced that there is a dragon and that it is immortal and omnipresent.

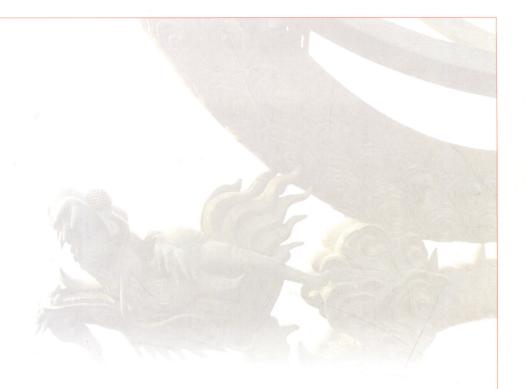
The Chinese people used to be proud of being the sons and daughters of dragons. They are also, however, the creator and master of the dragons.

As a totem in ancient times, the dragon was a product of man's creative power and imagination. Long after the age of totems, the dragon has remained the greatest living creature under the sun. It is endowed with holiness, dignity, solemnity, nobility, boldness, and power. The centuries-long development of the creation, modeling, modification, and exchange of the images of the dragon by many unknown artists and craftsmen eventually produced a magnificent and beautiful image of the dragon with a unique Chinese style.

Through the ages, in numerous historical records, literary works, imperial edict: and folk tales, the dragon has been described and praised, becoming a household word in China. No any other living creature in the world could have produced such a great and far-reaching influence on the mind of man.

But, since the end of feudalism many years ago, the idea of the dragon as a symbol of monarchy and supreme power or absolute authority has dimmed or been belittled, even cast away, because it is too conservative, outdated, and far from the will of the people, going against the ideas of democracy, freedom, civilization, equality, development, and communion advocated in modern times.

Accordingly, the idea and conception of the dragon is changing nowadays, and its position has changed as well. The



dragon is no longer a symbol of divinity and monarchy. In fact, The dragon was created by the wisdom and will of the people. It became a symbol of the powerful monarchy because of the weakness, ignorance, and defects of man himself. Today, the dragon has descended from its fairyland in heaven to the realistic earth to live with all of us, dropping its mysterious and awe-inspiring demeanor.

The Forbidden City, the imperial palace of emperors in the past, is now open to the public. Visitors have gone to see the various designs of dragons in the palace carved on the columns or embroidered on cloth or painted on paper, and they have admired the varied styles and enjoyed the pleasure of being with them.

The culture of dragon has developed in the scholars' studios and their works as well through the lips and hands of folk artists and craftsmen. The dragon patterns in ancient documents, literary works, art works, historical relics, folklore, architecture, daily articles, textile products, and accessory fittings would provide an inexhaustible and most valuable source of materials and designs for the study of the rich and age-old Chinese culture.

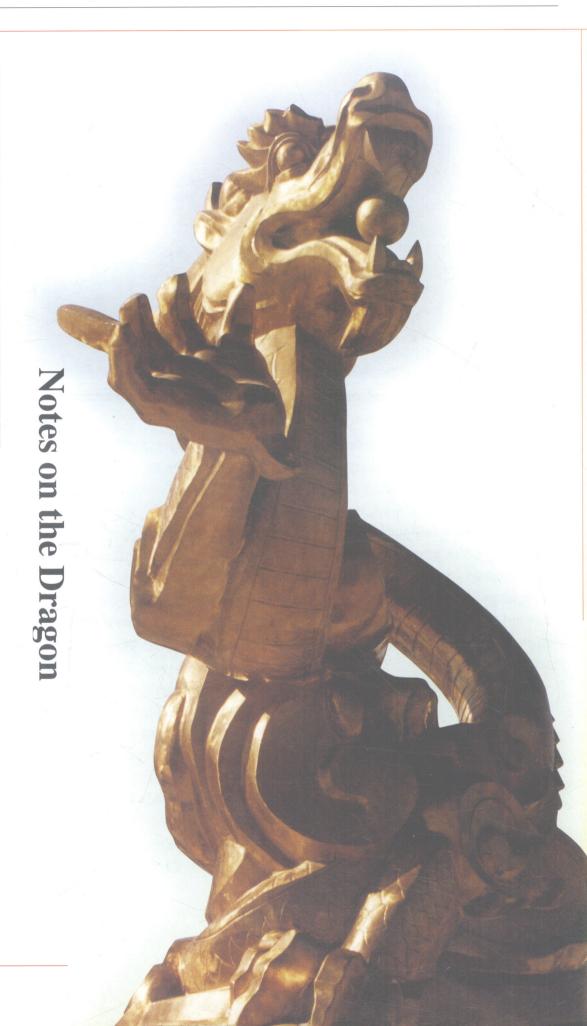
The imaginary creature that has never really existed on earth now has been revitalized by the people, its creator. The dragon, with its agile movement and roaring aspiration, shooting into the skies and diving deep into the seas, will march into the new century together with the great Chinese nation, adding a new luster to China's long and everlasting development.

In the far, far away Orient, there is a dragon. It is called China....

With all of our understanding about the dragon and the feelings we cherish for it, we dedicate this album to you, our readers, hoping it will help you understand and get acquainted with the dragon and further explore its spiritual qualities.

Yuan Ying Spring





不久,人类社会即将迎来一个新的纪元。而公 元 2000年, 洽是中国农历的庚辰年, 按十二生肖也 就是龙年。根据历法推算, 自从有公元纪年以来, 2000年是第一个"千禧龙年"。而且,将来每隔三千 年才会诞生一条"干禧龙"。如今,适逢千禧,又是 一个龙年,值得纪念,更当喜庆!

中国民间,一向把龙视为高贵的吉祥物,古人甚 致将它当做"兴云雨、利万物"无所不能的神祗来敬 奉崇拜。其实,在我们这个人类生活的地球上,从来 就不曾有过龙,它是中国远古先民寄托向往而创造 的一种臆想物,一种某种意义上的图腾。因为它在多 民族共同体的中华民族大家庭的形成与发展中,在 中国的历史和文化发展中,曾经发挥过非比寻常的 作用和影响, 所以自古以来人们就特别尊崇偏爱这 个威猛昂扬的神物。随着社会的进步, 科学的昌明, 龙已经褪尽了它的"神"的色彩, 仅以一种精神象征 和它的独特的艺术形象,仍然存在于中国这广袤的 大地和空间, 时时跃动遨游于人们的观念与遐想之 中。于是, 做为炎黄子孙的中国人和海外华人自称是 "龙的传人",一些西方人也称中国是"东方巨龙",龙 成了中国的象征。总之,龙,做为一种历史悠久的文 化现象,已融入于现代的社会生活之中了。

值此龙年将临之际, 我们重新编辑了这本龙的 画册,呈献给海内外的读者,以志千禧,以助龙年雅 1//!

这本书并非什么学术性著作, 而是一本关于中 国龙文化的通俗读物。当你翻看这本画册的时候,就 仿佛是一位朋友引导陪同你漫游参观中国龙的博物 馆,让你见识、欣赏那一件件龙的艺术品,听我们给 你讲述关于龙的神话传说和故事……。

According to the traditional Chinese calendar, the year 2000 is the year of the dragon and will mark the first time that the year of the dragon falls on the first year of a millennium. Such a coincidence occurs only every 3,000 years. That is why the Chinese people take the year 2000 as a special year for celebration.

To the Chinese people, the dragon has always been a symbol of good luck. Especially in ancient times, people worshiped the dragon as a god who is able to summon the wind and rain and is benevolently disposed to all things on earth. But the fact is that there are no dragons in the world. The image of the dragon was created by the Chinese people. This mysterious animal has played an important role in the formation of the Chinese nation as a family of 56 ethnic groups and has had a powerful influence upon the development of Chinese culture. Thus, the Chinese people have loved and respected the awe-inspiring dragon since ancient times. Owing to the progress of human society and the development of science, the dragon has become less of a mystery, but it is still the symbol of China's national spirit and a unique artistic image in people's minds. The Chinese people, including the overseas Chinese, call themselves descendants of dragons, and some westerners call China the Giant Dragon in the East. In a word, the dragon in China, has become a cultural phenomenon existing in the social life.

Shortly before the arrival of the year of the dragon, we have compiled this picture album of dragons for you, our readers at home and abroad, wishing you good luck in the year of the dragon.

This album is not an academic work, but a book for popular consumption. We hope that when you look over this picture album, you will feel as if you are visiting a Chinese dragon museum guided by a friend. You will be surprised to see so many works of art about dragons and you will enjoy yourself with the tales of dragons....





The Awe-Inspiring Dragor

也许有人会问: 龙是什么? 那么首先请你看这 幅照片,请你仔细端详这照片上的龙。你可以在北京 城里北海公园的九龙壁上找到它。

这龙的主干身躯蜿蜓似蛇,全身生有鱼样的鳞 甲, 左右前后的四肢似蜥蜴爬虫之类, 脚掌似虎, 五 趾爪似鹰;它的头像马或者骆驼,长吻利齿又洽似鳄 鱼, 怒睁一对暇蝦眼 (一说似鬼), 面颊中间长着一 个人一样的大鼻子,双耳似牛,额头生有一对 岈的 鹿角,还生有飘飞的鬣发和胡须,口边长出两条长长 的如鲶鱼似的髭须;通体自头至尾生有连续的肉刺 状的脊毛,它的有毛的尾巴却像虎豹之尾。

这就是长久以来活跃于人们心目中的龙,这就 是从远古的原始图腾到三千多年前的商周时期开始 成形,直到两千年前汉代便定了型的龙的形象。如今 你所能见到的龙,大抵都是这个模样。

如前所述,世上本没有龙,它是中国古人创造的臆想