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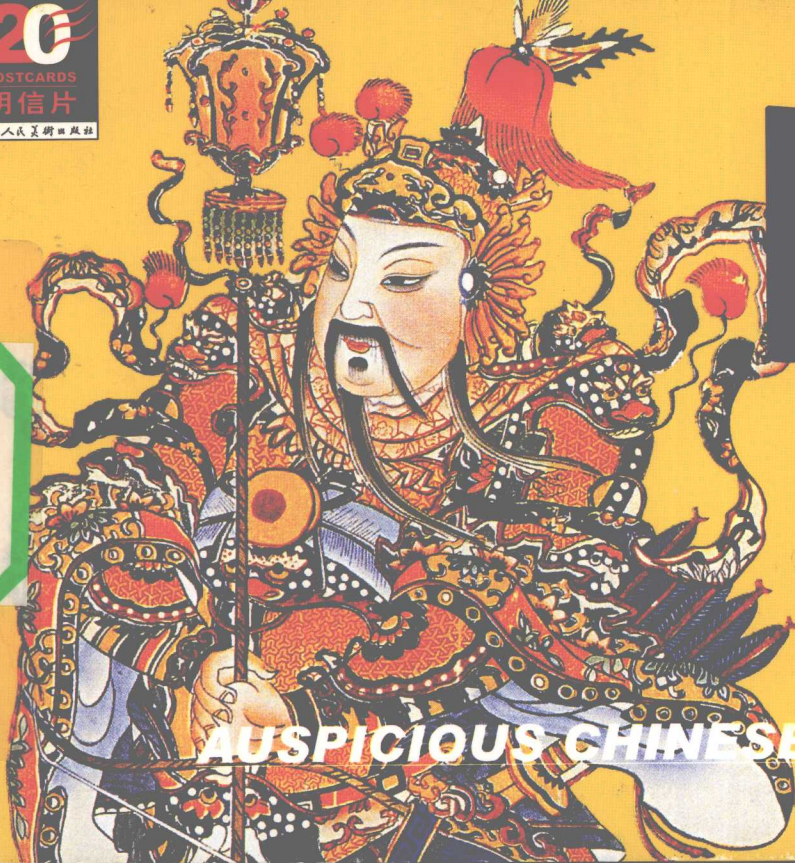
中国吉祥

Door God

门神

AUSPICIOUS CHINESE PATTERNS

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中国吉祥·门神

出版：上海人民美术出版社

明信片制作中心

(上海市长乐路672弄33号)

经销：全国新华书店

印刷：上海市美术印刷厂

开本：889×1194 1/48 印张1

版次：2003年4月第1版第1次印刷

书号：85322·18624

定价：20.00元

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Shanghai People's Fine Arts Publishing House

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。

在中国民间年画题材中，“门神”起源最早。在科学未昌明的时代，人们对自然界的许多现象无法正确理解，认为丰收歉灾、吉凶祸福等现象，均由神仙鬼役所主宰。因此在新年张贴“门神”，以此来驱灾御凶，以保佑来年家宅安康。“门神”成为年画中的一个重要品种。民间“门神”的形象多种多样，最早的形象是汉代王充《论衡》中所提到的“沧海之中”、“度朔之山”上的“神荼”和“郁垒”二神，据说他们会将恶害之鬼绑起来喂老虎。唐代还出现了专捉恶鬼的“钟馗”形象。后世的门神主要有尉迟恭、秦叔宝等武士形象，为人们所熟悉。佛教寺庙的殿门上往往以一对药叉或天王作门神。此外，老虎和狮子等动物也常常作为门神形象出现。

本册明信片选择了一组“门神”年画，向广大读者展示中国吉祥艺术魅力之一斑。

Chinese Auspicious Art is the vivid cultural phenomenon of warding off evil, seeking auspiciousness and enjoying a life of ease and comfort.

In the topics of Chinese folk New Year Picture, *Door God* originates in the earliest time. In the era of unflourishing science, people can't understand many phenomenon of nature correctly, they used to think the abundant harvest, catastrophe, auspiciousness and evil are all dominated by the celestial being and ghost. Hence, they paste the *Door God* to expel the disaster and evil, bless the ease and safety of houses. *Door God* becomes one of the important species in the New Year Picture. The figure of folk *Door God* has multi-species, the earliest figures are the *Shen Tu* and *Yu Lei* mentioned in *Amid the Blue Sea* and *Lean Mountain* of Wang Chong's work *Lun Heng* in Han Dynasty. It is said that they bound the ghost of evil to feed the tiger, In the Tang Dynasty also appeared the figure of *Zhong Kui* specially to arrest the evil ghost. The *Door Gods* of late generation mainly include the warrior figures of Wei Chigong, Qin Shubao etc, they are familiar by the people. On the doors of Budda Temple, people used to take the medicinal fork or celestial king as the *Door God*. By the way, they also take tiger and lion as the figures of *Door God*.

This post card selects a series of *Door God* Pictures, showing the charm of Chinese Auspicious Art.





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绿地流云武门神 天津杨柳青 *Tianjin Yangliuqing*
Green Land & Moving Cloud Warrior Gate God

北京的皇宫和王府都有高阶大门，新年时多挂此巨幅门神以显豪门气魄。

There are high-grade big gate in the palace and imperial mansion of Beijing. In the New Year, people used to hang this huge Gate God picture to show the rich and powerful style.

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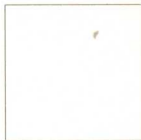
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福寿天官文门神 北京 Beijing
Lucky and Long Life Heaven's Civil Official Gate God

此门神为一对上朝文官的形象，手托之圆盘上分置有“福”、“寿”二字，象征“福如东海，寿比南山”。
*This Gate God is a pair of figure of civil official in the prior dynasties, with **Luck** and **Long Life** on the circular disk held by the hands, symbolizing **Luck is like the East Sea, and Long Life is like the Southern Mountain.***

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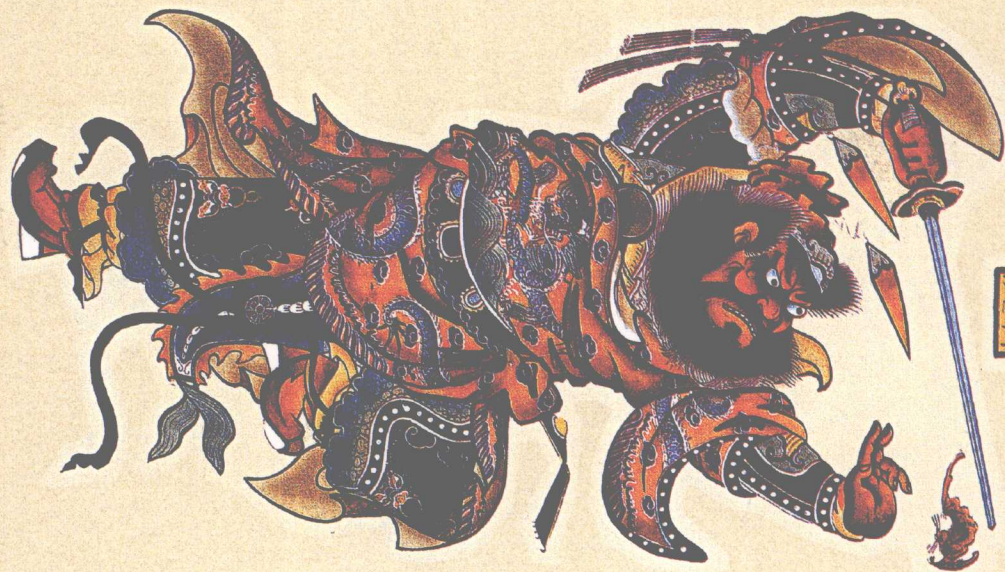
扬鞭铜门神 四川绵竹 Sichuan Mianzhu
Gate God Flourishing a Whip

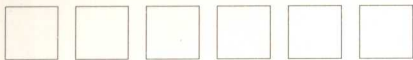
此对门神色彩鲜明，姿态对称，极富民间装饰韵味。
This pair of Gate God has bright color and symmetrical pose, full
of the taste of folk decoration.

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Deer God

AUSPICIOUS
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钟馗 天津杨柳青 Tianjin Yangliuqing
Zhong Kui

唐玄宗病中梦一大汉，自称终南山武举不捷之进士钟馗，捉小鬼啖之，玄宗病愈。民间以此形象逐鬼辟邪。
Emperor Tang Xuanzong met a guy named Zhong kui in the dream when he was sick. The guy said he was Jin Shi (ancient official rank) without swift martial art in Zhongnan Mountain, but capable of catching the small ghost. After Xuanzong recovered his health, people dispelled the ghost and perished the evil with this figure.

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猛虎雄威下山崗
咆哮如雷鎮上倉
在世專担天精怪
普天稱為獸中王





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虎镇图 山东杨家埠 Shandong Yangjiabu
Tiger Suppressing Painting

画中文为：猛虎雄威下山岗，咆哮如雷镇上苍，在世专捉妖精怪，普天称为兽中王。
Ferocious tiger rans down from the mountain with power and prestige, roaring like the thunder to suppress the heaven, specially catches the spirit and ghost in the world. People used to call it the king of animals.

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斧钺五子武门神 苏州桃花坞 Suzhou Taohuawu
Hatchet's Five Sons Warrior Gate God

神荼、郁垒下方有五个幼童，使门神增添了喜庆气息。
Under the God *Shen Tu* and *Yu Lei*, there are five children, letting
the Gate God increasing the atmosphere of celebration.

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