

# Chinese Knot | 中国结

徐雯◎ 编著





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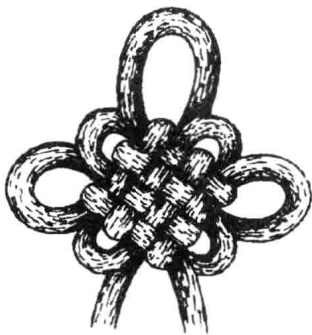
CHINESE RED

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# 中国结

## Chinese Knot

徐雯◎编著



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中国结是中国特有的民间手工编结艺术，它以其独特的东方神韵和丰富多彩的形态展现了中国人民的智慧和深厚的文化素养。

中国人对线有着深刻的认识与理解，对以绳线编制的结也情有独钟。这小小的结，表现了中国人高超的技巧和惊人的创造力。由于岁月的侵



As the unique handmade Chinese folk art, Chinese knot is a knitting handicraft with diverse shapes mirroring the charm of oriental art, wisdom of Chinese people and their artistic attainment.

Chinese people have been showing special preference to knitting strings so that they have made diverse Chinese knots by their amazing creativity and clever hands. Knots were widely used in ancient times when they acted as notes, accessories and emotional expression. As time goes by, those beautiful knots made in old times are gone but the design can be seen from carved stones, paintings and accessories. The depiction of diverse shapes and beautiful patterns has been passed down. What's more, the profound connotation of Chinese knots has been rooted in later generations.

A small handmade Chinese knot is

蚀，那些年代久远的美丽的结早已不复存在，但刻画在砖石上、描绘在画卷里、再现于装饰中、记载于文字间的各类结仍以其丰富的样式、巧妙的结构、优美的形态和深刻的内涵感染着我们。无论是结绳记事，还是束衣佩玉；无论是点缀装饰，还是寓意传情，都是古时用结之频繁及广泛的表现和见证。

一个小小的结，不仅仅是美和巧的展示，更是自然灵性和人文精神的表露，蕴藏着质朴、自然的情愫，蕴藏着人的亲和之质以及机器永远无法替代的人工之巧。

endowed with both beauty and spirituality. Chinese people prefer knots in rustic and natural style because any kind of mechanical production is no substitute for ingenious handmade ones.





## 中国结文化

Culture of Chinese Knot ..... 001

中国结的来历与发展

Origin and Development of Chinese Knot ..... 002

各种各样的结

A Variety of Chinese Knots ..... 023

结的寓意

Implied Meaning of Chinese Knot ..... 037



## 中国结的应用

Usage of Chinese Knot ..... 043

服饰之结

Knot on Costumes ..... 044

装饰之结

Decorative Knot ..... 056

礼仪节庆之结

Chinese Knot for Festivities ..... 065

## 附录：几种中国结的编制技法

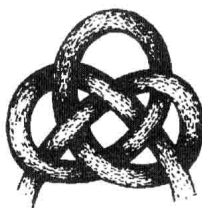
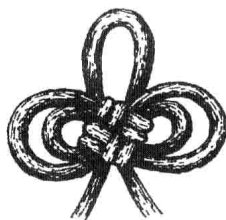
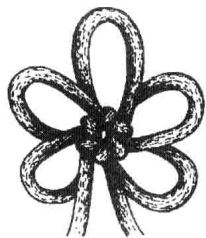
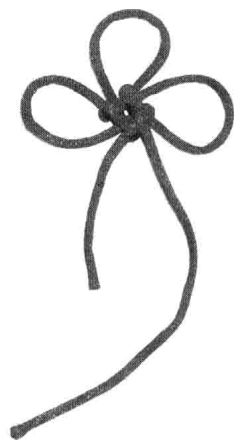
Appendix: Knitting Techniques of  
Several Types of Chinese Knots ..... 079

基本结

Elementary Knot ..... 080

组合结

Group Knot ..... 104



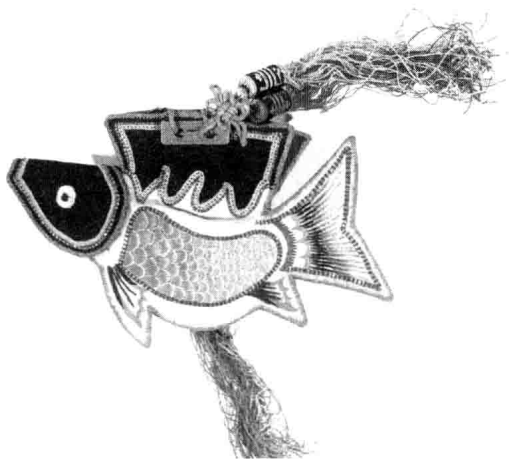


# 中国结文化

## 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

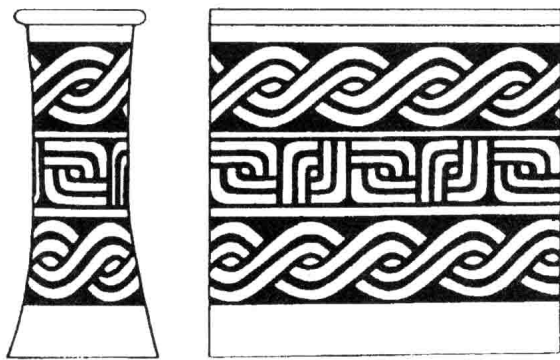
结是极平常而又极有意味的事物。说其平常，是因为有绳便有结，每个人都会打结，而且常要打结，它平常得简直不被人们注意。说其有意味，是因为结除了有束物、连接、固定之用外，还有传情达意和装饰美化的功能。在悠悠岁月中，结与人们的精神生活结下了不解之缘，乃至成为一种能够寄托丰富意义或无尽情思的装饰品、陈设品。

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.

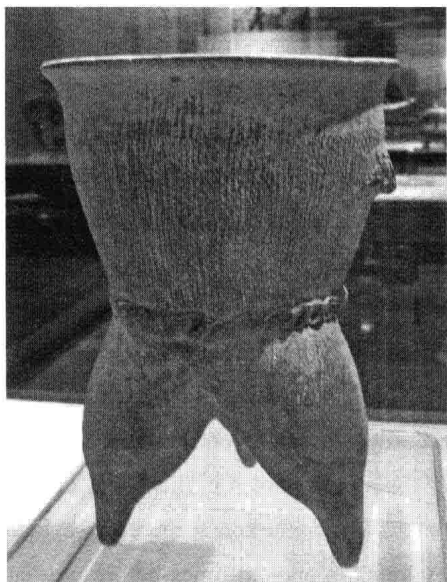
The history of using knots was recorded in *Interpretation in The Book of Change*. As noted in this book, human beings originally kept a record of events by knots in ancient times before written

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，逐渐引发起人们的审美关注，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,

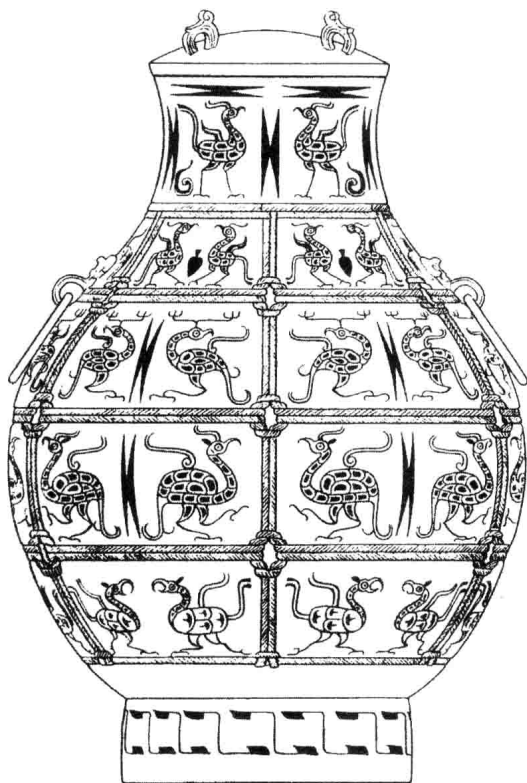


• 绳纹陶甗 (yǎn) (夏)

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，上半部是甑 (zèng)，两者之间有镂空的算 (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.



• 错红铜绳结纹壶摹绘图（春秋）

Rubbing of Knots Pattern on Copper Pot (Spring and Autumn Period, 770 B.C.-476 B.C.)

的美的历程。新石器时代陶器上丰富的绳纹装饰，表现出绳的各种纠缠、穿插、扭转之态，它们虽不是结形的模仿，却是结的精神和意象的写照。这种精神或意象最终向着审美的结饰方面发展，成为“绳结纹”。

there appeared diverse knot patterns such as twisting, winding and interweaving on pottery. Even though they were not exactly the same as the physical knots, they mirrored the abstract images. While an upsurge in aesthetic was in the making, the abstract images evolved into knot patterns accordingly and they were used for ornamental purpose.

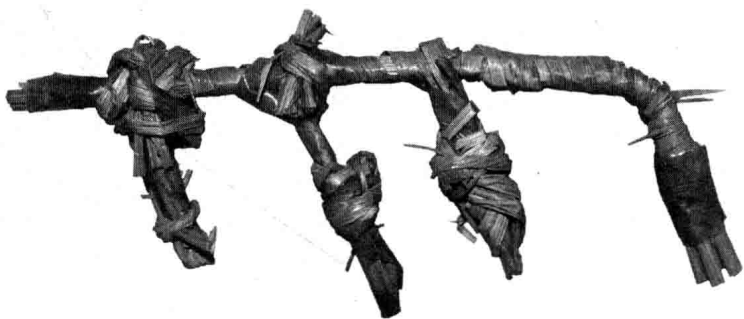


## 结绳记事

在文字产生之前，远古人们为了帮助记忆，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，青铜双龙络纹甬（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甬、罐以便于提携的状貌，但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



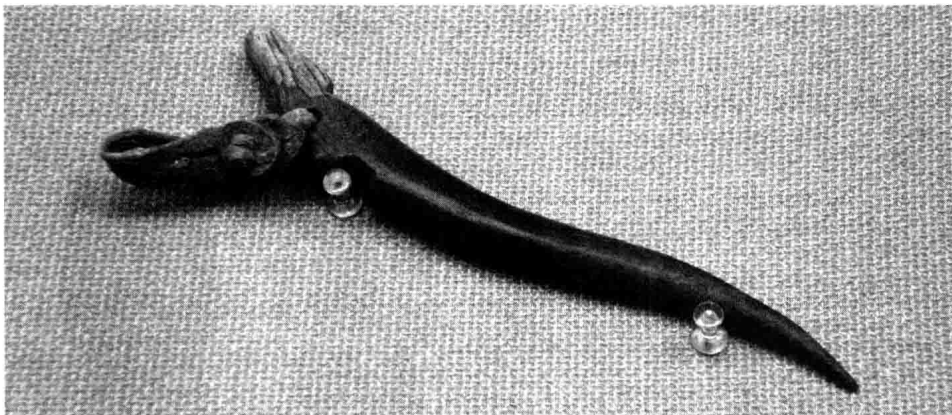
• 青铜双龙络纹甬【局部】四角上的绳结纹摹绘图（春秋）  
Rubbing of Duo-Dragon and Rope Knots Patterns on Bronze Urn [Part] (Spring and Autumn Period)



- 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)



• 古代解结用的觿（春秋）

An Ancient Tool for Unknotting (Spring and Autumn Period)

饰格式。

结不仅用于器物的装饰，同时也应用在人们的衣服和佩饰上。古人着装习尚“宽衣博带”，要想使衣服贴体、保暖，就得靠带子来扎系并要打结。因此在古人衣装上，结的样式很丰富，有束服之结，也有装饰之结。飘逸的带与美妙的结已经成为美用一体的中国古典服装的重要组成部分。由于打结、解结是经常的事，所以古人身上常常佩有觿（xī）这种专门用于解结的工具。《说文》中解释道：“觿，佩角，锐端，可以解结也。”

穿衣要打结，戴帽、挂印要打结，佩玉也要打结。中国人佩玉风

with straps” was the fashion of that era. To keep warm fitting closely but comfortably, ancient people knotted the strap; thereby the style of knot became very rich. Used as tying and decoration, the knot has constituted an important part of Chinese classical clothing. As the knot became a common practice, ancient people often had a tool for unknotting with them. The book *Explaining Characters* states that: “Xi, pendant horn, with tapering tip, is used for untangling the knots.”

The knot was closely connected with ancient costumes because it was often tied on dress, on hats, on seals and on jade pendants. For Chinese people, wearing jade accessories has long history.



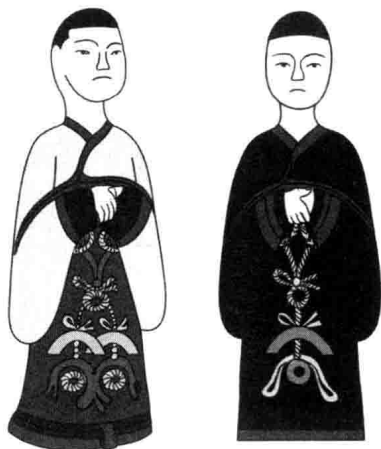


# 河南信阳楚墓出土的组佩彩绘俑复原图

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、固定

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