

中国

风

筝

Traditional Chinese Culture and Art
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外文出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGES PRESS

Chinese Kites



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前言

湛蓝的天空中，一只只风筝在飘荡、盘旋、翻飞，如鱼龙遨游在云水间，鹰、雁翱翔于长空，仙者驾云飞升……更有些风筝上附有音响装置，传出隐隐约约的声音，像是天外仙乐。中国风筝艺术给予人的美感，既有艺术品造型美、绘画的形象美，又有舞蹈般的动感美和音乐的听觉美，以及与自然环境相结合的意境美。众美归之，难怪几千年来，奇巧新颖的游戏方式层出不穷，人们却始终对扎制、放飞风筝乐而不倦。

中国是风筝的故乡。风筝发明已有两千五百多年的历史。据《韩非子·外储说左上》记载“墨子（约公元前468—前316年）斫木为鸢，三年而成，‘飞一日而败’”。也有的学者认为风筝起源还要早些。风筝是随舟船航行开始后而发明的。考古发现证实中国人在商殷时期（约公元前17世纪—约公元前11世纪），就掌握了航海技术。

风筝在中国诞生后，逐渐地传到了世界各地。英国学者李约瑟博士著的《中国科技史》中说，公元12世纪中国风筝传入欧洲，他认为这是中华民族向欧洲传播的重大科学发明之一。风筝传入日本要早一些。日本学者普遍认为风筝是在中国唐代（公元618—907年）时由日本遣唐使，从中国带回到日本的，后传至东南亚等地。

中国风筝最早是用竹木制作，名为“木鸢”，后来用丝绸制作的风筝叫“风巾”，再后用纸张制作的风筝叫“纸鸢”。中国地域广阔，风筝的名称也有所不同，如叫“纸鸢”、“木鸢”“风鸢”、“鹞子”、“风瓦”等等。

“风筝”一名，据记载最早出现于宋代（公元960—1279年），宋高承著《事物纪原》中。据记载五代后汉（公元947—950）时的大臣李邕在纸鸢上安放了一种类似竹笛发音的装置，放飞时“使风入竹，如鸣箏”。人们把这种纸鸢叫“风筝”。后来也就把能放上天的各种“鸢”，统叫“风筝”。

17世纪后是中国风筝发展的鼎盛时期，这时的风筝无论在样式、扎制技术、装饰绘画及放飞技巧上均比过去有了很大的进步。到了近代，放风筝已成为全国范围内的群众娱乐活动，风筝制法上也出现了新构思、新技术和新材料。各地出现了不少的风筝流派。

风筝在中国的北方主要产于北京、天津、山东等地，南方为江苏、浙

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江一带。

风筝的画面图案多选取寓意吉祥的花、鸟、虫、兽组成，如象征富贵的牡丹，报春的燕子，与“福”字谐音的蝙蝠，喻意长寿的“猫、蝶”等。人形风筝所绘的人物形象多出自中国古典文学作品和神话传说，且是民间喜闻乐见的人物形象。如神怪小说《西游记》中的唐僧及其三位亦神亦人的徒弟：孙悟空、猪八戒、沙和尚；广行善事的道家“八仙”；以自酿的美酒为西王母祝寿的仙女麻姑……

风筝在历史发展的进程中，起过重要的作用。现代的航天器的雏形是风筝，恐怕无人怀疑。美国华盛顿史密斯宇航博物馆内，有一块说明牌上就写着“人类最早的飞行器是中国的风筝和火箭。”中国的一些史料中也多处记录了古代中国人利用风筝载人和测量高度及距离。同时也将风筝用于军事，风筝不但能测出敌军的距离，而且还能往外输送消息及物质。

风筝传到国外后，世界各国人民对风筝的运用就更广泛了。1804年美国人制作了很像风筝的飞行器。1826年英国人发明了用风筝作动力牵引的“飞车”。1874年美国一无名者利用风筝渡过240米宽的峡谷。19世纪法国人利用风筝成功地进行了一次海难救助。这些都是飞机发明前，人们经常利用的飞行器。

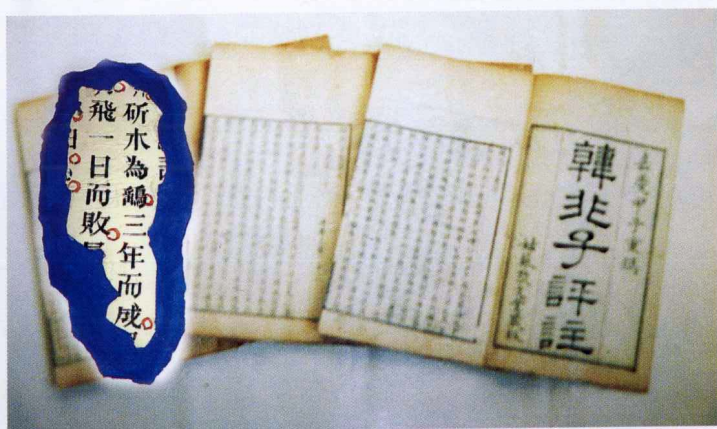
西方一些著名的科学家也曾利用风筝进行过许多重要的科学实验。苏格兰的威尔松在1749年把温度计绑在六个串联起来的风筝上，然后放飞到天空，再慢慢地让其降下，以测定不同高度的温度。1752年美国科学家富兰克林在闪电时把系有金属丝的风筝放上天，揭开了雷电的秘密，证明空中闪电和电机发出的电是同一种“电物质”。英国气象学家在1833年利用风筝测量风速，取得了一系列数据。从此，风筝开始正式作为气象工具而被使用。20世纪初，科学家科罗埃蒙·马可尼利用风筝作天线，与塞德·琼斯在大西洋两岸进行了无线电信号传送试验，获得了成功。

总之在过去一系列的科学试验中，风筝发挥了不可取代的作用。在今后的科学技术发展和未来的生活中风筝肯定还会发挥更大的作用。

放风筝不仅可以自娱、娱人，好的风筝还是馈赠亲朋好友的珍贵礼品，也可陈列于家中供欣赏和装饰环境。

自从风筝产生后，它就逐渐成为我国各民族人民喜欢的一项娱乐活动，由于各地的民俗民情及群众审美观念的不同，各地风筝在扎制、造型、装饰、绘画及放飞的技巧上，都形成了各自的地方特色。为了宏扬发展风筝艺术，中国各地的风筝协会经常举行风筝比赛、交流风筝发展中的经验。现在世界很多国家都有风筝协会，各国互相邀请国外的风筝爱好者参加比赛，交流扎制风筝的心得体会。

中国山东省潍坊市的风筝节就是一项在国内外比较有影响的风筝比赛。它不但促进了中国风筝艺术及世界风筝艺术的发展，也增进了各国人民的友谊，同时为潍坊的经济、旅游事业的发展起了重要的推动作用。



《韩非子·外储说左上》记载墨子是中国风筝最早的制造者

It is recorded in the book *Han Fei Zi* that Mo Zi was the earliest maker of kites in China.

1987年吉林省怀代县出土金代（公元1115 - 1234年）铸有放风筝的铜镜

A bronze mirror of the Jin dynasty (1115-1234) cast with a picture of kite flying was unearthed at Huaidai County, Jilin Province in 1987.



Foreword

When kites fly, float and wheel in a clear blue sky, they are like fish and dragons swimming in water, eagles and swan geese gliding through the air and celestials riding on clouds. There are kites equipped with musical devices which emit sound like music from space. Many of the Chinese kites are works of art. Because of their beautiful shapes, the beautiful pictures painted on them, their rhythmic movements, the pleasant music they produce and their harmonious merging with natural surroundings, people have continued to introduce new gadgets to the kite and never lost interest in making and flying kites in the past several thousand years.

China is the birthplace of kites with a history of more than 2,500 years. According to the book *Han Fei Zi*, "Mo Zi [c.468-316 B.C.] cut wood to make a kite and completed it in three years. It flew for a whole day before it came down." Some scholars believe kites originated long before that time and was invented by sailors on their seafaring trips. Archaeological finds prove that navigation skills were mastered by the Chinese in the Shang-Yin time in the 17th-11th centuries B.C.

After their birth in China, kites gradually found their way to other parts of the world. In his book *Science and Civilization in China*, Dr. J. Needham said that kites were brought to Europe in the 12th century. He believed that kites were one of the important Chinese scientific inventions introduced to Europe. Kites were taken to Japan at a still earlier date. Japanese scholars generally believe that they were brought to Japan by Japanese envoys to the court of the Tang dynasty (618-907). Later, kites also found their way to places in Southeast Asia.

The earliest Chinese kites were made with bamboo and wood and were called "wooden kites." When kites were made with silk and satin later, they were called "wind scarf." Still later, when kites were covered with paper, they were called "paper kites." As China is extensive in area, kites were called by different names in different places, such as paper, wooden and wind kites, hawks or wind tiles. "Fengzheng" (wind zithers) the Chinese name for kites, first appeared in written record during the Song dynasty (960-1279). The book *Records of the Origin of Things* written by Gao Cheng of the Song dynasty states that during the Later Han dynasty (947-950) of the Five Dynasties period, a senior official named Li Ye attached a bamboo pipe to a kite. "When wind blew into the pipe, it produced a sound like that of a zither." People then began to call this kind of kites "wind zithers," a name which later applied on all types of kites.

After the 17th century, kites in China went through a period of brilliant development. Great progress was made in the styles of the kites, the skills of making them, the

decorations and pictures painted on them and the skill of flying them. During the modern period, kite flying has become a nationwide popular pastime. New ideas, skills and materials were introduced into the making of kites. There have appeared many different schools of kite makers.

Kites are now made mainly in Beijing, Tianjin and Shandong in the north and Jiangsu and Zhejiang in the south.

Many of the designs and pictures of flowers, birds, insects and animals painted on the kites have symbolic meanings, such as the peony, which symbolizes riches and honour; swallow as the harbinger of spring; bat, which is a homonym of the word for "blessing"; cat and butterfly, which mean longevity. Most of the kites made in the shape of human figures are based on characters in classical Chinese novels or legends favoured by the common people, such as Monk Xuanzhuang and his three disciples: Monkey, Piggy and Sandy in the mythological novel *Journey to the West*; the Eight Taoist Immortals who did many good things for the people; the fairy maid Magu who fermented fine wine to celebrate the birthday of Queen Mother of the West.

Kites played an important role in the progress of history. Nobody will doubt that the kite was the embryonic form of the modern spacecraft. An inscription in the Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., USA, says that mankind's earliest flying devices were the Chinese kites and rockets.

Some Chinese historical documents have recorded the use of kites for sending man aloft and for measuring height and distance in ancient times. Kites were also used for military purposes, such as finding out how far away the enemy was and sending messages and materials.

After kites were introduced to other countries, they were put to even wider use. In 1804, an American made a kite-like flying vehicle. In 1826, a British invented a "winged vehicle" pulled by a kite. In 1874, an anonymous American crossed a 240-metre-wide canyon on a kite. In the 19th century, the French made use of a kite in a successful rescue operation at sea. All these happened before the airplane was invented.

Some Western scientists have employed kites in scientific experiments. In 1749, a Scottish man named Wilson tied thermometers on a string of six kites to measure temperature at different heights by lowering the kite slowly. The American scientist Benjamin Franklin experimented with kites in 1752 to investigate atmospheric electricity by tying a metal wire on a kite when lightning flashed and to prove that lightning in the sky and electricity generated by a generator was one and the same thing. A British

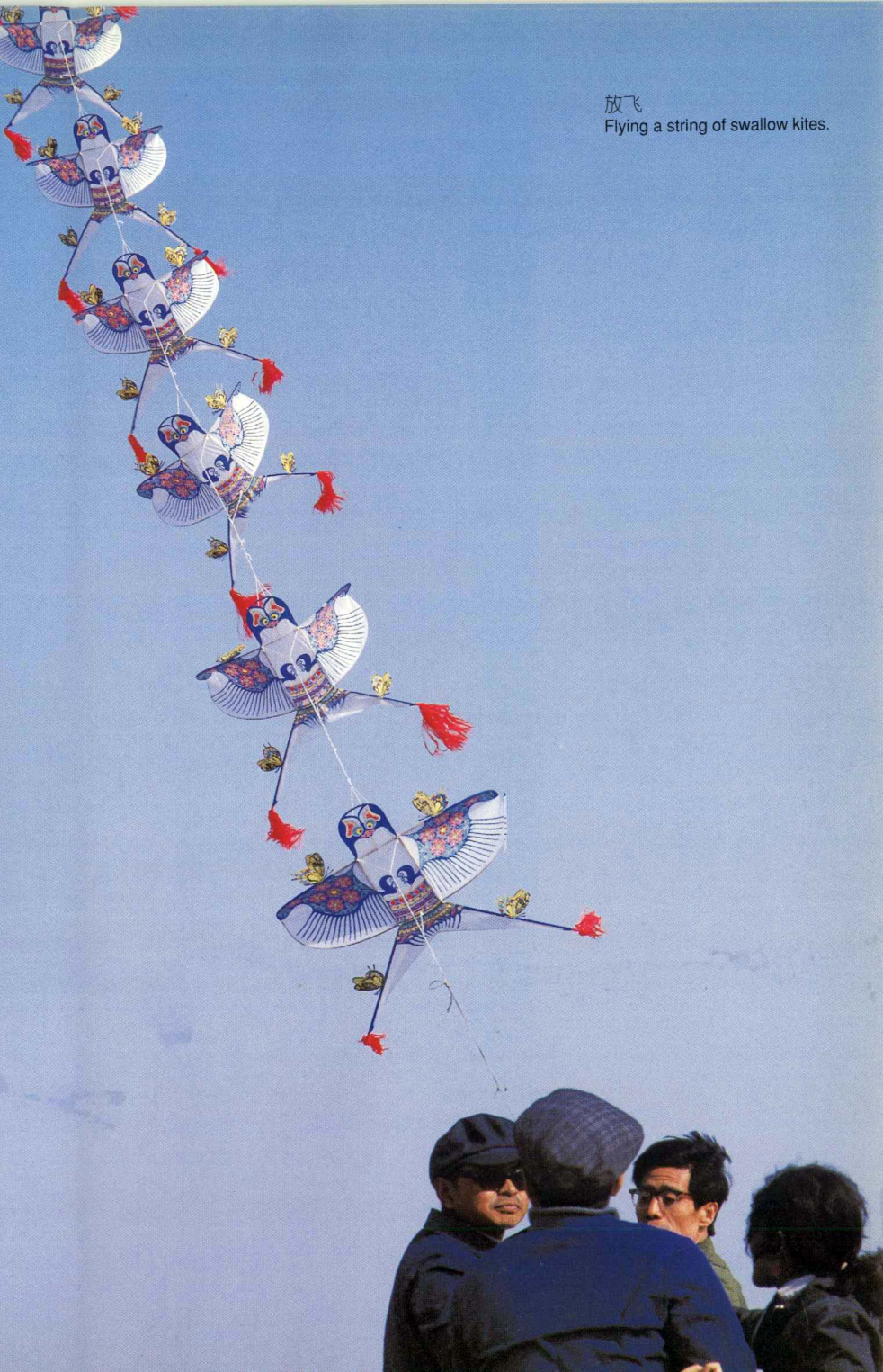
meteorologist used kites to measure wind velocity in 1833 and obtained useful data. From then on, kites were used universally as tools in meteorological studies. In the early 20th century, the scientist Guglielmo Marconi used kites as antennas and successfully transmitted wireless signals across the Atlantic Ocean with Sid Jones on the other shore.

In all these scientific experiments, kites played an indispensable role. Kites will certainly continue to play a role in scientific and technological development and our daily life in the future. Kite flying is a pastime not only for the one who flies the kite, but also for those who watch it. A good kite is also a happy gift to be given to a friend or relative and to be placed at home as an ornament.

Since its invention, kite flying has gradually become a favourite pastime of the many ethnic groups in China. As folk customs and aesthetic concepts differ in different regions, the kites in different regions embody distinct features in the way they are made, shaped, decorated, painted and flown. To promote the art of kites, the kites associations in different places often conduct competitions and exchange of experience. There are now kite associations in many countries in the world. They invite one another to participate in international competitions and for exchange of experience in making kites.

The Kite Festival held in the city of Weifang in China's Shandong Province is a well-known occasion for holding competitions. It is participated by kite fans both in China and from all parts of the world. The festival has promoted the development of the art of kites both in China and other countries and fostered friendship between peoples of different countries. It has also played an important role in promoting economic growth and tourism in Weifang.

放飞
Flying a string of swallow kites.





风筝牵线建友谊 巨龙（3.5m 高）风筝前面留个影

Kite-flying friends in front of the huge 3.5-metre-high head of a dragon kite.

风筝的种类

中国扎放风筝的地域很广，扎制风筝的材料和技艺有异，所以在分类上也有不同。常见的几种分类是按风筝的内容（动物、人物等）、风筝的形象（鸟、虫等）、风筝的功能（玩具、特技等）、风筝的大小（巨型、中型等）、风筝的艺术风格（传统、民间等）来划分。

现在风筝已成为一项比赛项目，为了便于比赛评比，中华全国体育运动总会曾颁布过风筝的分类、分型方法。

风筝分为八类：

- 一、龙类。包括龙头、蜈蚣头等串风筝。
- 二、软翅串类。就是把几只或上百只软翅风筝连接在一起。如串雁等。
- 三、硬翅串类。就是把几只或上百只硬翅风筝连接在一起。如串沙燕等。
- 四、板子类。凡中间和四周有竹条、骨架是平面或半立体及尾部系长穗和长绳的风筝。如八卦、人物等风筝。
- 五、立体类。凡是由长、宽、厚扎成的骨架装饰而成的风筝均属此类。如宫灯、大缸等风筝。
- 六、硬翅类。凡是风筝翅膀上下方均有竹条者属硬翅类。如沙燕、人物类等风筝。
- 七、软翅类。凡风筝翅膀上方和中间有竹条者一般属于软翅。如鹰、蜻蜓等风筝。
- 八、自由类。凡随意扎制的用新型材料或没有骨架的大小型、又不属其它类别的风筝。如用尼龙布制成的大型软体风筝等。

五型：

超大型、大型、中型、小型、微型。

北京是一座历史文化名城，放风筝有2000多年的历史了。从清末到现在北京比较知名的技艺流派有四派。其代表人物有金忠福、哈国良、马晋、孔祥泽。

金忠福的风筝造型粗犷，色彩对比鲜明。哈式风筝选材讲究，骨架坚固平整，画工精细，最为代表是“瘦沙燕”。马晋是画家，其扎制的风筝造型规整，设色雅丽，图案活泼生动，是室内很好的装饰品，其人物仙女、猴王最富特色。孔祥泽发展了曹雪芹在《南鹞北鸢考工志》收集的风筝谱，他的风筝以绘画见长。

现居住在北京的刘汉祥所扎制的风筝对传统风筝是有所发展的。刘汉祥老先生曾在中国戏曲学校、北京歌舞团任教，现任北京民间文艺家协会艺委会副主任、北京风筝协会顾问。他自幼喜欢民间艺术，精于绘画，更擅长于风筝扎制。经过四十余年的钻研，创作出北京龙、狮头蜈蚣、立体蜈蚣头等为代表的各式风筝达百余种。特别是龙头造型突破传统制法。犄角、龙须、眼眉及脑后的毛鬃均可拆装，加以设色巧妙，使其有别于其它流派龙头，这一创造受到了国内外好评。

刘先生在风筝设计上，师古而不拘古，在传统的基础上敢于创新。他先后出访过法国、日本、加拿大等国。四次赴法国表演，被授予最高荣誉奖，作品被当地博物馆收藏，并为其出版了风筝艺术专辑。其艺术成就被辑入《中国当代世界名人录》。

如今刘先生已近八十岁高龄，出于对风筝艺术的热爱，仍以精益求精的精神每日工作，不断创作出新型风筝。

Types of Kites

As kites are made and flown in vast areas and as there are differences in the materials and skills with which they are made, the way the kites are classified also differs. They are usually classified by their contents, such as animals and human figures; images, such as birds and insects; functions, such as toys and kites for special purposes; size, such as extra large and medium-sized kites; artistic style, such as traditional and folk styles.

Kite flying has also become a competitive sport. To facilitate judgement, the All-China Sports Federation has proclaimed the following way of classifying of the types and sizes of kites:

The Eight Types of Kites:

1. Dragon Kites: Strings of kites with a dragon or centipede head.
2. Soft-Wing Strings: Several or as many as 100 soft-wing kites are strung together, such as a string of swan geese.
3. Rigid-Wing Strings: Several or as many as 100 rigid-wing kites are strung together, such as a string of swallows.
4. Flat Kites: All kites with bamboo strips in the middle and on the edge, a flat surface and a long tail or line hanging from the trailing edge, such as the eight-trigrams and human figure kites.
5. Box Kites: All kites with a frame that has length, width and depth, such as kites in the shape of a palace lantern or big vat.
6. Rigid-Wing Kites: All kites with bamboo strips both above and below, such as the

swallow and human figure kites.

7. Soft-Wing Kites: All kites with bamboo strips above and in the middle, such as the eagle and dragonfly kites.

8. Free-Style Kites: Large and small kites that do not belong to the other types and made with new material or without a frame, such as the soft-bodied large kites made with nylon.

The Five Sizes of Kites:

Kites of extra large, large, medium, small and miniature sizes.

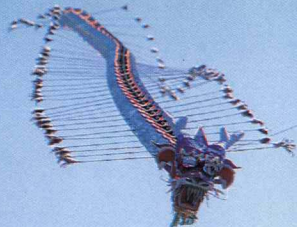
Beijing is a famous historical and cultural city with a very long kite-flying history. From the end of the Qing dynasty to the present day, there have emerged four well-known schools of kite makers, represented by Jin Zhongfu, Ha Guoliang, Ma Jin and Kong Xiangze.

Kites made by Jin Zhongfu are bold in style and painted in bright contrasty colours. The Ha-style kites are made with good materials, sturdy frames and fine decorations. His representative work is the Slim Swallow. Ma Jin was a painter. The kites made by him are regularly shaped and elegantly painted with lively designs. They are good indoor ornaments, too. The most distinguished of Ma's kites are the Fairy Maid and Monkey King. Kong Xiangze developed the styles of kites mentioned by Cao Xueqin in his *Craftsman's Manual of Southern Hawks and Northern Kites*. The kites made by Kong are noted for the pictures painted on them.

New development of the traditional kites has been made by Liu Hanxiang, who now lives in Beijing and was a teacher at the Institute of Chinese Opera and Beijing Song and Dance Ensemble. He is now vice-chairman of the Art Committee of the Beijing Association of Folk Artists and advisor to the Beijing Kite Association. Becoming interested in folk art even when he was young, he is a fine painter and skilled in making kites. After more than 40 years of study and research, he has created more than 100 different types of kites as represented by the Beijing Dragon, Dragon-Headed Centipede and Three-Dimensional Centipede Head. The Dragon Head made by him, in particular, is a breakthrough in the traditional method. The horns, whiskers, eyes, brows and bristles on the back of the head are detachable. Different from all the other styles of dragon head and cleverly painted in colour, his dragon head has been favourably received both in China and abroad.

In the design of his kites, Liu follows the traditional method but is not restricted by it. On the basis of the age-old traditions, he has made bold innovations. He has taken his kites to France, Japan, Canada and other countries, demonstrated kite-flying four times in France and awarded a prize of the highest honour. His kites have been collected and preserved in local museums. A special book about the art of his kites has been published in France. For his artistic achievements, his name has been included in the *Who's Who of the Contemporary World in China*.

Liu is nearly 80 years old, but his love for kites has not faded. He is still working every day to perfect his art and continuing to create new styles of kites.



龙类
A dragon kite.



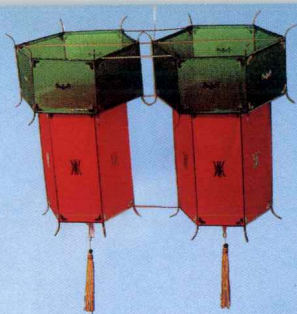
软翅串类
A string of soft-wing kites.



硬翅串类
A string of rigid-wing kites.



自由类
A free-style kite.



立体类
A box kite.



硬翅类
A rigid-wing kite.



软翅类
A soft-wing kite.



板子类
A flat kite.

龙类 Dragon Kites



制作者展示自己的作品
Kite makers display their work.

组合龙头 100cm
A composite dragon head (100 cm).



微型龙头 (4cm) 及串龙风筝
Miniature dragon heads (4 cm) and a dragon kite.

