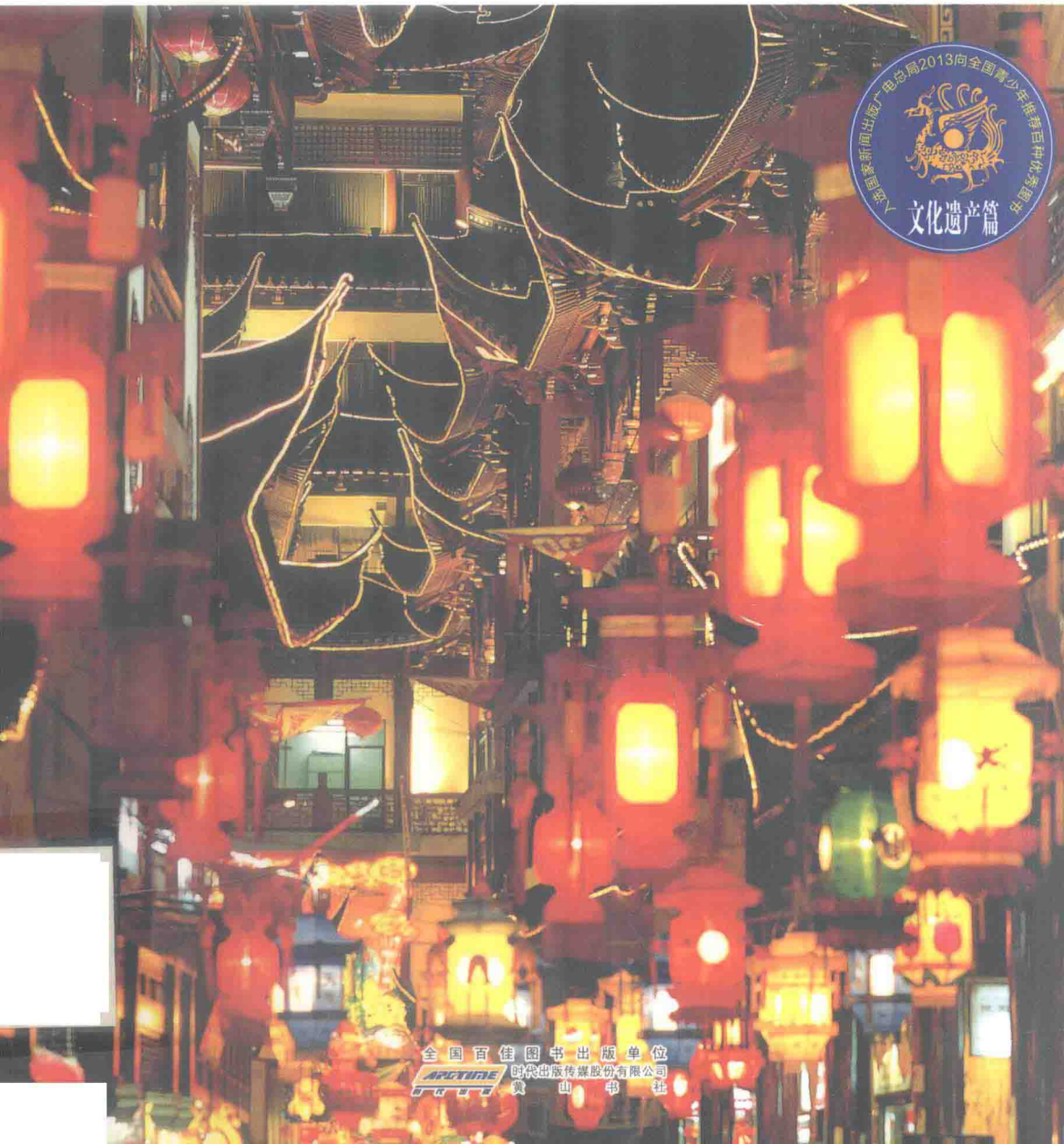




C hinese
Lanterns

中国灯彩

闫东东 © 编著



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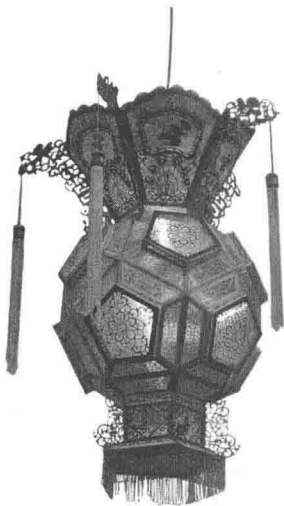
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中国的灯彩，又称“花灯”、“灯笼”，既是一种照明器具，又是传统节日的应时之物。在民间，每逢节日或婚寿喜庆之时，人们都要张灯结彩，以示庆贺。这种光与美术结合的灯彩艺术，既可装饰、美化建筑物，又能起到渲染气氛的

Chinese lanterns are used as lighting fixtures and seasonal decorations for the Chinese traditional holidays and festivals, or in the celebrations of weddings and birthdays. Also known as “flower lanterns” or “lighting balloons”, Chinese lanterns stand out as a unique art form combining the functional with the aesthetic, providing beautification

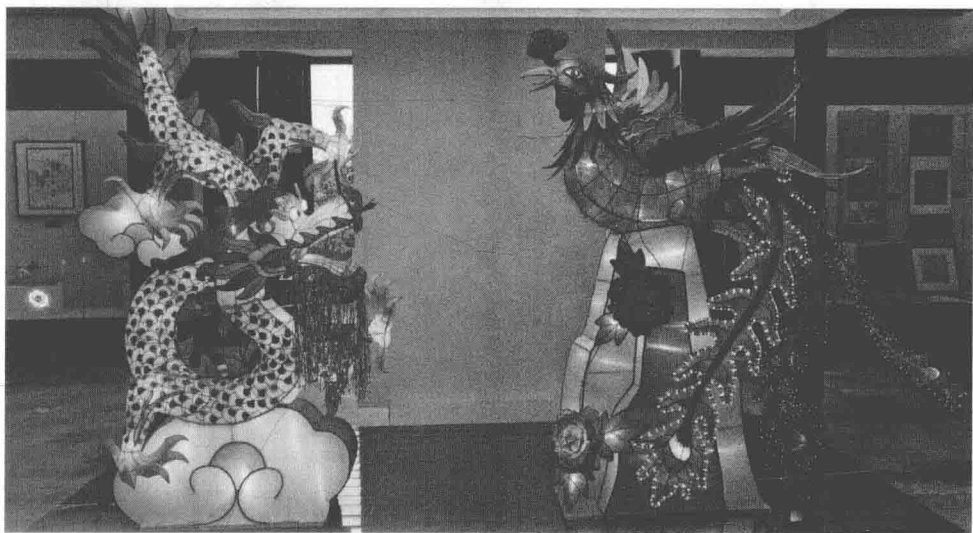


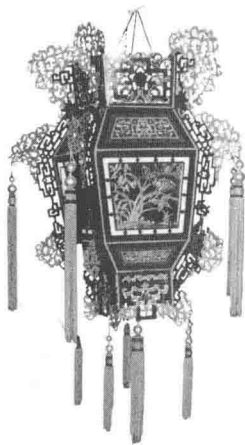
作用，具有独特的实用功能和审美价值。从远古时期人类钻木取火，到各类精美灯具的出现，再到五彩缤纷的灯彩的产生，中国人将灯与火完美地结合在一起。

本书从对中国古代灯的描述开始，逐一阐述了灯彩的起源与发展，详细介绍了中国最具特色的灯彩种类，各地灯彩的特色，以及灯彩与剪纸、绘画、书法等中国民间传统艺术的关系，向读者展示了灯彩的民间艺术魅力。

for building structures and also evoking a lively and festive mood. From ancient times when fire was made from frictions of wood pieces to the emergence of exquisite lamps and colorful lanterns, the Chinese people created these illuminating works of art with a perfect integration of fire and light.

This book begins with Chinese ancient lamps, explains the origin and development of lanterns, and introduces in detail some of the most unique styles, various local features and connections between the Chinese lanterns and other Chinese traditional folk art forms such as paper-cutting, painting and calligraphy. The book will lead readers on an exploration of the Chinese lanterns' delightful characteristics.





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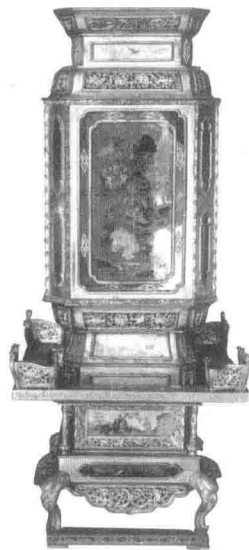
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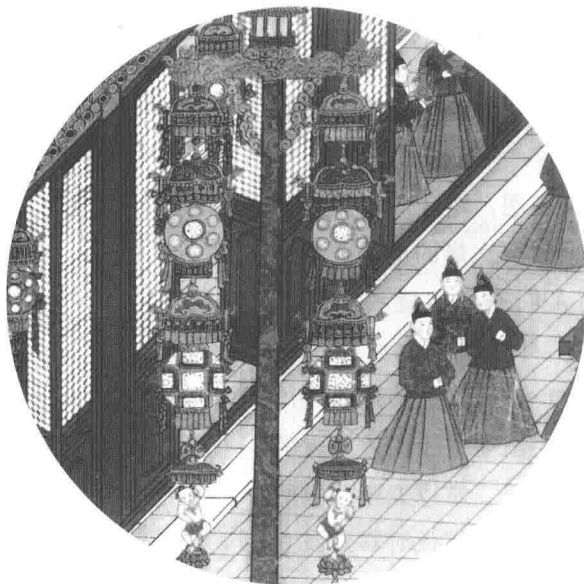
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灯彩概述

An Overview of Chinese Lanterns

“正月里正月正，正月十五闹花灯”，这是流传在中国民间的一句歌谣。农历正月十五元宵佳节闹花灯，是中华民族的传统习俗。自汉代起，每逢佳节，中华大地上就会张灯结彩，熠熠生辉。

It is a Chinese tradition to display lanterns in celebration of the Yuanxiao Festival (Lantern Festival) on the 15th of the 1st lunar month every year. As early as in the Han Dynasty, cities and towns all over China were decorated with illuminating lanterns during holidays and festivals.



> 中国古代的灯

在没有发现火之前，原始人过着茹毛饮血的生活。一百多万年前，人类通过钻木取火的方式第一次获得了火种，并通过燃烧木材的方式保留火种，使之不会熄灭。这时，人们学会了利用火取暖、照明和烤熟食物等。

据考古发现，距今四千多年的新石器时代就有火烤的遗迹。在中国古代，人们通过木燧、阳燧、火石三种工具进行取火。西周时期（前1046—前771）的典籍《周礼·秋官》中就有关于夫遂取火的记载：“司烜氏，掌以夫遂，取明火于日。”司烜是周代时宫廷设立的专门管火的官员，而夫燧则是取火的用具。汉代（前206—公元220）时，人们普遍使用携带方便的

> Ancient Lamps of China

Before the discovery of fire, people in the primitive society lived on raw meat from hunting. Over a million years ago, humans for the first time could obtain fire by rubbing wood sticks and later retain the wood-burning fire for heating, lighting and cooking.

Archaeological discoveries have shown evidence of hearths about 4,000 years ago in the Neolithic Era. In ancient China, people obtained fire from frictions of wood pieces, sunlight and flint. The historical records of the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C. -771 B.C.) documented how an imperial official responsible for fire control used a special apparatus to make fire from the sunlight. In the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- 220 A.D.), it was very common for people to carry a convex bronze mirror to get concentrated sunlight to ignite fire on



• 钻木取火（石雕）（图片提供：全景正片）
Fire by Friction (Stone Carving)

阳燧取火。阳燧是一种铜镜，能聚集太阳光点燃木头，这是利用凸面镜的聚光原理。魏晋时期（220—420），出现了敲击火石取火的方法。敲石取火，就是用铁片与石相撞，点燃“火绒”（用艾蒿、棉花或纸加以硝水制成，揉搓变软，极易起火），便可轻松取火。清代（1644—1911）末期，西方制造的火柴被引进中国，中国人称其为“洋火”。现在，火柴、打火机等

woods. The use of flint began in the Wei and Jin dynasties (220-420). When struck against steel, a flint edge would produce sparks on tinder made from a mixture of mugwort, cotton and paper in saltpeter water, a method proven to obtain fire easily. In the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) matches were imported to China from the West. The Chinese called them “foreign fire” (*Yang Huo*). Matches and lighters are commonly used in people’s daily life today.



- 双凤双狮花鸟铜镜（唐）
Bronze Mirror of Double Phoenixes,
Double Lions and Flower-bird Designs
(Tang Dynasty)



- 蟠螭纹铜镜（西汉）
Bronze Mirror with Hornless Dragon
Patterns (Western Han Dynasty)



- 阳燧（唐）
Convex Bronze Mirror (Tang Dynasty)

工具则是人们日常生活中普遍使用的取火工具。

人类历史上燃烧的第一根火炬就是人类的“第一盏灯”。然而火炬并不能被确切地称做“灯”。西汉典籍《礼记·曲礼上》中有“烛不见跋”的记载。郑云注：“跋，本也。”孔颖达为此注作疏：“本，把处也。古者未有蜡烛，唯呼火炬为烛也。”可见当时的烛就是火炬。“烛”是灯的前身，人们为了保持“长久的烛”而产生了灯。中国现存最早、使用最普遍的



• 黄釉陶瓷豆形灯（汉）
Pottery *Dou*-shaped Lamp with Yellow Glaze (Han Dynasty)

The first torch in the human history might be considered “the first lamp” of mankind. But a torch could not be called a lamp. Tang Dynasty (618-907) scholar Kong Yingda explained that the mentioning of “a lamp without a base” in the historical records of the Western Han Dynasty actually referred to a torch because ancient people didn’t have lamps, so they called torches lamps. Fire was a predecessor of lamps, which emerged as a result of people’s desire to keep the fire on for a longer period. The very first and the most popular lamp in China was the *Dou*-shaped oil lamp in the Warring States Period (475 B.C.-221 B.C.). A *Dou* was a small flat disk for food in ancient China, which gradually transformed into a lamp with a wick placed in the animal fat used as the fuel source.

The earliest Romantic poet in China Qu Yuan (approx. 340 B.C. -approx. 278 B.C.) mentioned in his work *Verses of Chu* that animal fat mixed with fragrance had been used as the fuel source for lamps. According to legends, the Chinese master carpenter Lu Ban once made palace lanterns when he was building the imperial palace. During the reign of Emperor Wen of Han, the Yuanxiao



灯具出于战国（前475—前221），名为“豆形灯”。这种灯以动物油脂作为燃料。“豆”是古时用来盛食物的圆盖盘，后来逐渐演变为盛放灯油、配上灯芯用于照明的灯。

中国最早的浪漫主义诗人屈原（约前340—约前278）曾在作品《楚辞》中写道：“兰膏明烛，华容备些。”兰膏，就是加入香料的动物油脂。据传说，中国木匠的祖师鲁班在修建宫殿的时候，就曾经制造过宫廷里用的宫灯。汉文帝时期，元宵节的习俗逐渐形成了，全国各地到了这一天张灯结彩，宫灯的制作工艺从宫廷内传到了民间。民间灯彩的形式各异，当时有一种用竹子编织框架，以纱葛、纸张做罩，其内点燃油脂所制的灯彩，便是如今传统节日里常见的灯笼。

不过，由于动物油脂过于昂贵，直至三国时期（220—280），也只有少数富贵人家才能点得起油灯。魏晋时期，人们发现了“蜡”这一物质，并以其为原料制成了蜡烛。到了唐代，人们用蜂蜡作烛，称之为“蜜炬”。当时的诗人李商隐有诗写道：“春蚕到死丝方尽，



• 青铜鸟柄豆形灯（汉）
Bronze *Dou*-shaped Lamp with a Bird-shaped Handle (Han Dynasty)

Festival gradually became a tradition. On the day of the festival colorful lanterns and streamers were hung up everywhere. Subsequently the lantern-making techniques from the imperial palace began to spread to common folks, who then created a variety of lantern styles. The most common type of lanterns in the Chinese traditional festivals today consists of a bamboo armature covered by colored paper or silk with a fuel cell inside.

Up to the Three Kingdoms Period (220-228) only a small number of wealthy families could afford oil lamps due to the high cost of animal fats. In the Wei and Jin dynasties wax was

蜡炬成灰泪始干。”蜂蜡比动物油脂更加便于携带，而且干净清洁，是一种常见的照明材料。后来，人们又逐渐将植物油、虫蜡等用以照明。

在中国古代农业社会，灯还未被普遍使用时，人们过的是“日出而作，日落而息”的生活。而随着油灯、蜡烛的广泛应用，灯的种类也变得越来越丰富。按其质地可分为陶灯、青铜灯、青瓷灯等。灯也从实用性的照明工具，逐渐发展成具有观赏性的节庆装饰，各种样式的灯彩随之进入人们的视野。

discovered and used to make candles. In the Tang Dynasty, people began to make candles out of beeswax and called them “honey candles”. Candles became very popular because they were easier to carry and much cleaner. Later people also used plant and insect waxes as fuel sources for lighting.

In the ancient agricultural society without lamps people woke up at sunrise and went to bed at sunset. The popular use of oil lamps and candles generated a rich variety of lamps made from different types of materials such as pottery, bronze and porcelain. Gradually lamps developed from practical lighting fixtures into decorative lanterns for holidays and celebrations. Lanterns finally caught people's attention.



- 青瓷莲花座烛台（南朝）
Celadon Glaze Porcelain Candle Holder with Lotus-shaped Base (Southern Dynasty)





- 人形铜灯（战国）

Bronze Figure Holding a *Dou*-shaped Oil Lamp (Warring States Period)



- 长信宫灯（西汉）

宫灯通体鎏金，因曾放置于窦太后的长信宫，故名。其设计十分巧妙，灯体为一神态恬静、双手执灯踞坐的宫女造型，分别由头部、右臂、身躯、灯罩、灯盘、灯座六个部分铸造组成。头部和右臂可以组装拆卸，便于清洗灯具。宫女一手执灯，另一手隐在袖中，似在挡风，这一手袖实为虹管，油烟经过虹管后沉积在底盘内。

Changxin Palace Lamp (Western Han Dynasty)

The gilded bronze lamp was placed in Empress Dou's Changxin Palace. Therefore, it was named after the palace. It was cleverly designed to allow adjustments in the directness and brightness of the light. The entire piece is a maid-servant holding the lamp with both hands. There are six components including the head, the right arm, the body, the shade, the lamp plate and the lamp holder. It seems that she uses one arm to block the wind and the other arm serves as a tube to trap the lampblack in the bottom plate.



• 扶桑树形铜灯（西汉）

灯可分为无檠灯、有檠灯两种，檠是指托灯盘的立柱。有檠灯又依据檠的长短分为短檠灯和长檠灯。此灯属于长檠灯。

Hibiscus Tree-shaped Bronze Lamp
(Western Han Dynasty)

Ancient Chinese lamps consist of lamps without stands and with long or short stands. This lamp is a long stand lamp.

• 云纹铜牛灯（东汉）

Bronze Ox-shaped Lamp with Cloud
Patterns (Eastern Han Dynasty)



> 灯彩的起源与发展

民间灯彩最初是由皇宫里的宫灯发展而来。宫灯则是源于汉代元宵节时皇宫里的张灯活动。五彩缤纷、喜气洋洋的灯彩为元宵节增添了浓厚的节日气氛。后来，这种张灯活动走入了寻常



• 民间灯彩邮票
Stamps of Folk Lanterns

> Origin and Development of Lanterns

Folk lanterns originally evolved from palace lanterns, which emerged from the lantern display in the Han imperial palace during the Yuanxiao Festival. These colorful and joyful lanterns added a jubilant mood to the festival. Later this kind of lantern celebrations spread to common people's homes. Today displaying and enjoying lanterns every year on the Yuanxiao Festival is an important Chinese tradition to celebrate holidays and festivals.

The 15th day of the first lunar month is known as the Yuanxiao Festival, the Lantern Festival or the Shangyuan (upper lord) Festival. The Yuanxiao Festival was derived from the word *Yuan* meaning the first lunar month and the word *Xiao* meaning "night" in ancient Chinese. The 15th of the first lunar



- 五彩“百子闹龙灯”盘（清）
Plate Painted with the Dragon
Lantern Dance by One Hundred
Children (Qing Dynasty)

百姓家。如今，每年的农历正月十五元宵节举行赏花灯的活动已经成为一种习俗，是中国人庆祝佳节的重要方式。

农历正月十五元宵节又称为“灯节”、“上元节”，是中国传统节日。正月是农历的元月，古人称夜为“宵”，正月十五日又是一年中的第一个月圆之夜，所以将这一天称为“元宵节”。元宵节起源于远古人类对于火的崇拜。西汉（前206—公元25）制订的历法《太初历》中把元宵节列为重大节日。元宵节这一天，中国人会食用传统美食元宵。吃元宵寓意家庭团

month usually sees the first full moon of the year, hence the Yuanxiao Festival. According to legends, the Yuanxiao Festival came from the worship of fire in ancient times. *The Taichu Calendar* formulated in the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-25 A.D.) listed the Yuanxiao Festival as one of the key festivals. Having glutinous rice dumplings (also pronounced *Yuanxiao* in Chinese) at the family gathering is a tradition of the festival symbolizing family reunion and happiness. Lantern decorations, lion and dragon dances are also major customs of the festival showing people's wishes to repel misfortune and enjoy peace and good fortune.



圆、和睦。寄托了人们消灾祛祸、平安吉祥等美好愿望的张灯结彩、舞龙和舞狮活动也是元宵节的重要习俗。

元宵送灯是正月十五夜晚的一项传统项目。首先，要将做好的灯彩送到祖宗灵位上，祈求其显灵以保佑家人平安幸福；再送灯彩到灶神、天地牌位上，以祈求神仙赐福；之后，将灯彩挂在仓库、牛羊圈等处，以求五谷满仓、牛壮羊肥；再在大门口点亮灯彩，盼望家

Sending off lanterns on the night of the 15th of the first lunar month is one of the festival's traditional activities. First, lanterns must be placed in front of the family ancestor's shrine to request his protection for the family's safety and happiness. Next the lanterns must be presented at the Kitchen God's heaven-earth memorial tablet to pray for his blessings. Lanterns are also hung in the barns to store grains and shelter cows and sheep to wish for an abundance of grains and strong livestock. Lanterns at the gate



• 元宵赏灯民俗绘画 (图片提供: 全景正片)
Folk Paintings of the Lantern Festival

元宵

元宵，又叫“汤圆”，吃元宵是元宵节重要的饮食风俗。传说，元宵起源于春秋末年，唐代称其为“圆不落泥”，宋代称为“圆子”、“团子”。元宵是由糯米制作的外皮，里面包裹着芝麻、花生、豆沙、肉丁、虾仁等馅料，可用蒸、煮、炸等几种方式进行烹饪。元宵的外形为圆形，意为团团圆圆。

Yuanxiao

Having *Yuanxiao* (glutinous rice dumplings) is an important food tradition in the Yuanxiao Festival. It is said that *Yuanxiao* originated at the end of the Spring and Autumn Period. It had different names in different dynasties such as Song-dynasty's *Yuanzi* referring to its round shape. *Yuanxiao* is made from glutinous rice usually with fillings of sesame seeds, peanuts, red bean paste, diced pork and shrimp. *Yuanxiao* can be steamed, boiled and deep fried. The round-shaped *Yuanxiao* symbolizes the family togetherness.



• 元宵
Yuanxiao



人出入平安，迎接四方来客；最后由家中长子或长孙将灯彩送至祖坟上，以示对祖先的感谢、敬意与怀念。除此之外，正月十五晚上的观灯、猜灯谜更是元宵节的重头戏。观灯活动一般从农历正月十三上灯（即点灯）开始，十四为试灯，十五为正灯，十八为落灯。

据记载，元宵节是从“敬神送年”的民俗演变而来。

南北朝（420—589）时期，元宵节张灯已渐成风俗。南朝梁

must be lit to ensure safe traveling of family members and to welcome friends from afar. Finally the eldest son or the eldest grandson must take lanterns to the family ancestor's tomb to show respect, gratitude and remembrance. Other popular activities on the night of the 15th include visiting the lantern display and guessing lantern riddles. During the first lunar month, lanterns usually are lit on the 13th, tested on the 14th, officially put on display on the 15th and turned off on the 18th.

It was recorded that the Yuanxiao Festival was evolved from the folklore of respect to the God and farewell to the new year.

By the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589), lantern displays in the Yuanxiao Festival had grown into a custom. In his famous *Ode of Various Lanterns*, the King of State Liang (502-557) described the extravagant lantern displays on the Yuanxiao Festival where



• 鲤鱼灯年画

Chinese New Year Painting of a Carp-shaped Lantern



• 正月十五逛花灯年画

Chinese New Year Painting of the Lantern Festival on the 15th of the First Lunar Month

(502—557) 简文帝目睹元宵张灯之景，写下了著名的《列灯赋》：“何解冻之嘉月，值莫莢之尽开。草含春而动色，云飞采而轻来。南油俱满，西漆争然。苏征安息，蜡出龙川。斜晖交映，倒影澄鲜。九微间吐，百枝交布。聚类炎洲，疏同火树。竞红蕊之晨舒，蔑丹萤之昏鹭。兰膏馥气，芬炷擎心。寒生色浅，露染光沉。”元宵灯会上有各种油灯、漆灯等制作的灯彩与月光交相辉映，倒映在水中，人们燃香、燃蜡、观灯，十分

illuminated lanterns and the bright moonlight sent radiance to each other with their brilliance reflected on the water. People burned incense, lit candles and enjoyed the festivity of the lantern display. Song-dynasty records showed that the white silk lantern in the Longhua Temple of Qiantang was actually a precious piece of handicraft from the State of Liang. White silk was a luxurious type of silk usually embroidered with Buddhist tales of deities, devils, dragons and palaces for lanterns.

After the Sui Dynasty (581-618) the Yuanxiao Festival became more

热闹。据宋代典籍《铁围山丛谈》记载，钱塘龙华寺曾经珍藏的藕丝灯就是梁武帝时期的物品。这种藕丝实际上是纹饰华丽的土锦，上面绘有佛教故事，有天人、神鬼、龙象、宫殿等，“穷极幻妙，奇特而不可名状”。

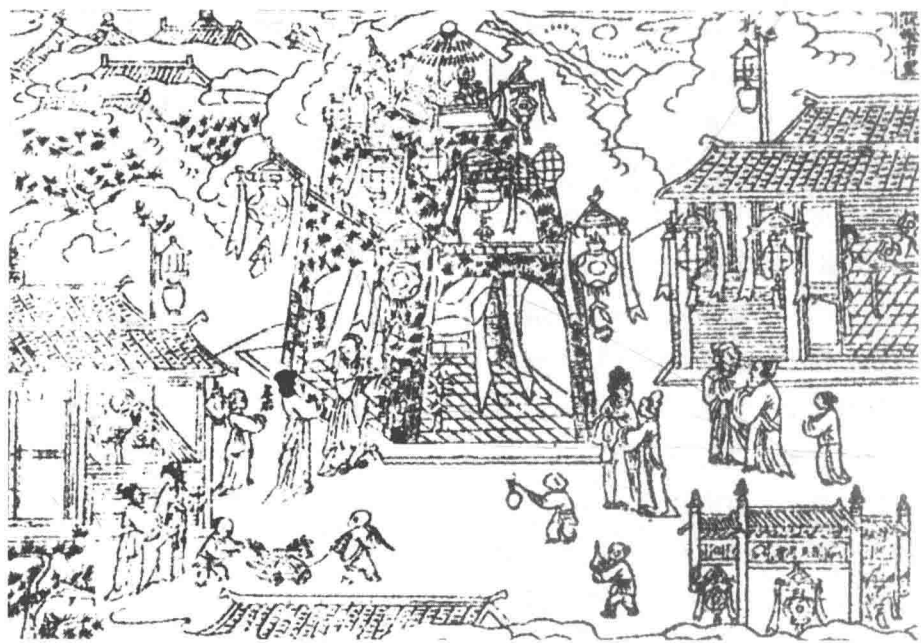
隋代（581—618）以后，元宵灯节更加隆重。《隋书·音乐志》中有相关的描述：每年的农历正月，其他附属国都来朝圣，逗留至正月十五元宵节。元宵节当天，自皇宫的端门至建国门，绵亘八里

grandiose. *Historical Records of Sui Music* documented that every year in the beginning of the first lunar month people from subordinate states came to the imperial capital to pay their respect and would stay until the 15th for the Yuanxiao Festival. On the 15th the streets around the palace were all set up with open theaters and colorful lanterns. Starting from dusk, imperial officials and commoners alike would come and enjoy the colorful lantern display until dawn. Emperor Yang of Sui wrote a poem specifically about two extravagant lantern



• 卖花灯（泥塑）
Selling Lanterns (Clay Sculpture)





• 《观灯市里》（明）（图片提供：FOTOE）

景云元年（710）元宵节，唐中宗李显与韦后便服出宫，观看闹市花灯。

Lantern Display in Downtown (Ming Dynasty)

During the Yuanxiao Festival in the year 710, Emperor Zhongzong of Tang Li Xian and Empress Wei went out of the palace in civilian clothes to look at the downtown lantern display.

街道都被设置为戏场。无论是百姓还是官员，一起在灯市上观赏形形色色的灯彩，从傍晚开始一直到第二天清晨才离去。隋炀帝特意作诗《元夕于通衢建灯夜升南楼》：“法轮天上转，梵声天上来。灯树千光照，花焰七枝开。月影疑流水，春风含夜梅。幡动黄金地，钟发琉璃台。”法轮即灯轮，是一种

structures. One was a Buddhist lighting wheel covered in silk brocade, gold and jade and decorated with glowing lanterns. The other one was a tall tree-shaped structure with brightly lit lanterns affixed on branches. As described in the poem, it was a spectacular scene with brilliance of lights shining through the sky and reflected on the water.

Lantern displays in the Tang Dynasty



佛会灯具，用锦绮、金玉作装饰，上燃数盏灯；灯树，是一种形状如树的灯，其灯架高大、分枝矗立。灯光四射，月光、灯光在水中流动，可见元宵节灯会盛大非凡。

唐代元宵节的观灯活动达到空前的高潮，无论是城市或是乡镇，处处张挂彩灯，满城的火树银花，十分繁华热闹。唐睿宗曾命人搭建了一座数米高的灯轮，上面悬挂了上万盏灯彩，灯火通明犹如白昼。唐玄宗时，宫中曾用绢丝扎成20个灯楼，《开元天宝遗事》中记载：“韩国夫人置百枝灯树，高八十尺，竖之高山，上元夜点之，万里皆见，光明夺月也。”

唐代典籍《两京新记》记载，

reached unprecedented popularity in the cities and towns. Emperor Ruizong once ordered to build a lighting wheel several meters high with over 10,000 lanterns, which, when lit, were as bright as daylight. Under Emperor Xuanzong's reign the imperial palace assembled 20 lantern towers covered with spun silk. It was recorded in a Tang Dynasty history book that a rich lady had a very tall lantern tree set up on the hills; when it was lit, the lights were brighter than the moonlight, visible from thousands of miles away.

Tang-dynasty records also showed that the curfew to close the city gate at night was lifted by the imperial court one day before and after the 15th so that people could come out and enjoy

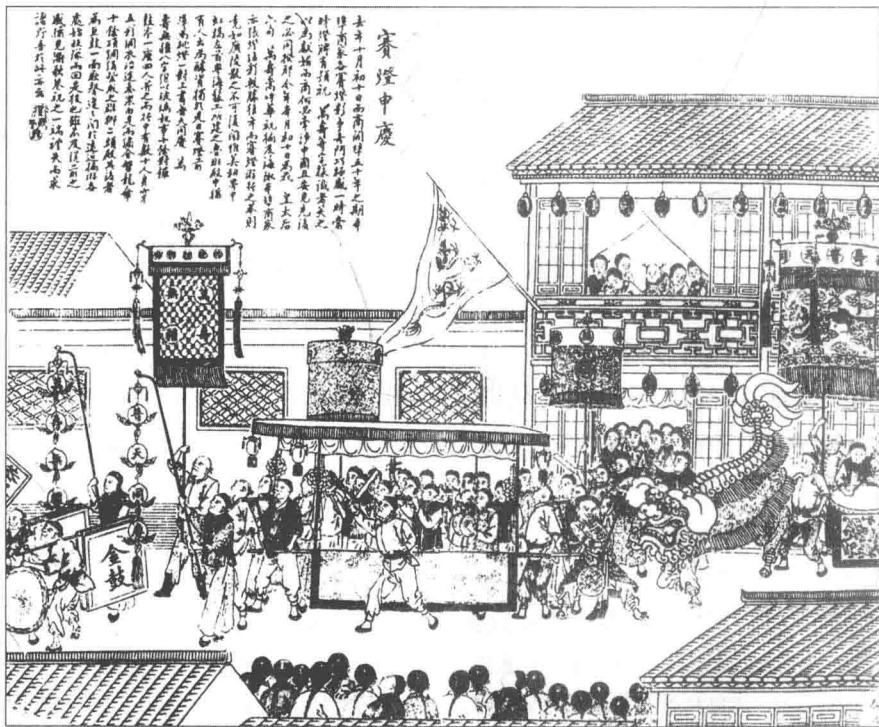


• 滚地灯

滚灯，用纸做罩，用竹条编制成球状的骨架，骨架中间的位置安装有万向轴，蜡烛固定在轴上。无论灯怎么滚动、旋转，蜡烛始终直立，不会把灯彩烧着。

A Rolling Lantern

Use the paper to make the shade. Use bamboo strips to weave into a ball-shaped frame. Install a universal shaft in the center of the frame and affix the candle on the shaft. It doesn't matter how the lantern rolls, the candle will always be in an upright position and will never burn the lantern.



• 灯市上的传统表演

灯市上除了赏灯、猜灯谜，还有舞狮等中国民间传统表演项目。

Traditional Performances at a Lantern Fair

In addition to lantern display and lantern riddles, the dragon dance is another traditional performance.

正月十五晚解除了宵禁，在其前两天的夜晚，人们都可以上街观灯。这时候的灯节已从汉代时的一天增加到三天。“火树银花合，星桥铁锁开”，这是唐代文学家苏味道诗作《正月十五夜》中的一句，描写了都城长安取消宵

禁的灯节为三天，而不是从汉代传下来的宵禁一天。这一政策使得人们可以轻松地到热闹的下城区去享受节日。正如唐代诗人苏味道在诗作《正月十五夜》中所描述的那样，当节日来临时，长安城上的铁锁被打开，

禁方便了市民观灯使得灯节气氛热闹非凡的景象。“火树”是指挂满灯彩的大树，“银花”是指漫天绽放的烟花，形象地描述了元宵灯节灯火辉煌的夜景。

宋代（960—1279）的灯彩较之唐代更为繁华。元宵灯节期间，宫廷和京城达官贵人玩灯，而且鼓励市民来观灯，规定凡到御街观灯者赐酒一杯。一些地方还要求民间

lighted all over the trees with dazzling fireworks in the sky.

Lanterns in the Song Dynasty (960-1279) were as charming as the Tang Dynasty's. Not only the imperial and wealthy families went to enjoy the lantern display, ordinary people were also encouraged to attend lantern fairs and even rewarded with a glass of wine if they visited the lantern display on the street reserved for the emperor

只许州官放火，不许百姓点灯

南宋诗人陆游在其著作《老学庵笔记》中记载：“田登作郡，自讳其名，触者必怒，吏卒多被榜笞。于是举州皆谓灯为火。上元放灯，许人入州治游观。吏人遂书榜揭于市曰：‘本州依例放火三日’。”这个故事讲述的是当时一位名叫田登的州官，因“登”与“灯”谐音，为了避名讳，不许百姓言“登”，点灯只能叫“放火”。故后人常用“只许州官放火，不许百姓点灯”来讽刺那些滥用职权来作威作福的行为。

Officials Can Set Fire, but Common People Are Not Allowed to Light a Lantern

Lu You, a Southern-dynasty poet, mentioned in his work that an official named Tian Deng forbade people to say *Dian Deng* (meaning light a lantern) because of his superstition against the fact that his last name Deng had the same pronunciation as Deng for the lantern. Therefore under his rule, people had to say “set fire” when they wanted to light a lantern. During the Yuanxiao Festival many people came to visit this place and saw an announcement from the local government that the city would be set on fire for three days. This story was used to ridicule those who had authority dared to do whatever they wanted.



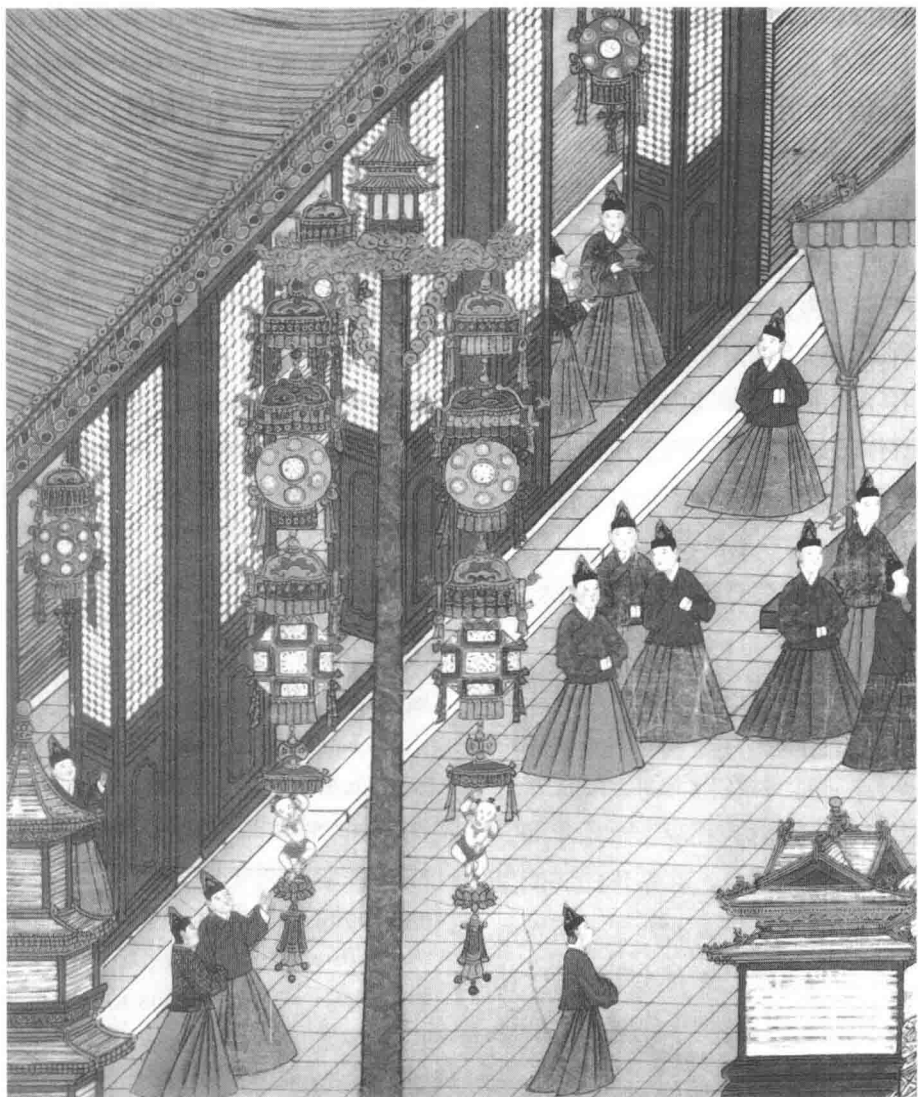
制作灯彩。宋代典籍《晁氏客话》有记载称，当时出知福州的蔡君谟在灯节时令民间每家点灯七盏。由于统治阶级的提倡，民间元宵节制灯、买灯、赏灯、赛灯逐渐成为习俗。宋代已经有了专门的“灯市”，为民间灯彩的贸易提供场所。灯市上的灯彩有珠儿灯、巧作灯、羊皮灯等。其中用绢制的无骨灯浑然如玻璃珠，灯上所绘景物精致奇巧。还有一种滚地灯，能在地上滚动，精妙至极。

明太祖朱元璋（1328—1398）建都金陵（今江苏南京），为庆贺元宵节，招徕天下富商，正月十五前后共放灯十日。当时的金陵城内盛搭彩楼，并在秦淮河上燃放水灯万只，一时蔚为壮观。永乐年间，明王朝迁都北京，在东华门辟两里长的灯市，从正月初八起，至正月十五达到高潮，正月十七以后才结束。每晚，灯彩烟火燃放通宵，鼓乐杂耍喧闹达旦。

明代著名画家、文学家唐寅诗咏元宵灯会，“有灯无月不娱人，有月无灯不算春”的诗句更是点出了赏月、观灯是元宵节必不可少的

and the imperial court. Some local officials even demanded residents to make lanterns. According to the Song-dynasty records the governor of Fuzhou once requested every family to make seven lanterns. With the support from the government, lantern production, fairs and competitions became the norm of the Yuanxiao Festival. By the Song Dynasty special lantern fairs already existed providing many uniquely made lanterns such as beads and sheepskin lanterns. The most exquisite were lanterns that could magically roll on the ground and silk lanterns without the armature as if they were transparent marble balls of landscape painting.

When he established his capital in Nanjing, Emperor Taizu Zhu Yuanzhang (1328-1398) of the Ming Dynasty issued a decree to display lanterns for ten days around the 15th of the first lunar month to celebrate the Yuanxiao Festival and attract rich merchants to the city. Towers of colorful banners were set up and tens of thousands of water lanterns were released into the Qinhuai River, a spectacle in the city of Nanjing. In 1403, the Ming Dynasty moved its capital to Beijing. A two-mile long lantern fair was



• 明宪宗元宵行乐图【局部】（明）

画中描述的是正月十五元宵节，明宪宗与皇族、侍臣等在皇宫里欢度元宵节时的情景，人们闹花灯、放爆竹、看杂耍等。宫殿上悬挂有各式彩灯。

Yuanxiao Festival Celebration under Emperor Xianzong of Ming [partial] (Ming Dynasty)

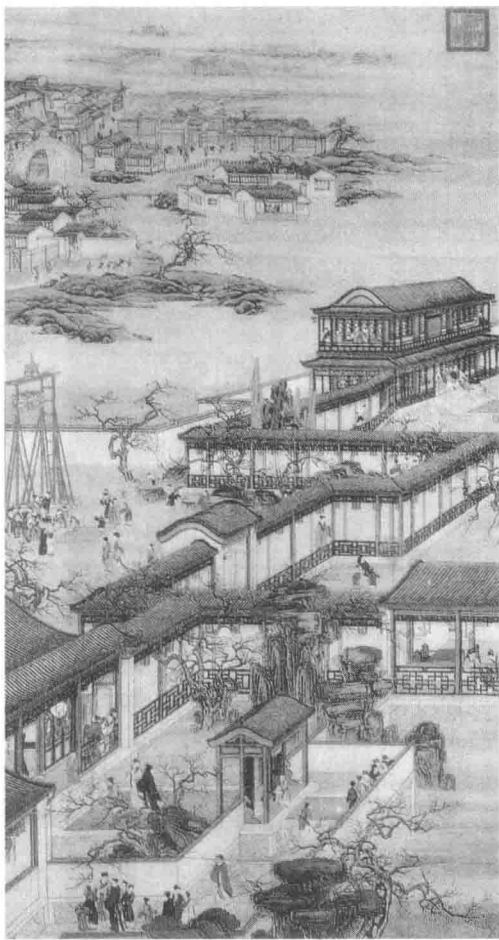
This painting depicts the celebration in the imperial palace for Emperor Xianzong, the royal families and imperial court officials, who enjoy the lantern display, firecrackers and juggling.

娱乐项目。《西湖游览志余·熙朝乐事》记载了当时杭州元宵灯市出售的各色灯彩，如人物灯类有老人、美人和民间传说中能捉鬼驱除邪祟的钟馗等；花草灯类有栀子、葡萄、杨梅、橘、柿等；还有制成禽虫类的灯彩，如鹿、鹤、龟、虾等。富家豪门则是用琉璃、云母、水晶等珍贵材质，以及彩珠、镂画羊皮、流苏（以五彩羽毛或丝线等制成的穗子）、宝带（用珍珠、宝石等装饰的带子）等物制作灯彩。

清代（1644—1911）皇宫过元宵节是在每年的农历十二月二十四安灯，二月初三收灯。安灯时要举行隆重的仪式，先是由宫殿监引掌仪司首领和乐队从乾清门入，至乾清宫丹陛上两边排列；营造司首领向上行跪拜礼后，敬事房和乾清门太监各一名在乾清宫檐下起标灯，乐队奏清乐；营造司太监等上万寿灯16盏，大小灯128盏。乾清门挂灯五盏，日精、月华两门各挂灯一盏，两侧“回”形走廊挂灯120盏，栏杆挂灯194盏。御花园中也同时安灯。安灯结束，奏乐也随之停止。在悬灯期间，宫内的宫眷们还要穿

set up outside the east gate of the imperial palace. The celebration started on the 8th, reached its peak on the 15th and ended on the 17th of the first lunar month. People enjoyed the lantern display, fireworks and music entertainment all night long.

“A lantern fair without the moon is not enjoyable; spring will not arrive in a full-moon night without lanterns.” This poem from Ming-dynasty’s well-known painter and poet Tang Yin confirmed that moon watching and lantern displays were two indispensable activities of the Yuanxiao Festival. *The West Lake Travel Guide* published in 1547 documented different kinds of lanterns for sale in the Hangzhou lantern fair during the Yuanxiao Festival. There were lanterns painted with immortals, beautiful ladies and Zhong Kui, a guardian spirit against demons, lanterns of flowers and plants such as gardenia, grapes, bayberry, oranges, persimmons and lanterns of deer, crane, turtle and shrimp images. Wealthy families used expensive materials of glass, mica and crystal to make lanterns with luxurious decorations of colorful beads, engraved sheepskin and tassels made of feathers, silk threads and precious stones.



• 《正月观灯图》（清）（图片提供：FOTOE）

《清院画十二月令图》之一，描绘的是清朝宫廷正月看花灯的场景。

Painting of the Lantern Festival in the First Lunar Month (Qing Dynasty)

As one of the paintings about events of the Qing imperial palace in the twelve lunar months, this one depicts the lantern display inside the palace in the first lunar month.

In the Qing-dynasty (1644-1911) imperial palace, lanterns were hung on the 24th of the last lunar month of the previous year and taken off on the 3rd of the second lunar month of the new year for the Yuanxiao Festival. In the Forbidden City, a grand ceremony was held on the 24th when the palace's chief of protocol first led the imperial orchestra into the palace from the Gate of Heavenly Purity (Qianqing Men) and had them line up on each side of the stairs to the Palace of Heavenly Purity (Qianqing Gong). After the bow-down ritual led by the building maintenance department to the emperor, the head of the emperor's domestic affairs and the head eunuch raised the master lantern to the top of a pole in front of the Palace of Heavenly Purity accompanied by the Qing imperial music. Then eunuchs from the building maintenance department started to hang 128 lanterns of different sizes including 16 longevity lanterns around the Palace of Heavenly Purity. Lanterns in other places included 5 at the Gate of Heavenly Purity, 1 at the Sunlight Gate (Rijing Men), 1 at the Moonlight Gate (Yuehua Men), 120 along the Chinese character “回”-shaped corridor and 194

上用织有灯笼图案的丝绸做的官装，这种丝绸俗称为“灯笼锦”。上元之夜，皇帝、皇后、妃嫔们以及王公大臣、外国使臣等集于圆明园西的山高水长楼，先观看舞蹈、音乐、杂技、马戏等各种表演，接着观看舞灯。有百人至千余人排成一定的队列，每人手持彩灯，口唱太平歌，翩翩起舞。彩灯摇动，忽而变成“太”字，接着转成“平”字，再转成“万”字，又换成“岁”字，最后组成“太平万岁”四字。这时，亭台楼阁灯光闪耀，整个山高水长楼前汇成了一个灯火的世界。

清代除北京的灯市外，江苏的扬州、苏州、南京，福建的泉州，广东的佛山，四川的成都，浙江的杭州、硤石等地的灯彩也很著名。例如清代扬州的西瓜灯就别具风格，此灯是在西瓜皮上镂刻人物、花卉、鱼虫而成。广东佛山则有相似的柚灯，取柚皮雕刻制成，点亮后的灯犹如黄金一般。

如今，元宵节张灯的习俗仍旧受到中国人的喜爱，是中国人欢度佳节的重要方式。现在的灯彩已经

on the corridor railings. The imperial garden was also decorated with beautiful lanterns. The music stopped when all the lanterns were in place. During this lantern hanging ceremony, ladies from royal families living inside the Forbidden City were required to wear silk dresses embroidered with lantern designs known as “lantern brocade”. On the night of the 15th, the emperor with the empress, his concubines, high-ranking officials and foreign emissaries gathered at a pavilion west of Yuanming Yuan (the Gardens of Perfect Brightness) to watch performances of dance, music, acrobatics and circus. Afterwards, about a thousand people started a line dance, each holding a lantern. They moved the lanterns to first form the Chinese character *Tai* (supreme), then *Ping* (peace), *Wan* (thousand) and *Sui* (year), and eventually the phrase “Long Live the Supreme Peace”. The night of the Yuanxiao Festival in Yuanming Yuan was a dazzling world of lights.

In the Qing Dynasty widely-known lanterns not only came from Beijing but also Yangzhou, Suzhou and Nanjing of Jiangsu Province, Quanzhou of Fujian Province, Foshan of Guangdong

圆明园

圆明园，坐落于北京，是一座皇家宫苑，始建于康熙四十六年（1707），历时150多年建成，由圆明园、长春园和绮春园组成，建筑面积约16万平方米，拥有亭台楼阁、假山、喷泉等众多景点。

圆明园运用了园中之园的艺术手法，创造了诗情画意的园林美景。圆明园不仅汇集了中国古代造园艺术的精华，还建有西洋式的园林景区，被赞誉为“万园之园”。除了拥有众多优美的园林景点，圆明园同时也是一座博物馆，在此收藏了珍贵图书、名人字画、金银珠宝、钟鼎宝器等稀世文物。1860年，圆明园在遭到英法联军的洗劫后被焚毁。

Yuanming Yuan (The Gardens of Perfect Brightness)

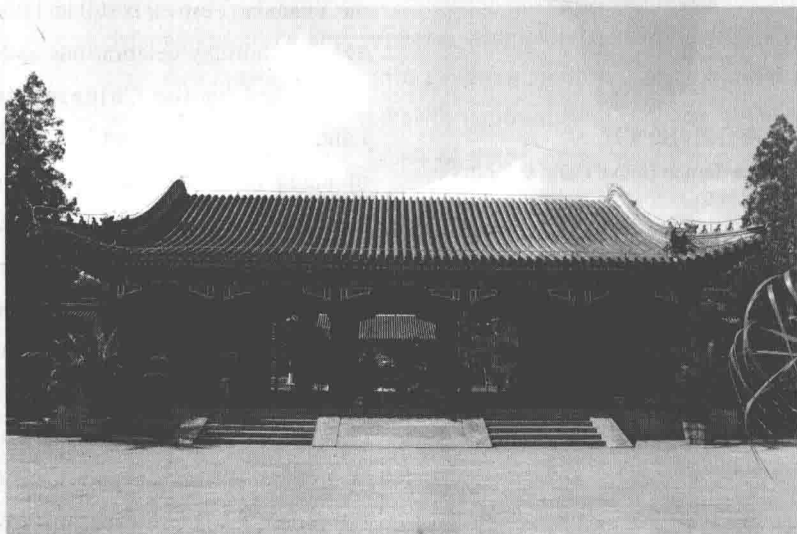
Yuanming Yuan was a complex of imperial gardens built in 1707 under Emperor Kangxi of Qing in the western outskirts of Beijing. Its construction lasted over 150 years. Yuanming Yuan



- 北京圆明园大水法遗址
Ruins of European-style Palaces and Fountains in Yuanming Yuan, Beijing

consisted of the Garden of Perfect Brightness, the Garden of Eternal Spring and the Elegant Spring Garden covering an area of 160,000 square meters with many pavilions, pagodas, rockeries and fountains.

Yuanming Yuan was best known for its architectural style of "garden of gardens" and the artistic blend of classic Chinese gardens with European-style landscape and architecture. In addition to many garden attractions, it was once a museum with extensive collections of valuable classic literary works, famous paintings and calligraphy, gold and silver jewelry, and other rare relics. In October 1860, the British and French expeditionary forces set the entire place to fire and started a fanatic looting eventually destroying everything in this garden complex.



• 北京圆明园绮春园
Elegant Spring Garden Inside Yuanming Yuan, Beijing





• 北京北海公园内的宫灯
Palace Lantern in Beihai Park, Beijing

发展成为包括山川灯、人物灯、花鸟灯、走马灯、戏曲造型灯、卡通灯等繁多种类的民间艺术形式。而且随着现代科学技术的发展，现代光源逐渐取代了传统的油、烛光源，还新添了许多光学灯如太阳灯、碘钨灯、激光灯、微波传输灯、光电转化灯等新型的灯彩。

Province, Chengdu of Sichuan Province, Hangzhou and Xiashi of Zhejiang Province. For example, Yangzhou created a unique type of watermelon lanterns with figures, landscape and insect images carved on the watermelon skin. Guangdong's Foshan had similar lanterns made of carved grapefruit peels, which were as bright as shining gold when the lantern was lit.

Today the display of lanterns during the Yuanxiao Festival is still an important event of holiday celebrations and very well-liked by the Chinese people. Lanterns have developed into a folk art of many motifs including landscape, figures, flowers, birds, local opera and cartoon characters, and spinning pictures. With the progress in modern science and technology, traditional fuel sources of animal fats and candles have been replaced with modern light sources such as fluorescent and incandescent light, tungsten halogen, laser, microwave transmission and photoelectric transfer light.

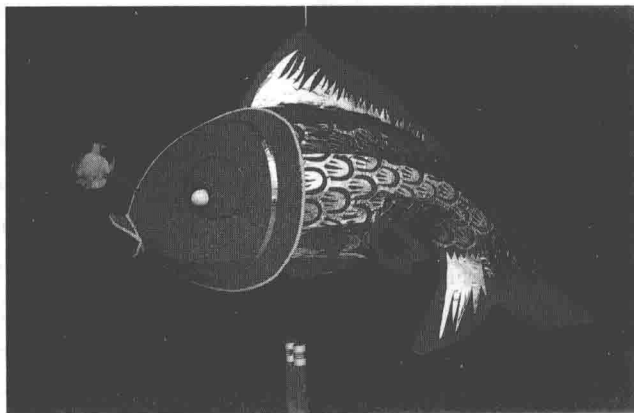


灯彩的种类

Lantern Varieties

灯彩的用材极为广泛，一般是用竹木、绫绢、金属、纸、玻璃、玉石、丝穗、羽毛、贝壳等材料，经彩扎、裱糊、编结、刺绣、髹漆、雕刻，再配以剪纸、书画、诗词等，装饰制作而成的中国民间传统手工艺品。一些著名灯彩的制作要求极高，非能工巧匠不能胜任。这些灯彩艺人往往身怀绝技。灯彩的种类十分丰富，本章将分宫灯、龙灯、走马灯、座灯、冰灯等灯彩品类来欣赏。

A wide range of materials are used to make lanterns. Most common types include bamboo, silk, metal, paper, glass, jade stones, vinyl, feathers and shells. Lantern-making techniques comprise knotting, assembling, mounting, weaving, embroidery, painting and carving. Ordinary lanterns turn into Chinese traditional folk handicrafts when they are decorated with paper-cutting designs, paintings, poems and calligraphy. Some of the lanterns require sophisticated craftsmanship that only masters with special lantern-making skills can accomplish. Lanterns have a rich variety. This chapter introduces palace lanterns, dragon lanterns, revolving lanterns, lantern sets and ice lanterns.





> 宫灯

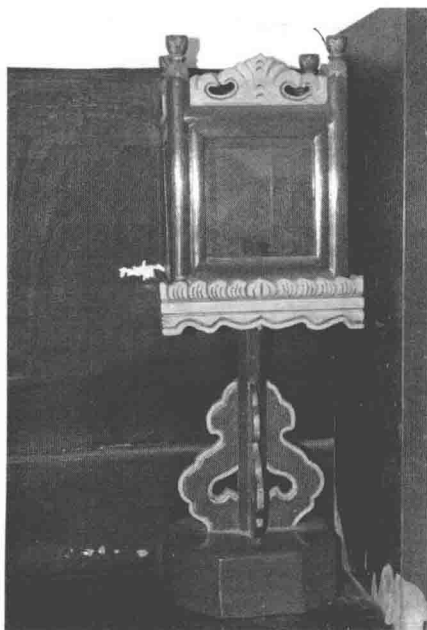
中国古代的宫灯，从有详细记载的南朝至清代为止，已经有1400多年的历史。从前，宫灯多为皇宫、官府制作和使用，因此得名“宫灯”。宫灯既是一种照明用具，又可作为建筑上的装饰艺术品。宫灯在工材方面追求工巧细致，珍材贵料；造型方面讲求端庄典雅，方正规范；装饰方面强调雕绘精繁，富饰丽彩；格调方面崇尚高贵奢华、显赫雍容。

宫灯根据使用方式，可分为室内和室外两大类。用于室内的是悬挂于顶棚上的挂灯、放置于桌案上的桌灯、长柄有座直立于地上可以移动的戳灯；用于室外的有悬挂于大门口的风灯、便于手持移动的把灯、引路照明的提灯以及各式各样

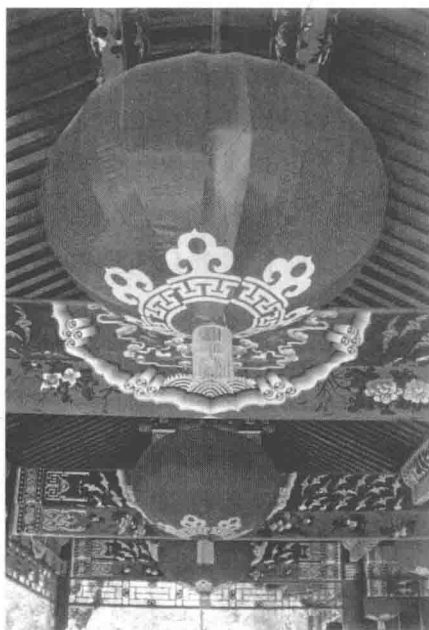
> Palace Lanterns

The 1,400-year history of ancient Chinese palace lanterns was well documented from the Southern Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty, during which time lanterns were mostly made and used by the imperial palace and imperial court. They served for lighting purposes and as art decorations on building structures. Palace lanterns required sophisticated craftsmanship, expensive materials, formal styles, exquisite painting or carving, and luxurious and elegant appearance.

Palace lanterns were placed indoors or outdoors. Inside there were hanging lanterns, table lanterns and floor lanterns. Outdoor lanterns consisted of wind lanterns hung at the entrance, hand-held portal lanterns, guiding lanterns and wall lanterns. Hanging and floor lanterns were also used outside in the courtyard.



• 立在地上的戳灯
Floor Lantern



• 挂在檐下的挂灯
Hanging Lantern Below the Eaves

的壁灯。挂灯和戳灯也可以用于庭院中。

用于室外路间照明的还有路灯。明代有记载，路灯设在宫殿门前、宫门、长街等处的两旁，其造型下为汉白玉石座，上设铜质重檐攒尖四柱正方形亭，四周有铜丝别成的门壁，亭内即为用于点灯的灯膛。每晚内府库监工都要添油点灯，以便巡看关防。在清代晚期，玻璃已普遍使用，路灯上的铜丝门

Outdoor lanterns also included street lanterns, which were placed in front of halls and gates, and along walking paths in the palace according to Ming-dynasty records. Street lanterns usually had a white-marble base and a double-eave square-shaped kiosk of four copper-wire side panels at the top. Inside the kiosk was the fuel chamber for lighting. Every night palace servants refilled the fuel and lit lanterns for night patrolling. In the late Qing glass was widely used. Copper-



壁改用玻璃，增加了防风效果。王公大臣天明前上朝，亲王可有灯引至景运门或隆宗门，军机大臣可提羊角灯（用羊角熬制的薄片作灯罩，又称“明角灯”）入内右门，其余人夜间行路都只能靠路灯照明。宫灯的制作由清代皇宫内务府造办处统一管理，需要时则把名匠召进皇城内令其精工制作。有些宫灯的玻璃中间还画有红色大圆“寿”字，四角各画一只红色蝙蝠

wire panels of the kiosks were replaced with glass panels for more effective wind protection. Before dawn Qing imperial princes and ministers were led to the court by servants with hand-held lanterns through Jingyun Gate or Longzong Gate of the Forbidden City. Grand councilors were allowed to carry a goat-horn lantern (the shade was made of thin pieces from melted goat horns) to enter from the right gate. Other people had to rely on street lanterns. The Imperial Household Department managed the administrative

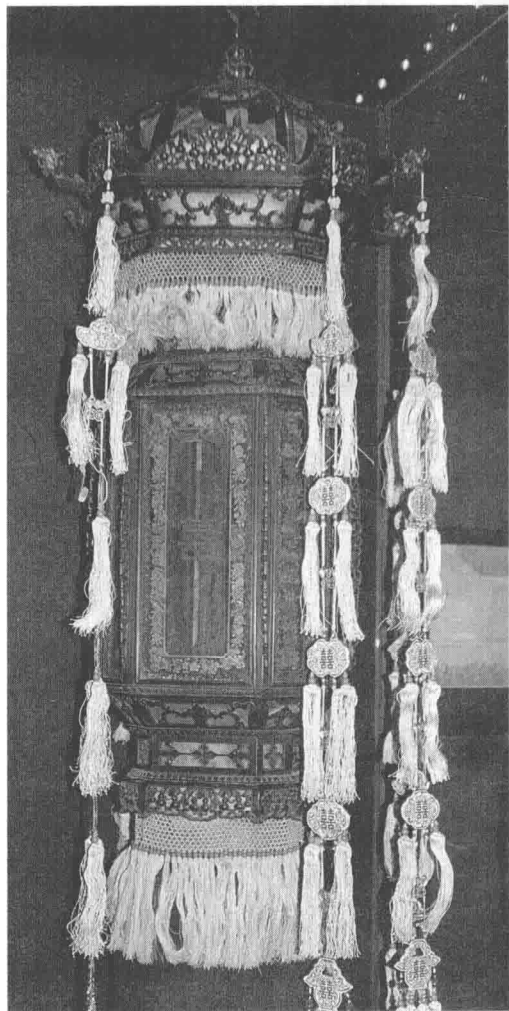


• 四角官灯
Square-shaped Palace Lantern



• 六角官灯
Hexagonal-shaped Palace Lantern

蝠，寓意“福寿”。在清代描写官
中生活场景的绘画中，也刻画了许
多精致多彩的灯具。



details related to lantern making. When
needed master craftsmen were called into
the palace to make lanterns. Some palace
lanterns had a big round Chinese
character *Shou* (longevity) in the
middle with four red bat images
on the four corners. The Chinese
Fu is one of the two characters for
bats and pronounced the same as
happiness. This design symbolized
longevity and happiness. Qing
Dynasty paintings of life inside
the imperial palace depicted many
exquisite and elegant lighting
fixtures.

- 双喜悬挂宫灯
Palace Lantern with Double
Happiness Characters





• 山西王家大院敦厚宅正门红灯笼

王家大院是清代民居的集大成者，由历史上山西灵石县四大家族之一的太原王氏后裔——静升王家建成。左侧的灯笼上写着“奉政大夫”，右侧的灯笼上写着“大清诰授”。

Red Lanterns at the Front Gate of the Dunhou Zhai of Wang's Mansion of Shanxi

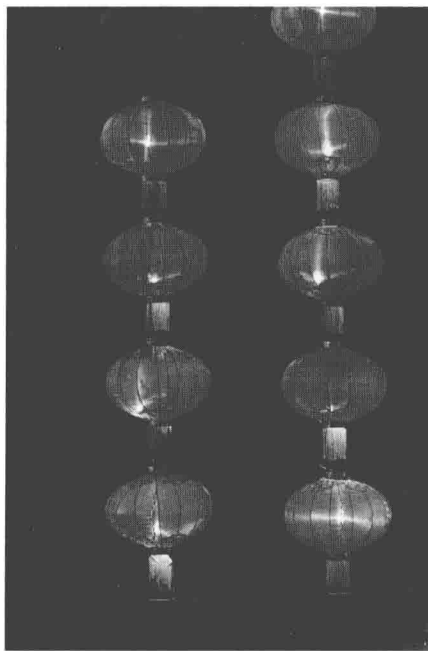
The Wang Family courtyard is a typical Qing-dynasty residence built by descendants of Taiyuan Wang, one of the four big families in the history of Lingshi County of Shanxi. To show off the family's social status, the lantern on the left shows the family's imperial court official title and the lantern on the right says "Granted by the Imperial Qing".

宫灯除了用名贵的红木、紫檀做框架外，还有用竹子、雕漆、镂铜等，然后镶以绢纱、玻璃或牛角片，上面彩绘有山水、人物、花鸟、虫鱼、博古文玩、戏剧故事等。除此之外，宫灯还有用玻璃丝制作的料丝灯，以羊皮为灯屏的羊皮灯，以及用细竹篾或铁丝为骨

The armature of a palace lantern could be made of rare mahogany or rosewood, and more commonly bamboo, lacquerware or engraved copper, sometimes inlaid with silk, glass or thin pieces of ox horn. The lantern shade was usually painted with landscape, figure, flower-bird, insect and fish images, or stories from local operas. There were

架，以纱、葛或纸为笼的灯笼，等等。有的宫灯还在灯罩上方加置华盖，灯下加挂各种式样的垂饰及珠玉金银的穗坠；有的在灯罩四周悬挂吉祥杂宝、流苏璎珞；有的还镶嵌雕刻玲珑的翠玉或白玉。宫灯既庄重又典雅，与封建宫殿的整体风格十分协调。

红纱灯亦称“红庆灯”，通体大红色，在灯的上、下部分别贴有金色的云纹图案，底部配金色的流



• 红纱灯
Red Gauze Lanterns

also palace lantern made of glass-fiber, sheepskin, silk and paper with bamboo-strip and steel-wire frames. Some palace lanterns were covered by a canopy over the shade on top with various silk or jewelry tassels hanging below the lantern base. Auspicious ornaments were often affixed on the four panels of a lantern shade, some even inlaid with green or white jade. The dignified and elegant palace lanterns were a well-integrated and harmonious part of the overall style of the imperial palace.

Red gauze lanterns, also known as red celebration lanterns, are usually decorated with golden tassels and trims of golden cloud patterns on the shade. They have a beautiful style appropriate for paintings and inscriptions. People like to hang red gauze lanterns on the front gate of a family courtyard, a temple or a clubhouse bearing the family or club name written in a formal Chinese calligraphy style. The shade is often painted with brightly colored designs of dragons, phoenix, eight immortals or flowers. During holidays they can be hung individually or strung together and hung vertically. The red light from these lanterns conveys a warm and happy feeling.



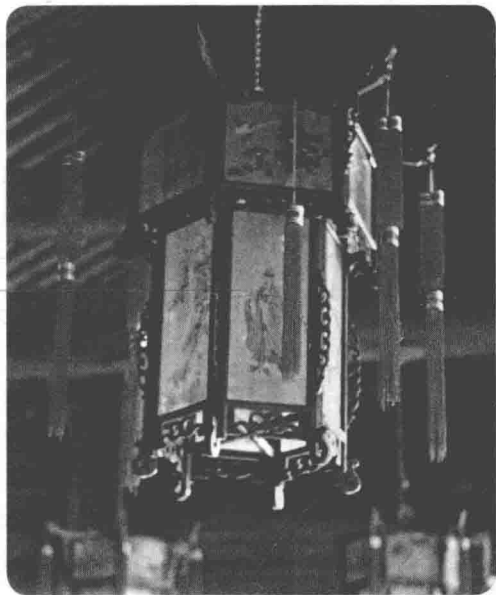
苏作装饰，其造型优美，宜书宜画。红纱灯一般是悬挂在家族、会馆或庙宇的大门前，以扁宋字体写上家族信息如姓氏和堂号，衬以色彩鲜艳的龙凤、老虎、八仙或花朵的图案。红纱灯既可以单个悬挂，也可以成串悬挂，红色的灯光既温暖又喜庆，多在节日期间悬挂。

特别是清代的官灯集历代官灯之大成，造型丰富。从灯画内容来看，有福字灯、寿字灯、双喜灯、

Qing-dynasty palace lanterns in particular embodied the best features and styles of palace lanterns from all past dynasties. The themes ranged from happiness, longevity, double happiness, good fortune, success, abundance, birth of many children, ten thousand years of ever-lasting youth, treasures, peace under heaven, to universal celebration and a full house of gold and jade, all of which represented the wishes of Qing ruling class to whitewash peace under their rule.

灯面人物和山水装饰画

bottom level,
painted figures
and landscape



龙凤雕饰

dragon-phoenix
carvings

流苏装饰

tassels

• 扬州个园清颂堂六角官灯

Hexagonally-shaped Palace Lanterns in Qingsong Hall of Ge Garden, Yangzhou



大吉灯、长方胜灯、双鱼灯、松鹤灯、百子灯、万年长青灯、万寿无疆灯、宝珠灯、天下太平灯、普天同庆灯、金玉满堂灯、八宝吉庆灯等。这些祥瑞如意、福寿延年之类的题材，反映了清代统治阶级借灯长明以求太平的心理。

宫灯虽然是宫中用以照明和观赏的灯彩，但制灯的艺人都来自民间。因此，几乎是在宫灯盛行的同时，灯彩也传入到了民间。北京的宫灯制作最为著名，一般为六角形、八角形，很像传统建筑的亭子，分上、下两层。首先，用各种名贵木材制作骨架，灯顶部分雕刻出龙、凤等图案；骨架完成之后，将绘有山水、花卉、虫鸟等图画的灯面与骨架连接上；在各个角缀上流苏、缕穗加以装饰，一个宫灯便宣告完成。

Skillful craftsmen were selected from outside to make palace lanterns inside the imperial palace. When palace lanterns became increasingly popular, the techniques quickly spread to the countryside as well. The best known palace lanterns were those made in Beijing. They were usually in a hexagonal or octagonal shape resembling traditional two-story pavilions. Expensive wood materials were used to build the armature carved with designs of dragons and phoenix at the top. The lantern shade of landscape or flower-bird images was then glued or stapled onto the frame. A palace lantern was completed once tassels were attached at the bottom or on the corners.



> 龙灯

龙灯一般指长度20米左右，直径60—70厘米的龙形灯彩。龙灯是用铁丝做出框架，外面包裹绘制了龙鳞图案或涂上颜色的纱布。龙身由许多节组成，每节间距约1.5米左右，每一节称一档。组成龙身的“节”一般都是单数，如9节、11节和13节。在龙身内燃蜡烛的称为“龙灯”，不燃蜡烛的则称为“布龙”。

舞龙灯是中国民间独具特色的传统娱乐活动。舞龙灯的习俗与中国远古时期对龙的图腾崇拜有关。龙是中国古代的瑞兽，在春节、元宵节、丰收年、社火等节庆活动中，人们通过舞龙的方式表示庆祝，祈求风调雨顺，吉祥如意。唐宋时期，舞龙灯已是一种常见的表

> Dragon Lanterns

A dragon lantern is built in a dragon shape, usually 20 meters long and 60-70 centimeters in diameter. The steel-wire armature is covered with colored gauze, some painted with dragon scale designs. The dragon body consists of odd numbered sections (9, 11 or 13), about 1.5 meters apart from each other. When the candle inside is lit the lantern is called a dragon lantern; otherwise it is a "cloth dragon".

The dragon dance is a unique Chinese traditional folk entertainment. A dragon was considered an auspicious beast in ancient China. The dragon dance tradition was related to the worship of the dragon totem in ancient times. People celebrated the Chinese New Year, the Yuanxiao Festival or year-end harvests with dragon dances expressing their wishes for good weather and good



• 舞龙画像石（汉）（图片提供：FOTOF）
Stone Rubbing of Dragon Dance (Han Dynasty)

演形式。到了清代，舞龙灯已发展成为一种形式完美、表演技艺高超的民间舞蹈艺术。南方各地夜间舞龙灯，在每节龙身内都点上灯，舞动时将场内外的灯光灭掉，这时只见舞动的龙灯如巨龙翻飞、金蛇狂舞。在表演形式上，舞龙灯有“单龙戏珠”与“双龙戏珠”两种，并由一人手举红色绸子做的球，在龙灯前嬉戏作舞。

浙江乐清地区有一种的龙灯，名为“首饰龙”，距今已有400多年的历史。因为其常常排在元宵节

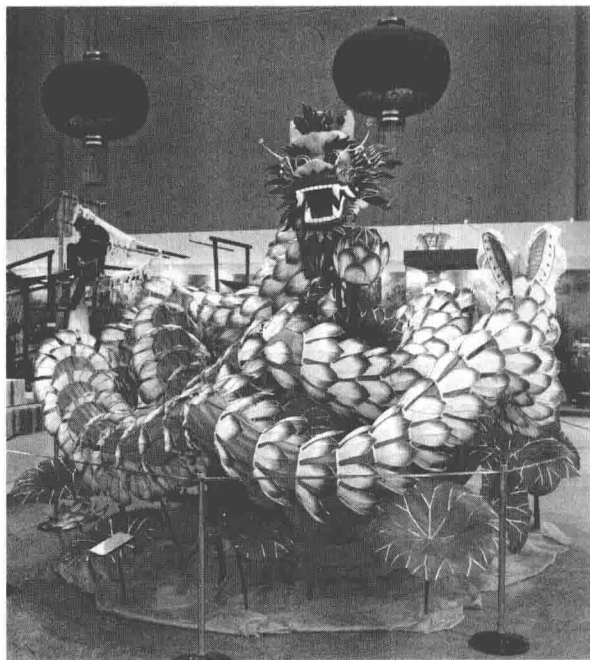
fortune. In the Tang and Song dynasties the dragon dance had already become a popular entertainment activity. By the Qing Dynasty the dragon dance had grown into a highly skilled and mature folk dance performance. When it was performed at night in south China, the entire dragon body was lit up while the lights outside were turned off to heighten the visual effect of a “live” dragon turning and twisting on itself. The performance usually consists of two routines: single dragon and double dragon dances playing with a ball of red ribbons held by a separate performer.



- 元宵节舞龙灯比赛 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Dragon Dance Competition at the Yuanxiao Festival



- 火龙表演 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Dragon Dance Performance



• 百叶龙灯

Dragon Lantern Decorated with a Hundred Lotus Leaves

灯彩巡游的首位，又因其身具有油彩、纸扎、剪纸等众多装饰，因而得名。首饰龙一般长4.5米、高3米、宽2米，前有龙头，后有龙尾，龙身至少由4层、70座楼阁组成。每层内的楼阁都仿照中国传统建筑而制，每一层都装饰有绸塑的人偶，分别演绎了民间故事、历史故事和神话传说等内容。每个人偶都被安置在传动装置上，转动齿轮，人偶便可

Ornamental dragon lanterns with over 400 years of history are a type of lanterns produced in Leqing County of Zhejiang Province. The name came from its head position in the dragon lantern parade and the many ornaments such as oil paint, paper crafts and paper-cuttings on the dragon body. In Chinese the characters for “first” and “ornament” have the same pronunciation. An ornamental dragon lantern is usually 4.5 meters long, 3 meters tall and 2 meters wide with a dragon head, a

dragon tail and a body holding 70 models of Chinese traditional pavilions on 4 levels. On each level small silk figurines representing characters from the Chinese folktales, legends and history stories are placed on tracks and will move around when the gear turns.

Wenzhou of Zhejiang Province has even more varieties of dragon lanterns including bench dragon, paper dragon and gauze dragon lanterns. A bench





• 首饰龙
Ornamental Dragon Lantern

运动起来，十分生动别致。

浙江温州的龙灯更是种类繁多，有灯板龙、纸龙、纱龙等。灯板龙又称为“板凳龙”，是一种用樟木雕刻而成的龙，龙身各节上都雕有亭台楼阁和戏曲人物故事。纸龙，龙身长达五六米，其内点灯，其外挂各式花卉、动物、人物灯彩，制作精巧。纱龙，是在竹篾骨上糊以白纱，用色纸精刻花样张贴在龙身上，灯火辉映出

dragon lantern is made of cedar wood carved with images of pavilions, pagodas and characters from local operas on each section of the dragon body. A paper dragon is about 5 or 6 meters long, lit inside with paper lanterns painted in flowers, animals and figures attached to the outside of the dragon body. A gauze dragon lantern is made of white gauze glued to the bamboo armature. Exquisite paper-cuttings are pasted on the dragon body. When the lantern is lit, the paper-

各种图案，鲜明生动。纱龙以小巧玲珑著称，由几个人抬着走动，供人观赏。

cutting images are vividly shone through the light on the lantern shade. A gauze dragon's small size makes it easy for a couple of people to carry and show it around.

• 云南大理白族舞龙表演 (图片提供: FOTOF)

苗族、土家族、白族、彝族、傣族、侗族等少数民族有舞龙灯的习俗。

Dragon Dance Performed by Bai Ethnic Dancers of Dali, Yunnan Province

Miao, Tu, Bai, Yi, Dai and Dong ethnic minorities in China have the tradition of dragon lantern dances.



社火

社火是一种中国民间传统庆祝活动。它起源于中国上古祭祀活动，与远古时期的图腾崇拜和原始歌舞有一定的渊源关系。“社”指土地神，“火”有红火热闹的意思。各地的社火的内容各不相同，一般有舞龙灯、舞狮、祭祀、踩高跷、皮影戏、秧歌、杂耍等。

She Huo

She Huo is a series of traditional celebration activities originated from rituals of totem worships and dancing. *She* refers to the god of earth and *Huo* means bustling celebration. Although activities vary in different places, the most common are the dragon lantern dance, the lion dance, stilt walking, shadow puppets, Yangge folk dance and juggling.



• 踩高跷

踩高跷是中国民间节庆时表演的一种技艺，表演者在脚上绑着高高的木棍，立在木棍上进行各种表演。

Stilt Walking

Stilt walking is a popular technique people like to demonstrate in the celebrations of traditional holidays. Each of the performer's leg is tied to a stilt so that he can do all kinds of acts while standing on the stilts with both feet.



- 舞狮

舞狮与舞龙一样是中国民间传统活动。狮子按照大小分为“太狮”、“少狮”，按照表演形式分为“文狮”、“武狮”。

Lion Dance

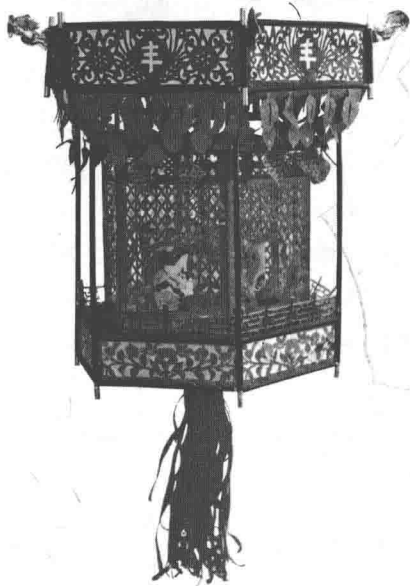
Lion dance and dragon dance are both Chinese traditional folk art. Dancing lions are divided into senior lions and junior lions performing different dancing styles of civil lions or fighting lions.

> 走马灯

走马灯是一种历史悠久、流行极广的具有独特观赏效果的传统灯彩样式，亦称“马骑灯”、“转灯”等，距今已有一千多年的历史。据记载，唐代已有走马灯，当时被称做“影灯”。宋末元初的杂记《武林旧事·灯品》中，描写了走马灯上的人物、马骑等在灯内旋转如飞的情景。元代诗人谢宗可的诗作《走马灯》描写得则更为淋漓尽致：“飘轮拥骑驾炎精，飞绕人间不夜城。风鬣追星低弄影，霜蹄逐电去无声。秦军夜溃咸阳火，吴炬宵驰赤壁兵。更忆雕鞍年少日，章台踏碎月华明。”飘轮是指传说中御风的神车，飞一样地环绕着灯火通明的城郭；风鬣即飞舞着的马鬃毛，

> Revolving Lanterns

Another traditional style of Chinese lanterns is the popular revolving lanterns, which have over 1,000 years of history and produce a very unique visual effect. Revolving lanterns are also known as “horse-riding lanterns”, “spinning lanterns” or “shadow lanterns”. This type of lanterns already existed in the Tang Dynasty according to historical records. A book about lanterns published at the late Song and early Yuan dynasties described the fast revolving horse and its rider inside the lantern. In his poem *The Revolving Lantern*, Yuan-dynasty poet Xie Zongke presented an even more vivid picture of a revolving lantern with a magic carriage drawn by a flying horse racing around the brightly lit sleepless town to catch up with the stars in the sky. He also described the characters and stories painted on the lantern in his poem.



• 走马灯

走马灯以铜衬剪纸作表面装饰，做工细巧考究、构形法度严谨，显得精丽华贵、金碧辉煌。

Revolving Lanterns

This lantern has a very luxurious and resplendent appearance thanks to the exquisite copper-foil cuttings, sophisticated workmanship and the elegant design.

指代奔马追赶着星光。诗作还描述了走马灯上所表现的历史人物故事。

走马灯是在立轴的上部横装一个叶轮，在叶轮下边、立轴底部的近旁装有烛座。当火烛燃烧时，产生的热气上腾便可推动叶轮，使其旋转。立轴的中部沿水平方向横装几根细铁丝（多为四根），每根铁丝外粘有纸剪的人马。夜间点烛，人马图像便随着叶轮和立轴旋转，其影子投射到以纸糊裱的灯壁上成为灯画。灯内所映现的人物故事就

The construction of a revolving lantern mainly includes a vertical shaft with an impeller installed at the top and a candle base below the impeller at the bottom of the shaft. When a candle is lit, hot air rises up and makes the impeller spin. As many as four thin wires are affixed horizontally in the middle of the shaft, each glued with paper-cutting figures or horses. Once the lantern is lit at night, the paper-cutting figures and horses on the wires rotate with the shaft and the impeller. The rotating images are reflected through the light onto the paper shade of the lantern. The story together with its characters appears vividly and repeatedly before the eyes of the viewer. The book *Lectures on the History of Physics (Ancient China)* points out that the invention of revolving lanterns demonstrates how people utilized the



循环反复地展现在人们眼前，非常生动有趣。现代著作《物理学史讲义（中国古代部分）》指出，走马灯的发明，“反映出当时人们已经利用了空气受热后上升，冷空气下沉的原理（这就是今天人们所说的空气对流），以推动轴连带纸剪人马转动……从原理上来看，它是现

principle of hot air rising and cold air sinking to enable the paper-cutting figures and horses to rotate around the shaft. The application of this air convection principle could be considered the beginning of the modern gas turbine. The revolving devices similar to those in the Chinese revolving lanterns emerged in Europe around 1550. In his



• 《西游记》故事走马灯
Revolving Lantern of the Story of
Journey to the West





• 亭形走马灯

走马灯以纸扎的武士构成走马灯景，背后灯轮还辅以刻纸装饰，十分精致。

Pavilion-style Revolving Lantern

This charming lantern has spinning paper warrior images reflected on the shade made of engraved paper.

代燃气涡轮机的萌芽。公元1550年左右，欧洲才出现类似于中国走马灯的装置。”英国著名学者李约瑟在《中国科学技术史》一书中也认为走马灯是古代中国人民的一项重要发明。

早期民间艺人以高粱秸为原材料制作走马灯框架，用彩纸制作吊饰。不足之处是这种材质的走马灯不结实，很容易损坏，现在市场上的走马灯多为电动旋转。

work *Science and Civilization in China* Joseph Needham also regarded revolving lanterns as an important invention of the people in ancient China.

In the early days folk artists used sorghum stalks to make the revolving lantern's frame and colored paper for decorations. But these materials were not durable and very easy to get damaged. Most of revolving lanterns on the market today use electronic rotating devices.





> 座灯

座灯，即为观赏型的大型组灯。唐代时就已经出现了灯架高大、形状如树的灯彩——灯树。五代时期的典籍《开元天宝遗事》中有“百枚灯树，高八十尺，竖之高山，元夜点之，百里皆见之”的记载，可见当时灯树的高大。在新疆吐鲁番发现的古代壁画中有描绘灯树的画面，使人们可以领略灯树的大概形貌。

据《明皇杂录》等文献记载，唐玄宗李隆基（685—762）时，工匠毛顺擅长制作用灯彩结成的彩楼，谓之“灯楼”。灯楼高约45米，宽约100米，上面悬挂有珠、玉、金、银所制的坠穗，微风一吹，金石相互撞击，发出乐器般的声响。灯楼一般制作成龙、凤、

> Lantern Sets

Lantern sets are lanterns put together for a large-scale exhibition. In the Tang Dynasty lanterns were placed on tall and large structures built in the shape of a tree known as lantern trees. The historical records of the Five Dynasties documented the construction of a hundred lantern trees as tall as about 27 meters on the hills, visible in a hundred mile radius when the lanterns were lit. In Turpan of Xinjiang Autonomous Region ancient murals depicting lantern trees were discovered and gave people an idea about the look of lantern trees.

In the historical document *Miscellaneous Records of Emperor Ming*, master craftsman Mao Shun during the reign of Emperor Xuanzong (685-762) built a 45-meter high and 100-meter wide lantern tower decorated with tassels made of beads, jade, gold and silver,



• 太平有象座灯
Lantern Set for Celebration of Peace and Good Harvests

虎、豹的形状。

现代随着科学技术的不断发展，出现了声、光、电三者相结合的高科技座灯，不仅体积大，而且造型丰富、色彩鲜艳、形象生动。现代座灯造型多为卡通动物、建筑、人物等。随着霓虹灯、LED灯等新型光源的出现，灯彩的制作也变成机器制造的大规模生产，纯手工制作的灯彩越来越少了。

which produced musical sound when the breeze caused them to collide with each other. Lantern towers in ancient times were usually built in the shapes of a dragon, a phoenix, a tiger or a panther.

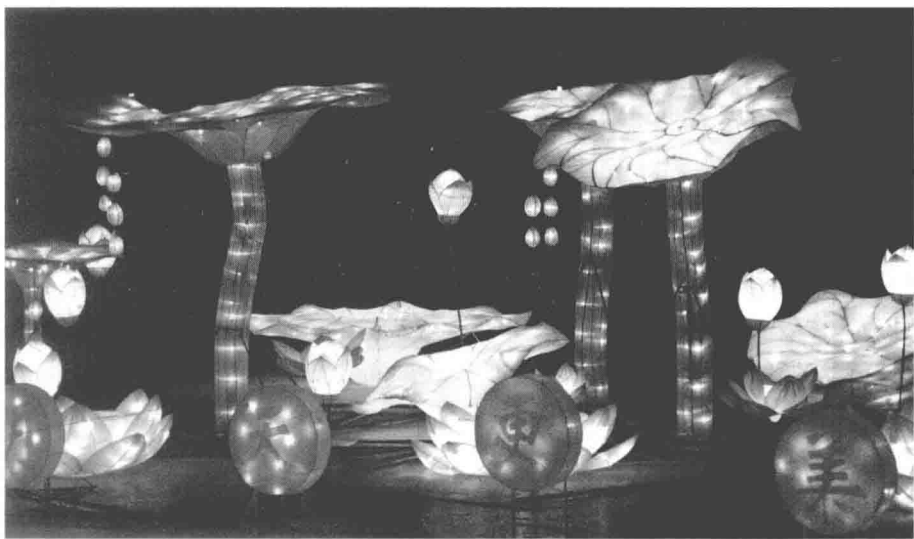
Continuous advances in science and technology have brought about high-tech lantern sets combining sound, light and

electricity. They are large in scale with a rich variety of colors and shapes from cartoon characters, world architectures to different figures. The emergence of new light sources such as Neon and LED lights also transformed the traditional lantern making into large-scale production by machines. The number of hand-made lanterns has become increasingly smaller.





- 鲤鱼跳龙门座灯
Lantern Set of Carps Jumping over the Dragon Gate



- 荷花座灯
Lantern Set of Lotus Flower



> 冰灯

冰灯是中国北方特有的一种民间灯彩。用冰雕刻成各种形状的外壳，在里面安装上灯源，就制成了晶莹剔透的冰灯。

古时候，居住在寒冷地区的农民或渔民，夜晚在室外干活时，用水桶盛水冻成冰罩，将油灯或蜡烛放在中间用来照明，这样做既简单又可以防止烛火被风吹灭。后来，这种简易的冰灯逐渐演变成为人们在春节、元宵节等节庆时，用来增添节日气氛的灯彩。

古代冰灯所用的原料有冰，也有雪，为了延长冰灯的使用寿命，还可在冰中加入矾。冰灯的形状可谓千姿百态，清代典籍《国朝金陵诗征》中记载的新疆巴里坤的冰灯，多为体积巨大的建筑形状，并

> Ice Lanterns

Ice lanterns are folk lanterns in North China. Various shapes are carved on ice and lights are installed inside. Once lit, ice lanterns become glittering and translucent.

In ancient times, farmers and fishermen living in very cold areas poured water into a bucket to make an ice cylinder and placed an oil lamp or a candle in the middle so that the light was protected from the wind. They used this kind of ice lamps in order to work outdoors in cold nights. Later these simple ice lamps gradually evolved into colorful ice lanterns for celebrations during the Chinese New Year holidays and the Yuanxiao Festival.

The materials for making ancient ice lanterns included ice and snow. Alum was sometimes added to the ice in order to extend the life of the ice lantern.



• 黑龙江哈尔滨冰灯 (图片提供: 全景正片)

哈尔滨素有“冰城”的美誉，冰灯是冬季哈尔滨的一大特色。一年一度的哈尔滨冰灯游园会是目前世界上形成时间最早、规模最大的冰灯艺术展。

Ice Lantern Festival in Harbin, Heilongjiang Province

Harbin is best known as the ice city. Ice lanterns are a unique feature of winter in Harbin. The annual Harbin Ice Lantern Festival theme park is the first of its kind and the largest ice lantern art show in the world.

以燃烧的蜡烛为灯源。《吉林纪事诗》中记载了当地人将薄冰片雕刻成菩萨像，其做工十分精巧，如水晶般，足以以假乱真。

最早描写冰灯的诗歌是明代文学家唐顺之写的《元宵咏冰灯》：

Qing-dynasty records documented that ice lanterns in Barkol of Xinjiang were mostly sculpted large-scale building structures. Another late Qing document recorded that delicate Buddha statues were carved from thin ice chips. When the candle was lit at night, the Buddha



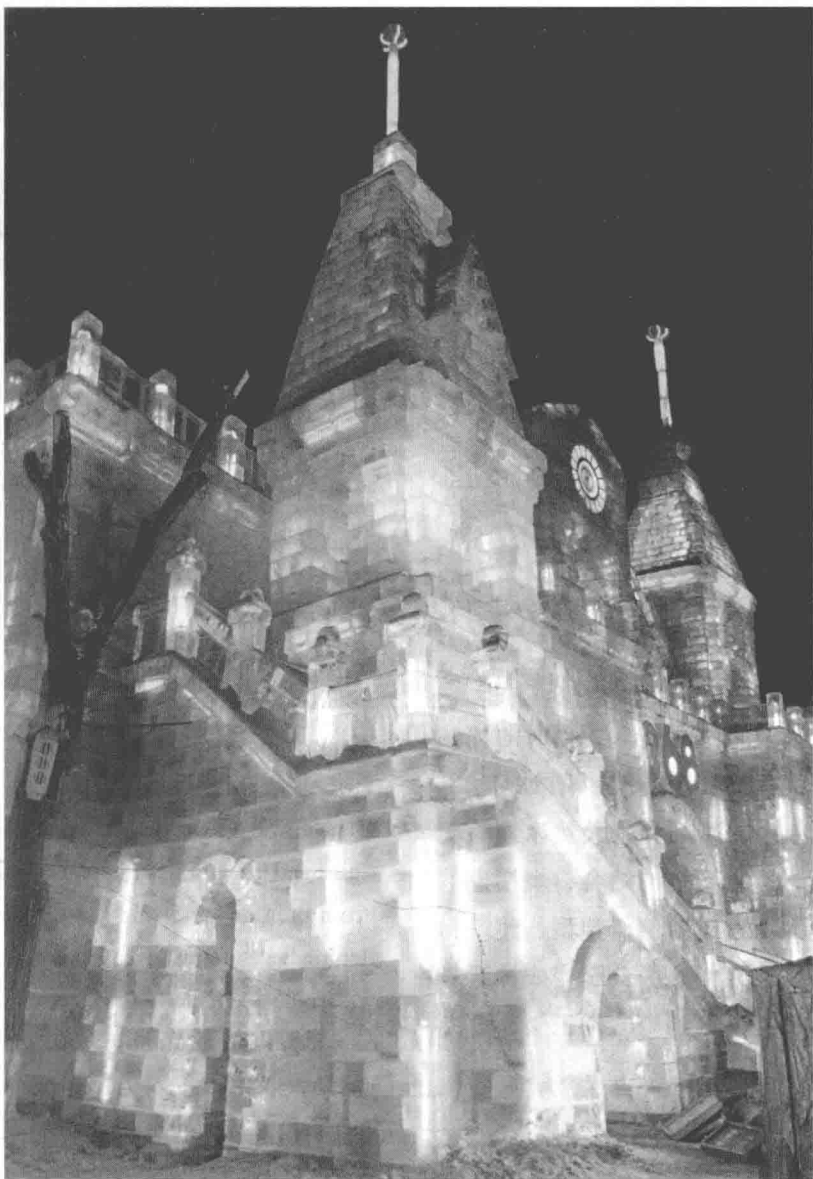
“正怜火树斗春妍，忽见清辉映夜阑。出海鲛珠犹带水，满堂罗袖欲生寒。烛花不碍空中影，晕气疑从月里看。为语东风暂相借，来宵还得尽余欢。”在火树银花、争奇斗艳的元宵灯会上，闪烁着寒冷光辉的冰灯映照夜空，边缘模糊的光影像是月亮发出的光，描绘了元宵节冰灯的晶莹、多彩。冰灯到了清代已十分盛行。《黑龙江外传》中记载，元宵节前后，城中张灯五夜，车声彻夜不绝，有人将冰雕刻成约20米高的寿星状，在冰内点燃火炬，远远望去好似发光的水晶雕像。明末清初，随着满族人入主中原，冰灯也随之传入，当时的都城北京就有能工巧匠开始制作冰灯。

如今的冰灯利用天然冰雪与现代灯光声色巧妙的结合，规模也越来越大。通过雕刻、塑型、建筑和造景，冰灯使整个公园变成神话般的水晶世界，到处冰砌玉镂，灯光隐映。

statue inside the lantern appeared as if it was made of crystals.

In his poem *On Ice Lanterns of the Yuanxiao Festival*, Ming-Dynasty writer Tang Shunzhi described the bustling lantern fair in the Yuanxiao Festival where the whole sky was illuminated by the dazzling and translucent ice lanterns. The light blurred on the edge as if it was the moonlight. Ice lanterns became very popular in the Qing Dynasty. According to the Qing history book *Heilongjiang Legends*, lit lanterns were on display continuously for five nights around the Yuanxiao Festival. A 20-meter tall statue of the Longevity God was carved on ice with a big torch inside as if it was a glowing crystal sculpture from afar. In the late Ming and early Qing, the Manchus arrived at the Central Plains of China and brought with them ice lanterns. From then on, craftsmen in the capital Beijing began to make ice lanterns.

Today ice lanterns are a combination of natural ice and snow with modern lighting, sound and color. Ice lantern fairs and festivals become bigger and bigger in scale. Ice lanterns can transform a park into a magical crystal world of fairy tales through ice carving, sculpturing, landscaping and construction.



• 绚丽的冰灯 (图片提供: 全景正片)

五颜六色的冰灯城堡, 好似童话世界。

Ice Lanterns of Brilliant Colors

The gorgeous ice lantern castle is a world of fairy tales.

> 其他灯彩

无骨灯

无骨灯，即没有硬质骨撑的灯品。这种灯早在宋代已见记载。元代典籍《武林旧事》记载有无骨灯的制作方法：“所谓无骨灯者，其



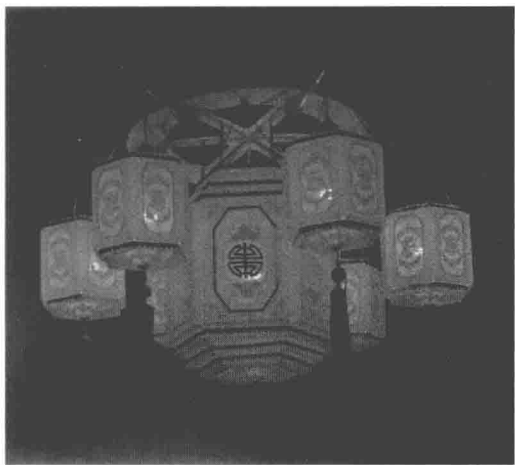
> Other Types of Lanterns

Lanterns without “Bones”

Lanterns without “bones” refer to lanterns that do not have a wood or metal armature. This kind of lanterns was documented as early as in the Song Dynasty. The Yuan Dynasty historical records about Hangzhou also described the making of such lanterns and highly praised the round- shaped lantern as unprecedented and amazing.

A lantern without “bones” is made of cardboard folded into geometric shapes and then glued together as the armature. The lantern shade uses engraved paper with collage and finely

- 纸刻无骨灯
Engraved Paper Lanterns without “Bones”



• 福寿六方无骨灯

此灯属“子母灯”，由六个六方小灯环绕一个六方大灯构成，具有“六六大顺”的吉祥含意。其制作工艺一如“纸刻无骨灯”，但以蝙蝠纹和寿字纹的装饰，鲜明地点出福寿的主题。

Hexagonal lantern without "bones" with fortune and longevity characters

This set of lanterns is known as the "mother and sons" lanterns with one big hexagonal lantern surrounded by 6 small hexagonal lanterns. The 6-6 combination implies smoothness and auspiciousness. They are made using the same technique for lanterns without "bones", and the decoration has a very distinctive theme of fortune and longevity with bat designs and the longevity character patterns.

法用绢囊贮粟为胎，因之烧缀，及成去粟，则混然玻璃球也。景物奇巧，前无其比。”

而纸刻无骨灯则是用纸板折叠成各种几何形，再相互连接胶固，构成无硬质骨撑的纸面灯体。灯面用刻纸贴画和刺孔细纹装饰，既端庄典雅又生动华丽，具有很高的观赏价值。特别是以针刺的无骨花灯，这是在纸片上用绣花针刺出花纹图案后粘贴而成。其制作十分复杂，要经过绘图、粘贴、烫纸、剪样、装订、凿花、拷背、刺绣、竖灯、装饰等十道工序才能完成。

punctured patterns. This kind of lanterns has an elegant and charming appearance with a very high artistic value. The most beautiful style is to pierce delicate patterns onto thin pieces of paper using embroidery needles and then paste the paper patterns to the shade. The entire process involves ten complicated steps of drawing, pasting, heat-pressing, paper-cutting, mounting, collaging, embossing, embroidering, assembling and decorating.



刺绣

刺绣是一门中国传统手工艺，又称“丝绣”、“绣花”，因刺绣多为妇女所作，故又称“女红”。刺绣是用绣花针将各色彩线，按照设计好的图案、样式绣制在棉麻等纺织物品上。

刺绣的历史悠久，古时有“衣画而裳绣”的章服制度。在中国，手工刺绣十分普遍，其中苏州的苏绣、广东的粤绣、湖南的湘绣、四川的蜀绣最为精妙，被誉为“四大名绣”。此外还有上海的顾绣、北京的京绣、山东的鲁绣、福建的闽绣、苗族的苗绣等，都各具特色、风格独特。

刺绣多以花鸟鱼虫、吉祥文字、佛像、神话传说、历史故事、几何图形等为主要内容，表达人们对多子多孙、平安健康、功名利禄、幸福长寿等美好生活的向往。

刺绣制品多用来制作包括生活、歌舞、戏曲所用的服饰，有台布、枕套、靠垫、鞋垫、门帘等生活用品，以及屏风、装饰画、玩具、灯彩等各种装饰品。灯彩上的刺绣图案，在灯光的照射下，栩栩如生。



• “牡丹花鸟”刺绣

牡丹花，外形优美，颜色绚丽、清雅，有“花王”的美誉。因其被视为富贵吉祥的象征，因此又称“富贵花”。

Embroidery of Peonies and Birds

Peonies have an elegant shape and bright colors. They are known as the king of flowers and the flower of wealth representing good fortune.

Embroidery

Embroidery is a Chinese traditional needlework. It is also known as “silk embroidery”, “flower embroidery” or a “woman’s needlework” since most of the embroideries are done by women. Needles and colored threads are used to embroider designs and patterns onto cotton, linen or other fabrics.

Chinese embroidery has a long history. Painting and embroidery on clothes were the formal dress code in ancient China. In China hand embroidery is very common. The most exquisite needlework includes Su Embroidery from Suzhou, Yue Embroidery from Gongdong, Xiang Embroidery from Hunan and Shu Embroidery from Sichuan, which are known as the four famous schools of embroidery. Additionally Gu Embroidery from Shanghai, Jing Embroidery from Beijing, Lu Embroidery from Shandong, Min Embroidery from Fujiang and Miao Embroidery from the Miao ethnic group all have their own unique features and characteristics.

Chinese embroidery comprises a variety of themes such as flowers and birds, fish and insects, auspicious Chinese characters, Buddha images, mythical legends, historical stories and geometric shapes, all of which symbolize people’s longing for many descendants, peace, health, fame, fortune, happiness and longevity.

Embroidery is mostly used in people’s clothing and theatrical costumes as well as household items including tablecloths, pillowcases, cushions, insoles, and curtains. It is also common to see embroidery in the decoration for screens, decorative paintings, toys and lanterns. Especially when used in a lantern, the embroidery comes alive with the light.

拟形灯

拟形灯是模拟自然事物形态的灯，在民间灯彩中占有很大比例。这类灯彩大多包含有鲜明的象征意义，且生动活泼，故深受百姓、尤其是小孩子的喜爱。例如，鱼形灯，因为“鱼”与“余”字谐音，寓意着年年有余，其他还有

Iconic Lanterns

Iconic lanterns represent animals or real objects in nature. In folk lanterns a great percentage are iconic lanterns, well-liked by people especially children for its lively and distinctive symbolic features. The most attractive are fish-shaped lanterns which imply abundance every year as the Chinese characters fish and abundance

许多以生肖动物为造型的灯彩，如龙舟灯、白兔灯、老虎灯、羊形灯等。

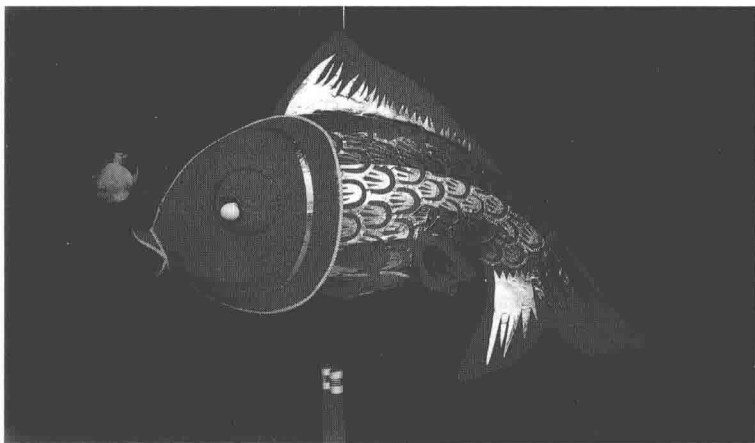
中国有句俗语叫做“画虎画皮难画骨”，意思是画老虎的外表容易，想要把老虎的王者之风画出来却很难。制作拟形灯最重要的就是扎出稳固、逼真的骨架。例如扎制老虎灯，要先用铁丝或铅丝弯折扎制成老虎的骨架，在中间的位置预留出固定蜡烛的位置。骨架扎好

have the same pronunciation. Other popular ones include dragon-boat, rabbit, tiger and goat shaped lanterns.

As a Chinese saying goes, it is easy to paint the appearance of a tiger, but it is very hard to present the tiger's bearing as the king of the animals. The most important element in the making of an animal-shaped lantern is the construction of the armature, which has to be solid and real-to-life. For example, in the making of a tiger lantern, steel or lead wires are



• 龙舟灯
Dragon-boat Lantern



- 红鲤鱼灯

红鲤鱼是中国民间美术最常见的造型主题，可以寓含“鲤鱼跳龙门”、“年年有余”等多种吉祥寓意。

Red Carp Lantern

The red carp is a very common theme in the Chinese folk art. The image of a red carp has many auspicious implications such as abundance every year.



- 羊形灯

Goat-shaped Lantern



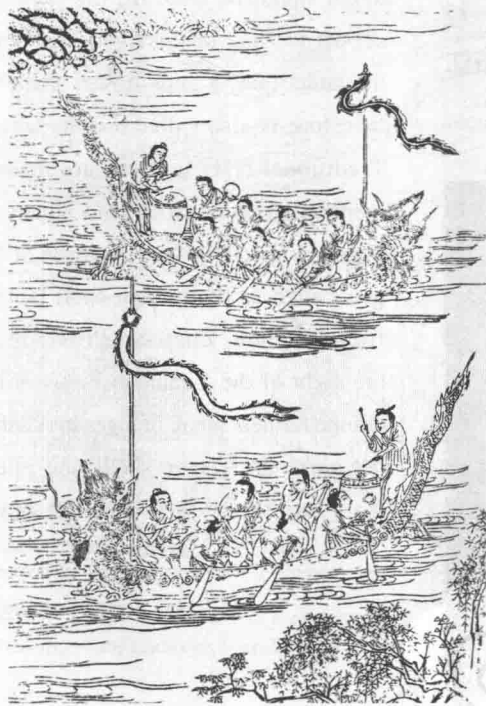
龙舟

龙舟是画着龙的图案或做成龙的形状的船。龙是神话传说中的神异动物，能腾云驾雾，会兴风降雨。从古至今，龙一直被视为中华民族的图腾，是祥瑞兽，传说它能禳除灾难、避邪除祟。传说，龙舟是为了纪念战国时期受冤跳江而死的贤臣屈原。赛龙舟比赛古已有之，西汉时期的典籍《淮南子》中记载“龙舟鹢首，浮吹以娱”，描绘了当时人们划着龙舟，在水上奏乐、游玩的情景。

Dragon Boat

A dragon boat is a boat in the shape of a dragon or a boat painted with dragon designs. A dragon is a legendary creature in the Chinese mythology. It is believed to have supernatural power to fly over clouds and summon wind and rain. Since ancient times, dragons have always been

regarded as the Chinese totem and an auspicious symbol that can eliminate disasters and evil spirits. The dragon boat race is held every year in memory of Qu Yuan, the patriotic minister during the Warring States Period. The historical records of the Western Han Dynasty already documented how people enjoyed the music and festivity while riding on the dragon boat.



• 端午节赛龙舟

Dragon Boat Race During the
Duanwu Festival

之后，再将纸张覆盖在骨架上，然后在装裱好的纸张外层上画出虎的五官、虎纹等。最后在灯内装入蜡烛，老虎灯就完成了。其他拟形灯与老虎灯的制作方法基本相同。

河灯

河灯，是传统灯彩之一，因点燃后放于水面上漂流而得名。又因其常被制作成荷花型，因此也称“荷灯”。传统的河灯多系竹篾扎纸、纸糊而成。此外，也有一些是利用水果果皮等做成的。如浙江

used to build the tiger's skeleton leaving a space in the center for the candle base. Once completed the tiger-shaped frame is covered by paper painted with tiger's facial features and stripes. The lantern is finished when the candle is placed inside. The same method is used to make other types of animal-shaped lanterns.

River Lanterns

River lanterns are another type of Chinese traditional lanterns. As the name suggests, once lit, the lantern is set off to float in the river. Very often the lantern has a lotus flower shape and therefore is also called a lotus lantern. Traditional river lanterns are made of bamboo strips covered with paper. But there are also river lanterns made of fruit peels such as the orange shell lanterns from Taizhou, Zhejiang Province. On the night of the Yuanxiao Festival local orange farmers break oranges into halves, put oil in the orange shells and release them into the river to wish the orange



• 放河灯

Releasing River Lanterns to the Water



• 放河灯 (出自《水浒全传》) (图片提供: FOTOE)

Floating River Lanterns from *Outlaws of the Marsh*



台州一带的橘农依照当地风俗在元宵节当晚，用橘壳盛油做成橘灯放漂江中，以祝愿蜜橘丰收。还有一种河灯是在碗的口部糊上一圈剪制的彩纸荷瓣的样式，名为“地藏灯”，亦称“碗儿灯”。

放河灯，是中华民族传统习俗，亦称“放水灯”、“照冥”，流行于各地。旧时，放河灯多有祈禳意义，其形制多呈定式。如今，此俗已演变成娱乐观赏活动，故河灯样式不拘一格。宋代已见中秋节放河灯的记载。《武林旧事·中秋》中记载：“此夕浙江（即钱塘江）放‘一点红’羊皮小水灯数十万盏，浮满水面，灿若繁星。”民间称其为取悦江神之举。每年的元宵节、农历七月十五鬼节、乞巧节、中秋节夜晚，人们都要在水边放河灯，既是对逝者的哀思，为其安魂超度，也是对生者的祝福，祈愿预卜。道教、佛教在农历七月十五举行宗教活动时也要放河灯。在江苏一些地区，人们每年农历七月三十日晚，都要用各色彩纸糊成精巧玲珑的船形灯彩，装上蜡烛或少许豆油、灯草，由老者驾小船去

harvest. Sometimes bowls are decorated with paper-cutting lotus-flower leaves glued on the trim. They are either called Buddha Ksitigarbha lanterns or bowl lanterns.

The event of releasing lanterns into the river is a popular Chinese tradition. In old days, the activity represented people's prayers for blessings and the lanterns basically followed the same established style. Today this custom has evolved into an entertaining event with a variety of river lanterns. Song Dynasty already had documentation about this event during the Moon Festival when tens of thousands of small sheepskin river lanterns were floating on the water as if they were bright stars in the sky. The purpose of this activity was to please the god of rivers. The event is often held in memory of the deceased to pray for their blessings on the Yuanxiao Festival, the Ghost Festival on the 15th of the seventh lunar month, the Beggar's Festival on the 7th of the seventh lunar month and the Moon Festival. It is also a religious holiday for Daoists and Buddhists on the 7th of the seventh lunar month. In some areas of Zhejiang Province, colorful exquisitely-made boat-shaped river lanterns are usually released to the river

燃放。河灯漂浮水面，随波逐流，五光十色，十分壮观。

孔明灯

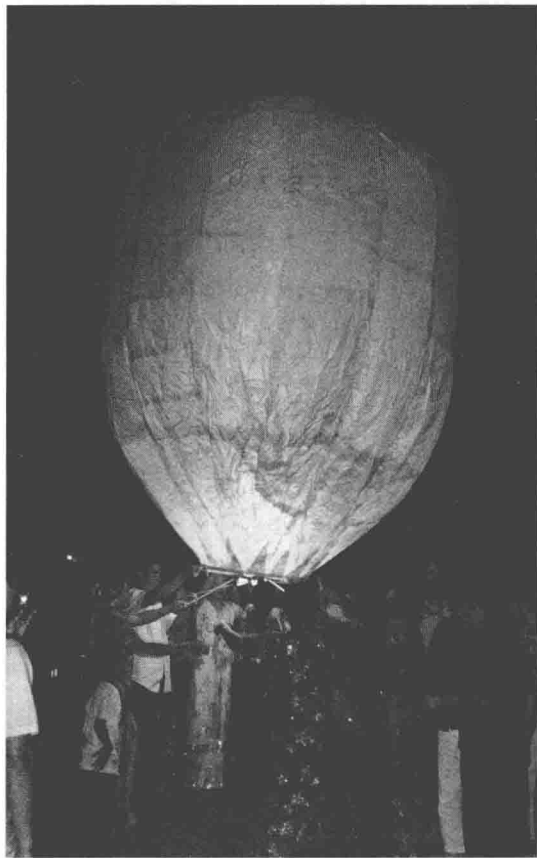
孔明灯，又叫“天灯”，相传是三国时期（220—280）蜀国的丞相诸葛亮（字孔明）发明的一种信号灯。诸葛亮曾带兵经过过云南的

by an elderly person on a boat. The event shows a magnificent sight of many small shining lanterns floating on the water.

Kongming Lanterns

Kongming lanterns, also known as sky lanterns, are said to be an invention of signal balloons by Zhuge Kongming, the prime minister of Shu State in the Three Kingdoms Period (220-280). When he and his army passed through Xishuangbanna in Yunnan Province, they helped the local Dai people farm wasteland and did a lot of good things. Every year during the Water Splashing Festival on the Dai New Year's Day, the Dai people always set off these airborne sky lanterns in memory of Kongming.

Sky lanterns consist of a bamboo-strip armature, a bast-



- 西双版纳傣族泼水节放天灯
Releasing a Sky Lantern During
the Dai Water Splashing Festival
in Xishuangbanna





泼水节

泼水节是傣历新年，是傣族、景颇族等云南地区少数民族最为隆重的节日，一般在四月中旬，为时三至七天。人们用清水互相泼洒，洗去身上所有的不顺、疾病，祈求新的一年重新出发。除了互相泼水，泼水节还有划龙舟、跳孔雀舞等活动，人们盛装出席，欢度节日。

Water Splashing Festival

The Water Splashing Festival is the Dai's New Year, and the most important holiday for the Dai, Jingpo and other ethnic minorities in Yunnan. Starting in the mid-April, it usually lasts for three to seven days. People are dressed up to celebrate the occasion. They splash water on each other wishing to wash off all the diseases and bad luck from the previous year and to welcome a new beginning in the coming year. Additional activities include the dragon boat race and peacock dancing.



• 傣族泼水节
Dai Water Splashing Festival



西双版纳，帮助傣族群众开荒种地，做了许多好事。为了纪念他，每年的傣历新年泼水节，傣族群众都要燃放孔明灯。

孔明灯由竹片做成的框架和棉纸糊成的灯罩组成，有圆形、长方形等形状。孔明灯的底部开口，用来安置煤油或烛火，将其点燃后孔明灯就可以随着热力起飞。人们一般还会在孔明灯灯罩上写有愿望、祝福的文字。

料丝灯

料丝灯，即用玻璃丝制作的灯，在明代已经出现。这种灯以细如毫发的玻璃丝为原料编织而成。料丝灯的图案在烛光的照射之下显得珠光宝气，华贵秀美，颇似神话中的仙灯。据说古代的料丝是用糯米熬制而成，既有韧性而且透明。还有一种说法，料丝是将玛瑙、紫石英捣成屑，煮烂成粉，再用天花葵水调制而成。明代时，以云南昆明生产的料丝为最佳。清代时，制作工艺曾传到福建的泉州，但后来失传。现在的料丝灯为玻璃丝代替，效果相同。

fiber paper shade and a base for a small candle or a kerosene cell. They either have a round or a rectangular shape. When lit, the heat makes the lantern airborne. People usually write their wishes or blessings on the lantern's shade.

Filament Lanterns

Filament lanterns are glass fiber lanterns, which emerged in the Ming Dynasty. The shade is woven from glass fibers as thin as human hair. When lit, the patterns on the lantern shade filtered through the light have a dazzling and luxurious look as if it was the magic lantern from fairy tales. It is said that in ancient times filament could come from cooked glutinous rice, tenacious and transparent. It could also be made from agate and amethysts, which were pounded to crumbs, boiled into paste and added with a special kind of liquid. In the Ming Dynasty the best filament was produced in Kunming, Yunnan. In the Qing Dynasty this technique spread to Quanzhou, Fujian, but later got lost. Today the lantern is made from glass fiber which produces the same effect.

There are a variety of filament

料丝灯的品种有：宫灯、庆灯、书卷灯、五星灯、花篮灯、绣球灯等。

面灯

北方的一些农村在农历正月十五前，在玉米粉中掺入豆粉，或掺入适量的白面粉以增加黏性，制成豆面灯，亦称“面盏”。据山东《胶澳记》记载：山东胶东一带元宵节时百姓蒸面做灯，注入灯油点燃灯芯，看其燃尽后灯花（由于灯芯燃烧后，灰烬仍旧在灯芯上，红热状态下的灰烬在火焰中如同花，故名）的形状来占卜谷物的丰歉。

面盏状如粮囤，在灯的顶部中间做一个凹洞为灯碗，用来放油或插烛。灯盏按月捏制，共十二盏，每盏各做出记号代表十二个月。如在代表农忙月份（如五月、九月）的灯碗周围盘几条小面蛇，叫“圣虫”（即龙），寓意风调雨顺，五谷满仓。面盏蒸熟揭锅之后，看哪个月灯碗里的水多，就表示哪个月份雨水多，反之则旱。还有一种面盏是根据家庭成员的生肖捏塑的动

lanterns including palace lanterns, celebration lanterns, book lanterns, pentacle lanterns, basket lanterns and embroidered ball lanterns.

Dough Lanterns

In the rural areas of North China people have a tradition of kneading dough into a bowl-shaped lantern, also known as “dough disk”, before the Yuanxiao Festival. The dough is a mixture of bean flour, wheat flour and cornmeal to increase the stickiness. The book *Records of Qingdao* documented the same practice in the Shandong Peninsular where on the Yuanxiao Festival people steamed a dough lantern, lit the oiled wick placed inside and waited for it to burn out so that they could foretell a good or bad harvest based on the shape of the burning ashes left at the bottom.

A dough lantern has a cylinder shape with the hollow top in the center either for a candle or a fuel cell. Usually there are 12 lanterns in a set and each bears a special mark representing a month. For example, for busy farming months such as May and September several mini-dragon figurines are added around the lantern as auspicious decorations for good weather



物面灯。动物形象的特征鲜明，并会在眼睛处嵌上大小不同的豆子。夜晚将生肖面灯盛上油点燃，看哪盏亮得最久，即预示谁在新的一年里运气最好。这些面灯一般在第二天早晨蒸熟后食用，以祈求多福多寿。

在江苏北部地区也有蒸面灯的习俗。人们用小麦面加黄豆面相和，搓成杯口粗的面块，再切成食指长的灯坯，然后用左手掌心托住灯坯，右手捏出灯窝窝，放入蒸笼内蒸熟。点灯时，往面灯内倒入一些麻油，用棉花芯燃点。蒸灯可根

and harvests. The steamed lanterns with water left inside symbolize more water and rain in the months represented by these lanterns. No water implies a dry month. Some dough lanterns are kneaded into the faces of animals representing the family members' Chinese zodiac. Beans of different sizes are used as eyes of the animals. At night when all lanterns of the family's zodiac are lit, a brighter lantern means a better fortune for that person. Usually the next morning these dough lanterns are cleaned and heated again to be consumed as bread representing a gesture of praying for more happiness and a longer life.

This tradition is also popular in the areas north of Jiangsu Province. People mix wheat and soybean flour to knead the dough into a bowl shape with a holder of an index-finger's length. After steamed, the dough lantern is lit with sesame oil. There are different styles of dough lanterns such as monthly lanterns, zodiac lanterns and old-hen lanterns, all lit



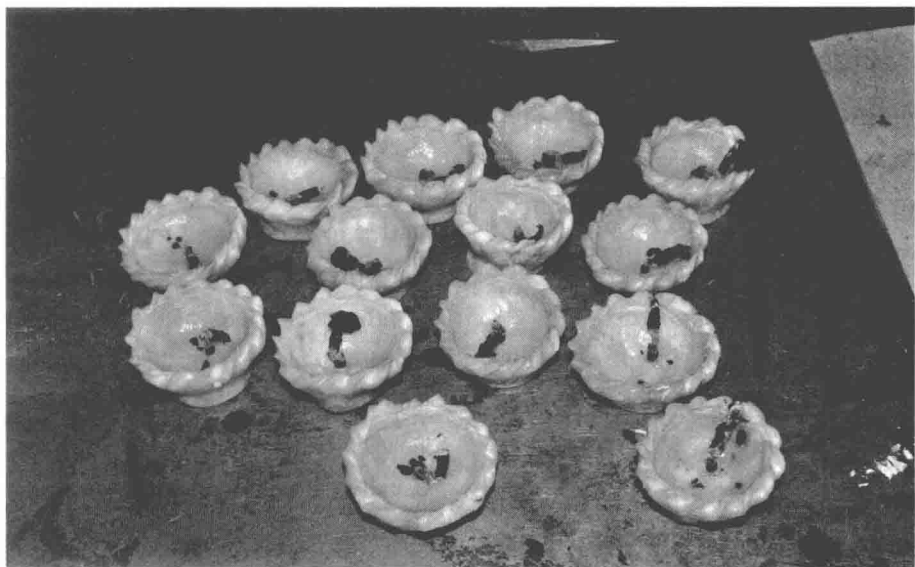
• 面灯

许多农村地区仍旧有元宵节蒸面灯的习俗。

Dough Lanterns

Many rural areas in China still keep the tradition of making different shapes of dough lanterns during the Yuanxiao Festival.





• 花形面灯 (图片提供: FOTOF)

捏成花形的面灯, 中间的凹处放入灯油和灯芯点燃。

Flower-shaped Dough Lanterns

Lanterns kneaded into a flower shape with a fuel cell and a wick in the center.

据不同形状分为“月份灯”、“属相灯”、“老母鸡灯”等。点面灯一般在元宵节晚上, 在粮仓上放龙灯, 在鸡窝上放老母鸡灯。面灯用完后还可以吃, 尤其在二月二“龙头节”将龙面灯切片煮汤吃, 称为“龙肉汤”。

on the night of the Yuanxiao Festival. Dragon lanterns are placed on top of the grain warehouse and old-hen lanterns on the chicken house. Dough lanterns are eatable. On the 2nd of the second lunar month of the Dragon Head Festival, dragon dough lanterns are cut into slices and cooked into a soup known as the “dragon meat soup”.

各地的灯彩

Lanterns of Different Regions

灯彩作为一项集多种艺术形式、装饰手段为一体的民间艺术，其种类与特色可谓五花八门。千百年来，北京、上海、江苏、浙江、福建、广东、青海等地的灯彩，结合着当地的传统文化和习俗，显示出了鲜明、浓郁的地方特色。

Lanterns are a Chinese folk art of various forms and decorative methods. Over the past thousands of years, lanterns from Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and Qinhai have demonstrated their distinctive local flavors and features immersed deeply with the regional culture and traditions.

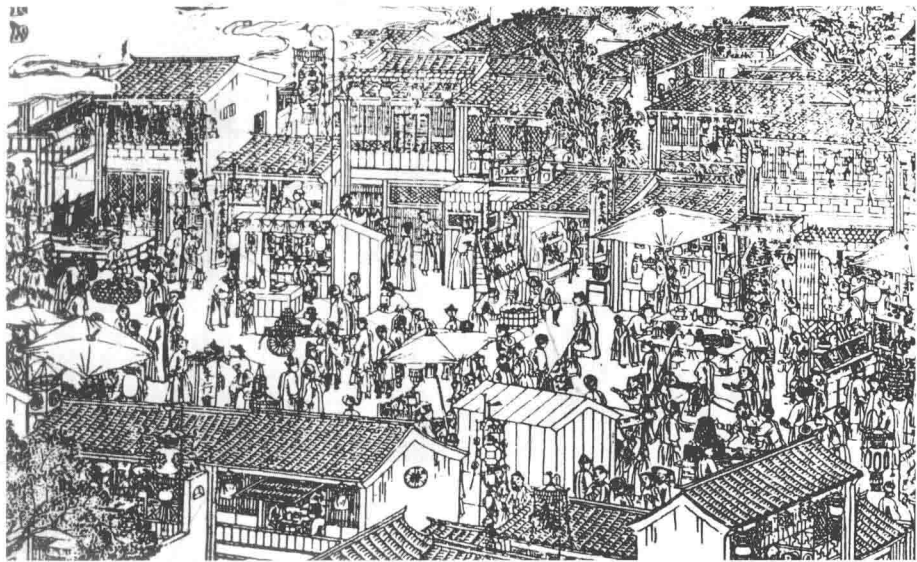


> 北京灯彩

元末熊梦祥所著的《析津志辑佚》中记载了都城北京的市民过元宵节的情况。当时北京的灯节活动从农历正月初八开始，至正月十三

> Beijing Lanterns

In his book *Xi Jin Zhi Ji Yi*, the late Yuan-dynasty writer Xiong Mengxiang described the activities of Beijing residents on the Yuanxiao Festival. In the old days lantern fairs in Beijing



• 清代北京灯市
Beijing Lantern Fair in the Qing Dynasty



- 北京朝阳公园元宵节灯会 (图片提供: 全景正片)
Lantern Fair on the Yuanxiao Festival in Beijing Chaoyang Park

进入高潮，到正月十七才结束，从皇宫到民间街巷皆十分热闹。据说正月初八为祭星神的日子，这天晚上，诸星下界，因此各家燃灯为祭。灯是以棉纸拈成花形，蘸油点燃。灯数有四十九盏或一百零八盏。初更（即晚上晚七点至九点）时摆设香案，陈列祭品，将灯点燃

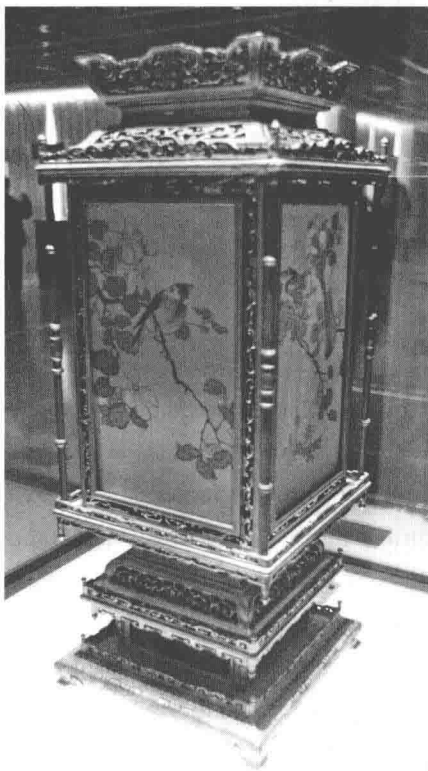
started on the 8th, culminated on the 13th and ended on the 17th of the first lunar month. Celebrations took place everywhere in the imperial palace and the city's streets. It is said that the day to worship gods of stars was the 8th when families lit lanterns at night to welcome them to descend to earth. This ritual required 49 or 108 flower-shaped lanterns



• 戏曲人物灯彩 (图片提供: FOTOFE)
Lanterns of Opera Characters

后开始祭拜，称为“顺星”。正月十三至十六，各家由内室到大门，燃灯照明，称其为“散灯花”，也称“散小人”，有解除不祥之意。旧时的北京，不止在正月十五挂灯笼，其他节日也有这个习俗：五月端午挂红灯，六月无风放天灯，七月十五莲花灯，八月十五玉兔灯，九九重阳孔明灯。

由于北京的灯节活动和商业交



made from bast-fiber paper. The lanterns were lit between 7 and 9 o'clock in the evening after incense and food offerings were placed on the table. From the 13th to the 16th families lit all lanterns in their rooms and outside the front gate. This custom was known as "scattering lantern flowers" or "scattering small people" to repel evil spirits and bad luck in the new year. In old Beijing, lanterns were also displayed during other festivals such as red lanterns for the Dragon Boat Festival, sky lanterns on the no-wind day in June, lotus lanterns on the 15th of the seventh lunar month, jade rabbit lanterns on the 15th of the eighth lunar month and sky lanterns again on the 9th of the ninth lunar month.

Lantern fairs became very popular in Beijing involving many commercial and celebration activities. In the Ming Dynasty, a special zone was set up for displaying lanterns outside of the East

• 四季花鸟图官灯（清）（图片提供：POTOE）

Palace Lantern with Four Seasons and Flower-bird Designs (Qing Dynasty)



• 北京灯市（泥塑）

泥塑是一种将黏土塑制成各种形象的中国民间传统手工艺，俗称“彩塑”、“泥玩”。

Beijing Lantern Fair (Clay Sculpture)

Clay sculpture is a Chinese traditional folk handicraft also known as "colored clay" or "clay toy".

易相结合，故又称“灯市”。明代时，北京的灯市就已十分活跃。北京东华门外开辟专区悬灯，无论普通百姓还是高贾、仕人都可制灯彩并进行贸易，故形成了一条繁华的商业街，因灯市而被命名为“灯市口”。这里白天是繁华的集市，夜晚就变成了欢乐的灯会。清朝末

Prosperity Gate (*Donghua Men*) where common people, merchants or officials could sell or buy lanterns. The area turned into a flourishing commercial district known as the Lantern Fair Crossing with bustling markets during the day and festive lantern displays at night. In the late Qing Dynasty, the art of making palace lanterns gradually evolved

年，曾经作为皇宫灯彩的宫廷灯彩艺术，逐步成为具有北京特色的民间灯彩。灯彩增添了节日的喜庆气氛，是重要节日必不可少的角色。随之出现了许多制作灯彩的作坊和挑着灯笼吆喝的街头小贩。宫灯是北京灯彩的代表，唐代时就已盛行。明代时，农历腊月二十四至元宵节，宫中都要大悬宫灯。明永乐时还曾于午门大立鳌山灯柱，宫女们穿上印有灯影图案的服饰。现存最早的宫灯为北京故宫博物院收藏的明代制品。北京的宫灯有250多个品种，主要分为“六方宫灯”，这种灯有六个对称的面，其造型结构是从明清两代流传下来的。还有一种“花灯”，其造型是由六方宫灯演变而来，需要用到雕、镂、刻、画等工艺。

into a type of folk art in Beijing. As lanterns became necessary decorations for important Chinese holidays, many lantern making workshops and lantern street vendors sprang up. As early as in the Tang Dynasty palace lanterns were already considered typical Beijing lanterns. The Ming Dynasty had a grand show-off of palace lanterns from the 24th of the twelfth lunar month to the Yuanxiao Festival in the new year. In 1403, the Ming imperial court had a big turtle-shaped lantern structure built at the Meridian Gate (*Wu Men*) and all imperial court ladies were asked to wear dresses of lantern motifs. The oldest palace lanterns in the Beijing Palace Museum collections were made in the Ming Dynasty. Beijing palace lanterns have a total of 250 styles divided into two main categories: hexagonal-shaped lanterns passed down from the Ming and Qing dynasties and flower lanterns transformed from hexagonal lanterns with carved, inlaid, engraved or painted designs.



中秋节

中秋节，是中国传统佳节，每年的农历八月十五是月圆之夜，人们团聚在一起赏月、吃月饼，因此又称“团圆节”。中秋节的盛行始于宋朝，唐朝初年，中秋节成为固定的节日。相传，中秋节起源于人们对月亮的崇拜。中秋节有拜月、赏月、祭月、吃月饼、玩花灯、舞龙等传统活动。

Moon Festival

The Moon Festival is a Chinese traditional holiday on the 15th of the eighth lunar month when families gather together having mooncakes and watching the full moon. The Moon Festival became popular in the Song Dynasty and evolved into a regular holiday at the beginning of the Tang Dynasty. People pay respect to the moon, watch the full-moon, worship the moon, eat mooncakes, display lanterns and do dragon dances during the festival.



• 梅下赏月图（清）
Watching the Full Moon Under
a Plum Tree (Qing Dynasty)





• 月饼

据传，中秋节吃月饼的习俗起于唐代，月饼被作为祭品在中秋节食用。一般来说，月饼为圆形，寓意团圆美好。按照风味的不同，分为京式月饼、广式月饼、苏式月饼和滇式月饼。月饼外层为小麦粉，里面为各种馅料。

Mooncakes

It is said that the tradition of eating mooncakes in the Moon Festival started in the Tang Dynasty. Mooncakes are also used as sacrificial offerings. They mostly have a round shape symbolizing family reunion. Different places have different flavors. For example, there are Beijing-style, Guangdong-style, Suzhou-style and Yunnan-style mooncakes. Mooncakes are made of wheat flour with a variety of fillings inside.

盂兰盆会

盂兰盆会，是佛教节日，在每年的农历七月十五举行，道教称其为“中元节”，民间俗称“鬼节”。南北朝时期流传有释迦牟尼弟子目连在农历七月十五用盆子装满百味五果，供养佛陀和僧侣，以拯救罪恶深重下地狱的母亲的孝行。后来，盂兰盆会逐渐演变为民间习俗。据宋代典籍《佛祖统纪》记载，梁武帝即开始设坛举行盂兰盆法会。盂兰盆会是普度众生、报答父母恩情、祈求平安的重要佛教祭典。



Ullambana Festival

The Ullambana (meaning Yulan Bowl in Chinese) Festival is a Buddhist festival on the 15th of the seventh lunar month, commonly known as the Ghost Festival. According to a legend from the Northern and Southern Dynasties, Sakyamuni's disciple Maudgalyayana provided bowls of fruits to monks and Buddhists on the 15th of the seventh lunar month for the redemption and salvation of his sinful mother. Later Ullambana became a folk custom. The Song Dynasty records showed that Emperor Liangwu set up an altar to hold Ullambana Puja, an important Buddhist ceremony for salvation of all human beings, repaying parents' kindness and praying for peacefulness.



• 盂兰盆会 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Ullambana Festival

> 上海灯彩

上海灯彩历史悠久，是从舞龙灯发展而来的。每逢正月十五，都要举办以舞龙灯为主的“出灯会”。在上海豫园，元宵节灯市古已有之，清末典籍《瀛堦杂志》记载了豫园元宵节“火树银花”的景象。除此之外，烟花、爆竹也成为灯会的一大亮点。除了豫园，城隍庙也是每年春节、元宵节的重要灯市。

上海灯彩以生动的造型、艳丽的色彩、精巧的制作工艺而闻名。上海的龙灯有三种。一种是注重装饰的“看龙”，其通常用布制绘色，也有的以绸缎加以刺绣。还有一种和看龙区别不大，但更加朴实且能够自由旋转的“舞龙”；舞龙在耍的时候能上下左右扭转。第三

> Shanghai Lanterns

Shanghai lanterns came from the long history of dragon lantern dances, the main activity of the lantern display on the 15th of the first lunar month. The Yuanxiao Festival lantern fair has been a long-time tradition in Shanghai Yu Garden. The late Qing-Dynasty records documented the splendid lantern display in Yu Garden together with fireworks and firecrackers on the Yuanxiao Festival. The City God Temple of Shanghai is another place where the lantern fair takes place every year during the Chinese New Year celebration and the Yuanxiao Festival.

Shanghai lanterns are well known for their vivid style, bright colors and exquisite craftsmanship. There are three types of Shanghai dragon lanterns: guarding, dancing and illuminating lanterns. Guarding dragon lanterns are more decorative, usually covered



• 上海豫园元宵灯会景象 (图片提供: 全景正月)
Lantern Fair in Shanghai Yu Garden on the Yuanxiao Festival



• 上海豫园元宵灯会景象 (图片提供: 全景正片)

Lantern Fair in Shanghai Yu Garden on the Yuanxiao Festival

种是以竹笼为骨架，以面筋纸裱糊的“灯笼”，竹笼内点有蜡烛，舞动起来像火龙一般。由于没有“龙衣”相牵连，耍龙时要求动作循势连贯。

上海灯彩中的立体动物灯彩最为独特。这种灯彩以动物骨架的解剖为依据，运用搓、扎、剪、贴、裱、糊、描、绘等工艺扎制而成；用绢绸、绫缎做罩，金银丝边作装饰，其特点是既有雕塑般的造型，又有缤纷的色彩，装饰效果强烈，形成独特的江南灯彩流派。如百鸟朝凤灯，是由凤凰、孔雀、喜鹊等大小不等的花鸟灯组成，极富生气。

with painted cloth or embroidered silk. Dancing dragon lanterns have a simpler style, but can twist and turn freely in the dance. Illuminating dragon lanterns have a bamboo armature covered with paper and when lit look like dancing fire dragons. In the performance, each illuminating dragon lantern is held by a member of the dance team. The dance requires coherent movements by the team since the lanterns are not connected together.

The most unique Shanghai lanterns are those in different three-dimensional animal shapes. Techniques of rubbing, assembling, cutting, pasting, mounting, drawing and painting are used in building the animal-shaped armatures. The frame is covered by silk or damask satin decorated with gold or silver trims. Bright colors and sculpture-like frames give these lanterns a unique and strong visual effect. For example, a charming lantern set named “a hundred birds greeting the phoenix” comprises lanterns of phoenix, peacocks, sparrows and other birds of different sizes.



> 江苏灯彩

江苏灯彩以苏州和南京灯彩最为著名。

苏州灯彩，简称“苏灯”，在南北朝时期就已出现，唐宋时期发展至于鼎盛。宋代时，苏州的灯景毫不逊色于都城汴京（今河南开封），而且其灯彩业发展成为一个独立的行业，制作工艺在全中国也属领先。明清时期，苏州灯彩更加丰富多彩，特别在苏州古典园林建筑艺术和明代“吴门画派”（明代中期苏州地区的绘画派别）的影响下，逐步形成独特的艺术风格。苏州灯彩的制作技艺精湛，以丝绸、纸张、竹木、铅丝等为主要材料，运用扎、糊、剪、绘四种工艺，纯手工制作而成。除了套色剪纸外，中国的山水、人物、花鸟等多种题

> Jiangsu Lanterns

Suzhou and Nanjing lanterns are the best known Jiangsu lanterns.

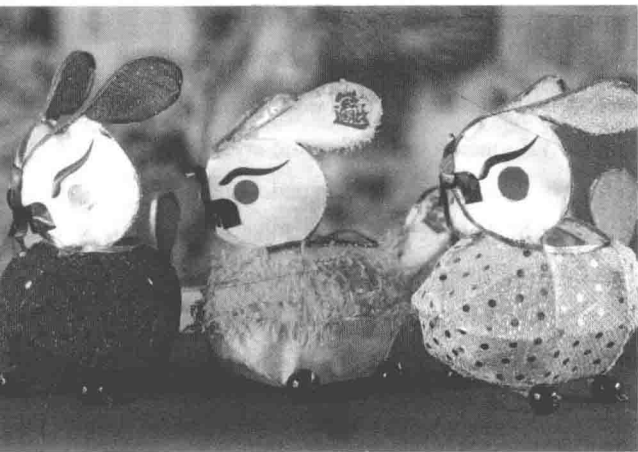
Suzhou lanterns emerged in the Southern and Northern Dynasties and culminated in the Tang and Song dynasties. In the Song Dynasty, Suzhou lanterns were already as good as those produced in the Song capital (present-day Kaifeng, Henan); lantern making in Suzhou had grown into an independent industry; and the production process was also considered the leader in China. The rich and colorful Suzhou lanterns gradually formed a unique artistic style in the Ming and Qing dynasties under the influence of architectural art of Suzhou classical gardens and the mid-Ming Wumen painting school. Silk, paper, bamboo and lead wires are the main materials and the production process consists of assembling, pasting, cutting

材的绘画的应用也使得苏灯的造型更加美观。据明代典籍《姑苏志》记载，苏灯的种类就有荷花灯、栀子灯、葡萄灯、鹿犬灯、走马灯、栅子灯、夹纱灯等。其中，最为精巧的是一种当地称为“有来哉”的走马灯。其造型如同苏州园林中的亭台楼阁，灯内画上人物、走兽等图案，色彩鲜明、生动逼真，在转轴的作用下旋转如飞。

苏州灯彩在发展的同时，还产生了相关的文化活动，有灯市、灯社（灯彩社团）、灯谜、灯游（灯彩游行）、灯宴（正月十五的宴会）、竞灯等。灯市十分兴旺，农历正月十五之前，商家在吴趋坊、

and painting, all by hand. In addition to paper-cutting on multiple layers of colored paper, paintings of landscape, figures, flowers and birds also add more elegance to the lantern's appearance. The Ming-dynasty records about Suzhou documented a variety of Suzhou lanterns such as lotus, gardenia, grapes, deer, revolving, fence and light gauze lanterns, among which the most delicate was a type of revolving lanterns built in a Suzhou garden-shaped frame and a shade painted with figures and animals. When lit, the brightly colored lantern spun quickly with vivid images.

The development of Suzhou lanterns has brought about many cultural activities such as lantern-related fairs, clubs, riddles, parades, banquets and competitions. Prior to the 15th of the first lunar month, many stores in Wuqu Fang, Xizhong Shi and Diaoqiao of Suzhou start to display lanterns for people to

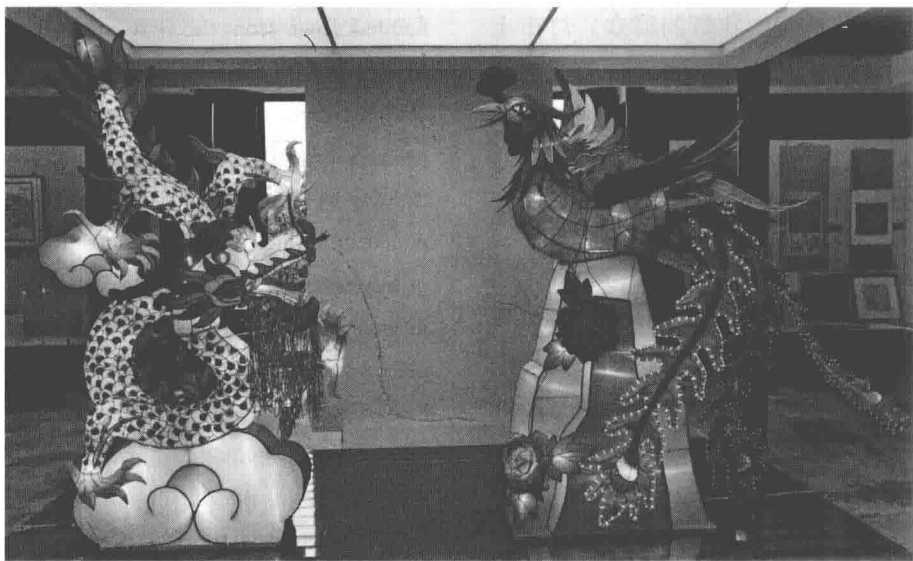


• 兔儿灯 (图片提供: FOTOFE)

该灯装有木轮，是供儿童夜游玩耍的。

Rabbit Lanterns

Rabbit lanterns with wheels are for children to play at night.



- 龙凤呈祥灯彩 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Lanterns of Auspicious Dragon and Phoenix

西中市、吊桥一带悬挂灯彩，供人观赏和购买。

南京灯彩同样也具有悠久的历史，素有“秦淮灯彩甲天下”的美誉。南京灯彩的种类主要有宫灯、挂灯、壁灯、球灯、动物灯、转灯等，融合了南、北方的灯彩特色于一身，堪称中国灯彩艺术的集萃地。秦淮河畔的夫子庙，每年元宵节都要举行灯会，这是明太祖朱元璋建都南京时留下来的风俗。元宵节这天一大早，夫子庙就挤满了

appreciate and purchase.

Having a similar long history, Nanjing lanterns are well-known as “lanterns of Qinhuai River, the best under heaven.” Nanjing produces a variety of lanterns including palace, chandelier, wall, ball-shaped, animal-shaped and revolving lanterns, which elegantly integrate the styles of both North and South China. The city is regarded as the place that highlights China’s lantern art. Lantern fairs take place every year in the Confucius Temple on the riverbank of Qinhuai River. This is a tradition





来自各地买卖花灯的群众。灯市上的花灯不胜枚举。卖花灯的人也各种各样，拎在手上卖的，用竹竿抬着卖的，把小彩灯、风轮等插在草荐上卖的，挂在树上卖的。还有挑在肩上卖的，一条扁担挑上百十只彩灯，走起来只见花灯移，不见人影动。如今，“万盏花灯映秦淮”的美景，依旧是南京元宵佳节的重头戏。

handed down from the first emperor of Ming when he established the capital in Nanjing. In the old days the temple would get very crowded from early morning on the day of the Yuanxiao Festival when people from different places came to sell or buy lanterns. Peddlers carried lanterns in their hands or on bamboo poles, some placed small lanterns on stalks and some hung lanterns on the trees. Sometimes people could only notice moving lanterns without seeing the person who carried over a hundred lanterns on his shoulder pole. The display of thousands of lanterns along the Qinhuai River is still a key event in the Nanjing Yuanxiao Festival.

灯谜

灯谜，又叫“灯虎”，是一种利用汉字的字形、字音、字义的特点而制定的一种文字游戏，最早出现在宋朝。“灯谜”是将谜面写在纸条上，被悬挂在花灯上面，供人们猜解。猜灯谜又叫“射灯虎”，是一种因元宵节张灯活动而产生的民间传统习俗。

谜语源自中国古代民间，由隐语（隐意的语言）发展而来，是古代人智慧的结晶。南北朝时期文艺理论家刘勰在《文心雕龙·谐隐》中记述，自魏代以前，谜语原本被称为“隐语”，其形式小巧，多以文字、事物等为猜测对象，需经过观察、思考才能得出正确答案。谜语主要指暗射事物、文字等供人猜测的隐语，或者为蕴

含深奥意义的事物。谜语分为事物谜和文义谜两大类，事物谜主要猜测常见的事物。例如玩具、动植物、建筑等；文义谜主要猜测单字、词语、词组、短句等。灯谜一般多为文义谜。

灯谜一般由三要素组成，分别为谜面、谜目和谜底。谜面即灯谜的面目，包含灯谜的全部内容；谜目是指灯谜中所要猜射事物的属性、分类范围以及数量等内容，是人们猜灯谜的重要提示；谜底就是灯谜的正确答案。例如，哑巴打手势（打一成语）：不言而喻。其中“哑巴打手势”为谜面，“打一成语”为谜目，“不言而喻”为谜底。

灯谜的谜底范围很广，字谜、成语、诗词、各种用语、事物等皆可入谜。《武林旧事·灯品》记载在绢灯上书写的诗词，多有讽谏、规诫、诙谐、笑谑等含义。



- 年画上的灯谜 (图片提供: FOTOE)
画中有一灯谜，谜面为“小人无用”。这条灯谜的谜底为“使君子”。

Riddle on a Chinese New Year's Painting

This picture shows a riddle with a title "Useless villains". The hint is the name of a Chinese plant that can be used as medicine and the answer is "Shi Junzi" (literally "Using nice people").



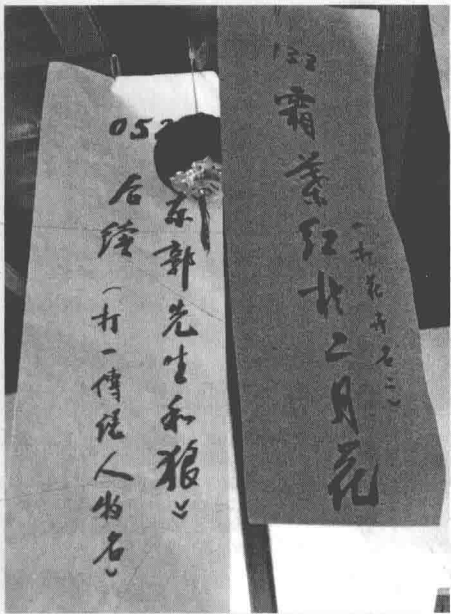
Lantern Riddles

Lantern riddles, also known as “lantern tigers”, are basically word puzzles based on the form, the pronunciation and the meaning of Chinese characters. First emerged in the Song Dynasty were riddles written on pieces of paper and hung from lanterns. Gradually this activity became a folk custom in the Yuanxiao Festival. Guessing lantern riddles was also called “shooting lantern tigers”.

Ancient Chinese folk riddles were evolved from hidden meanings of words representing the wisdom of ancient Chinese people. In his work of literary aesthetics, the Southern and Northern Dynasties literary theoretician Liu Xie explained that riddles were originally short puzzles of words or things that required people’s observation and thinking to get the correct answer. Today there are mainly two types of riddles, riddles about common things such as toys, animals, plants and buildings and riddles of words such as individual characters, groups of words, phrases or idioms. Lantern riddles are riddles of words.

Each lantern riddle must have three elements: the content, hints and the answer. The content refers to the riddle itself. The attributes, the range or the quantity of the object in the riddle are important hints. For example, a lantern riddle has the content “a mute person makes hand gestures”, the hint “an idiom” and the answer “it goes without saying.”

Answers to lantern riddles range from words, idioms, poems and popular sayings and articles. According to historical records of Hangzhou about lanterns in the Song Dynasty, many riddles written on silk lanterns in the format of poems mostly implied remonstrance, exhortation, humor or sarcasm.



- 江苏苏州留园猜灯谜活动

(图片提供: FOTOE)

Lantern Riddle Activities in the Lingering Garden of Suzhou, Jiangsu Province



> 浙江灯彩

浙江灯彩，当属温州和海宁。其中尤以海宁硖石镇的灯彩最为著名，有“灯彩之乡”的美誉。

相传，硖石灯彩起源于秦代（前221—前206），盛行于南宋（1127—1279），至今已有2000多年的历史。硖石灯彩可以用“工序绚丽，玲珑剔透”来概括，它与北京灯彩、广东灯彩、南京灯彩齐名，驰名中外。清代许葆翰在《硖川灯市》中记载了硖石灯彩，指出其举办时节一般为清明与谷雨两个节气之间。近代著名学者张宗祥在《铁如意馆碎录——硖琐记》中的《纪灯》一文中也有相关记述。

硖石灯彩的盛衰与当地丝业的兴衰密切相关。从前，许多行业利用群众祈求平安的愿望，募集捐

> Zhejiang Lanterns

The most famous Zhejiang lanterns are made in Wenzhou and Haining, particularly lanterns of Xiashi Town in Haining, known as the “hometown of lanterns”.

According to legends, Xiashi lanterns originated in the Qin Dynasty (221 B.C.-206 B.C.) and became popular in the Southern Song Dynasty (1127-1279) with over 2,000 years of history. As well-known as Beijing, Guangdong and Nanjing lanterns, the Xiashi lantern stands out in its splendid decorations and exquisite craftsmanship. The Qing-dynasty poet Xu Baohan wrote about Xiashi lanterns in the Xiashi lantern fair, which was usually held between the Chinese seasonal dividers Qingming (Clear and Bright) and Guyu (Grain Rain), from April 5th to 20th in the Gregorian calendar. Another famous scholar Zhang Zongxiang of the same period also had similar documentation

清明节

在古代，有指导农业生产的二十四节气，清明是其中之一。清明为每年的农历三月初三，从这一天起，气温上升，空气通透性逐渐变好，农民纷纷开始种植小麦。

相传，古代帝王将相要在这一天进行“墓祭”的仪式，于是民间也逐渐效仿，在这一天祭拜祖先。从此，在清明这一天人们外出祭祖、扫墓、踏青，形成了一种习俗。清明也演变成中国人纪念祖先的传统节日——清明节。



• 清明时节

古代许多文人的诗歌作品中，有关于清明的描述，例如唐代著名诗人杜牧的《清明》一诗中有“清明时节雨纷纷，路上行人欲断魂”的诗句。

On Qingming

Many poems and literary works were written about Qingming by ancient poets and writers. Du Mu, a famous poet in the Tang Dynasty (618-907) wrote in his poem *Qingming*: "The rain is falling down on Qingming with broken-hearted people on the road".

Qingming Festival

In ancient China one of the 24 seasonal dividers used in farming was Qingming on the 3rd day of the third lunar month. It was believed that from that day on weather would get warmer and it was the right time to cultivate wheat.

It is said that ancient emperors would hold rituals for their ancestors on this day and gradually common people followed suit. Since then this activity became a tradition and a festival in China to pay respect to ancestors, sweep their grave sites or go spring outing.

款，并动员丝、米、布、茶等从业人员制作灯彩。特别是丝业有其季节性，在淡季有足够的时间可以从事灯彩制作，这为灯彩制作提供了充分的人力条件。因此，在硃石既没有专门买卖灯彩的灯市，也没有专门制作灯彩的艺人。

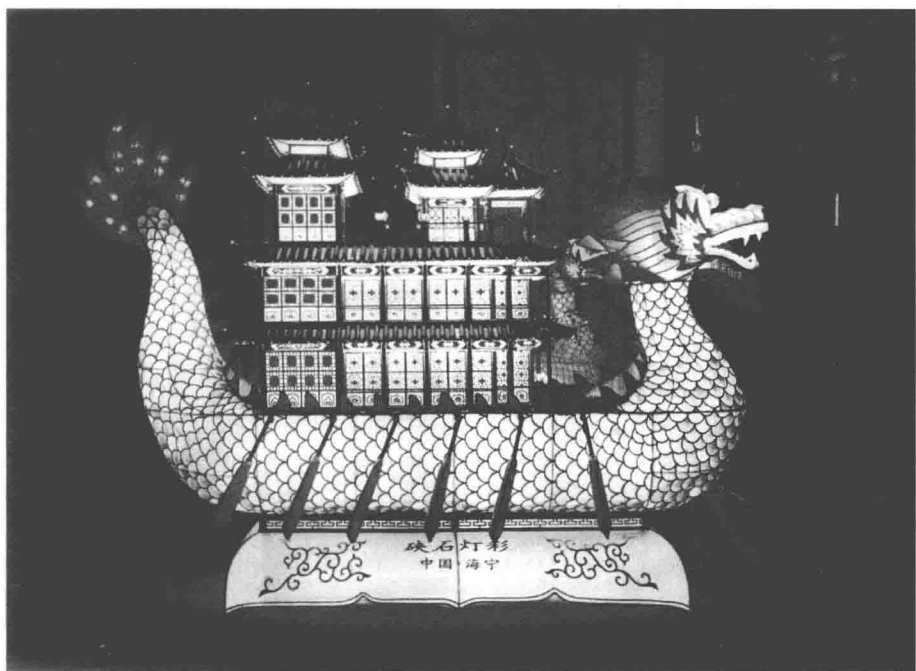
硃石灯彩中既有扎糊的大型走兽，如虎、豹、狮、象等，也有走马灯、鱼灯、鸟灯、花篮灯、古钱连环灯、西瓜灯及盆景灯等小件作品，并逐渐发展成拥有大型亭台楼阁、宝塔等古典建筑模型及龙舟、采莲船等品种的特色灯彩。硃石灯彩还拥有许多具有代表性的品种，如万眼罗灯，以其针工细密的“万眼罗”被称赞。还有乾隆年间就已

about Xiashi lanterns.

The rise and fall of Xiashi lanterns were closely related to the rise and fall of the local silk industry. In the past many local businesses took advantage of people's wishes for a peaceful life by soliciting funds and workers in silk, clothing, rice and tea industries to make lanterns for free, especially during the silk industry's slow season. Therefore, Xiashi never had any lantern markets nor craftsmen specialized in lantern making.

Xiashi lanterns include large animal-shaped lanterns such as tiger, leopard, lion and elephant lanterns, and smaller-sized lanterns such as revolving, fish, birds, basket, ancient coins, watermelon and bonsai lanterns. There are also specially-designed large-scale lanterns





• 龙舟
Dragon Boat Lantern

经出现的大型灯彩珠帘伞灯，因其外形像珠帘，又为伞状，因而得名。其灯片用数层色纸裱糊，以刀刻、针制和绘画作出戏剧人物及山水、书法、花鸟、鱼虫等图案，是针孔灯的先导。

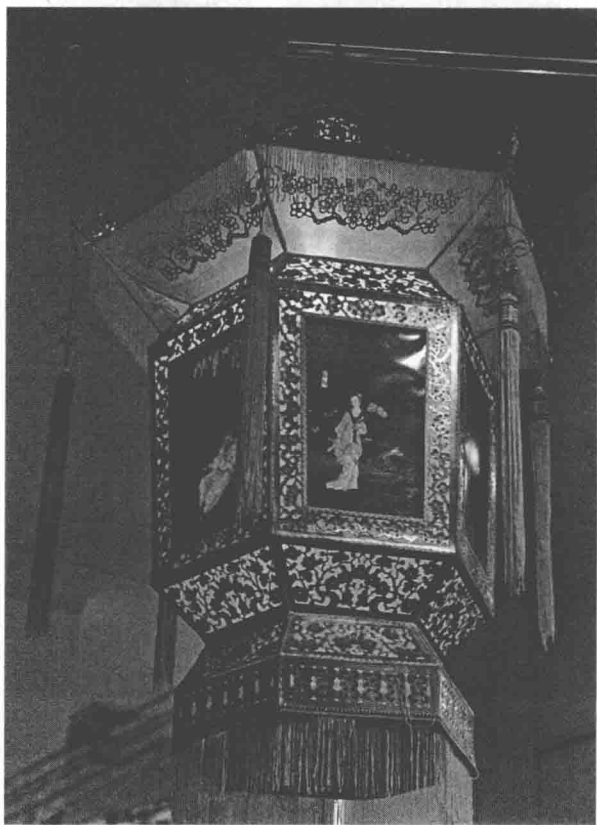
硖石灯彩的制作工艺有八大技法，分别为针、拗、结、扎、刻、画、糊、裱。其中以针刺最为见长，有排针、勾针、花针、乱针、

of classic building models of pavilions, pagodas and towers, or in the shape of a dragon boat or a lotus picking boat. The most extraordinary of Xiashi lanterns is the “silk mesh lantern” named after the finest and most delicate needlework on silk. Another famous Xiashi lantern is the large “beads curtain canopy lantern” emerged in the Qing Dynasty, which has a canopy shape, but looks like a curtain of beads. The lantern is covered

破花针、补针等多种针法。针刺原本是为了满足灯彩的透光性的实用要求，逐渐演变成一种装饰技法，在花灯外层裱糊四层宣纸，用绣花针刺出一个个细孔组成各种美丽的画面和图案。针刺密度达到每平方厘米十八至三十二个孔，一件好的针孔作品需要数百万个针孔。透过针孔，映现出山水、花卉、人像、

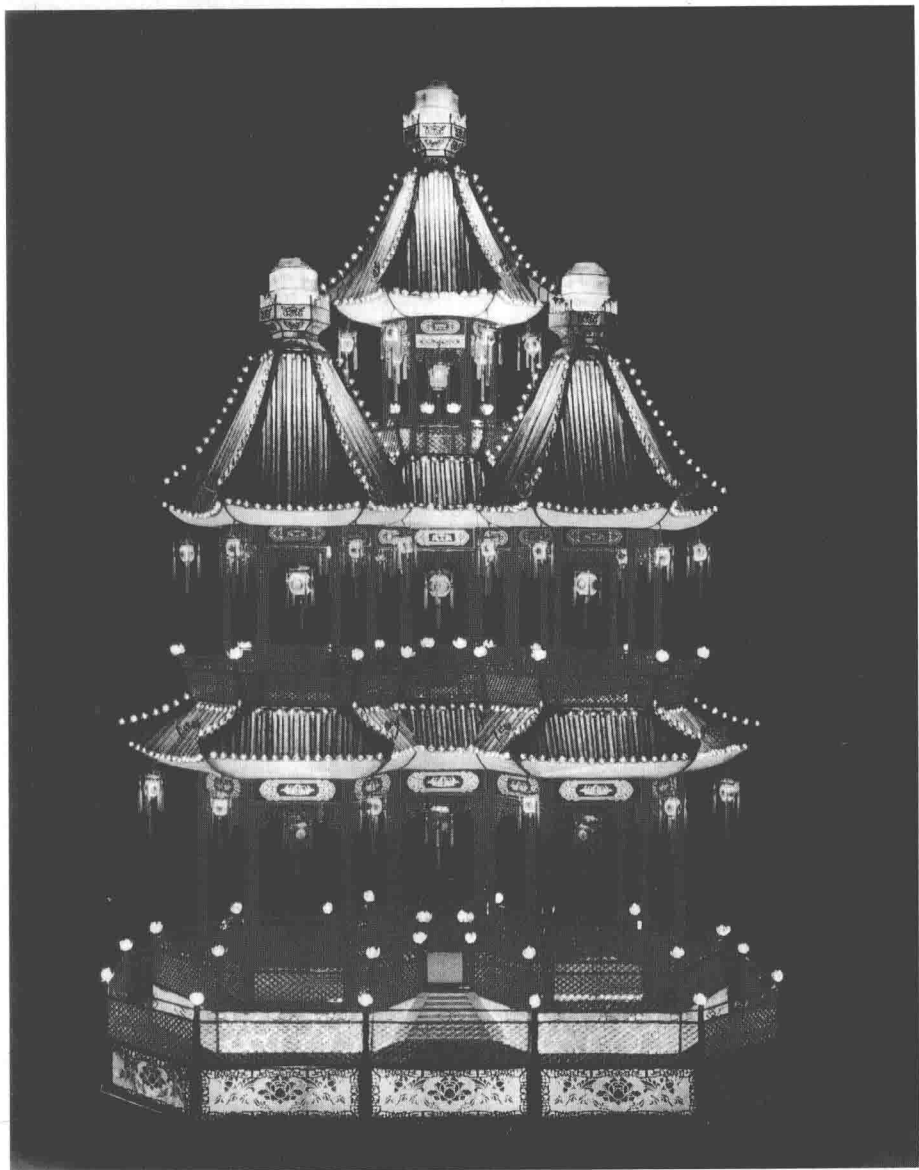
by several layers of pasted colored paper with painted, carved or pierced designs of landscape, flowers and birds, fish and insects, opera characters or calligraphy. This lantern is considered the precursor of pinhole lanterns.

Eight major techniques are used in the making of Xiashi lanterns: needle piercing, bending, knotting, tying, carving, painting, pasting and mounting.



• 硃石官灯 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Xiashi Palace Lantern





• 古典楼阁
Classic Pavilion Lantern



物态等图案，绰约多姿，精工巧绝，被人誉为“尺幅神功”。这种技艺，使针刻的灯面独具特色，具有纱灯、绢灯、刻纸灯、玻璃灯无与伦比的表现力和吸引力。

温州灯彩最迟在唐代就已出现，《太平寰宇记》一书中记载了“永嘉土贡竹丝灯”。竹丝灯是以细篾做骨架，用棉纸、绸子做灯罩的灯彩。温州灯彩以珠围灯最为著名。珠围灯又称“珠灯”，即挂有玻璃珠的灯。珠围灯的灯体一般为六面或者八面，高约四米，分为为上围、下围，整座灯重约两百斤。珠围灯的表面装饰着彩色的珠串，灯顶上伸出由珠子扎制的凤头，灯上挂着的流苏也缀着珠子，十分华丽。

Needle piercing alone comprises a variety of sophisticated techniques. Originally light transmission through the lantern shade required pinholes, which later became a craft of decorative patterns. The lantern is covered with four layers of rice paper, on which pinholes are pierced using embroidery needles to create beautiful pictures and patterns. There are normally 18 to 32 pinholes per square centimeter, which means that millions of pinholes are needed for a nicely-made lantern. Illumination of landscape, flower and figure designs through the pinholes looks particularly vivid and colorful. This technique makes Xiashi pinhole lanterns incomparably expressive and attractive.

Wenzhou lanterns came into being no later than the Tang Dynasty, which recorded Wenzhou lanterns having a bamboo-strip frame with a paper or silk shade. The best known are “beads warehouse” lanterns, which usually have a hexagonal or octagonal shape and a 4-meter high armature divided into upper and lower sections. The lantern weighs about 100 kilograms. The entire lantern is covered by colorful beads with a phoenix head knotted with strings of beads at the top and splendid bead tassels at the bottom.



> 福建灯彩

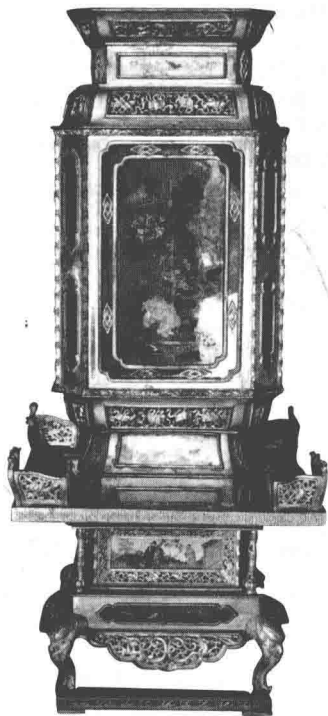
福建灯彩的品种繁多，如福州的橘灯、刺孔的多角灯、能折叠的西瓜灯，漳州的鳄鱼灯，厦门的走马灯，泉州的莲花灯、钱鼓灯、骰仔灯，以及挖去实心而取其外皮做灯的萝卜灯、白菜灯，还有能在地面滚动而火光不灭的千秋火灯，以及古田的字灯等，奇妙无比，趣味横生。

福建灯彩制作的历史，始于唐代玄宗时期，至宋代有了很大发展，制作水平也很高，每年都生产出大批灯彩以供应临安（今浙江杭州）的灯市。当时的灯彩有料丝灯、纸折莲花灯、薄纱长框的壁灯、新娘灯、庆灯、八卦灯等，以及用质坚、透明的角质材料制作的梅花灯、宝华灯等。明代时，由于

> Fujian Lanterns

Fujian lanterns have a wide variety including Fuzhou's orange lanterns, polygonal-shaped lanterns with pinholes, foldable watermelon lanterns, Zhangzhou's alligator lanterns, Xiamen's revolving lanterns, Quanzhou's lotus lanterns, drum lanterns, dice lanterns, hollowed turnip and cabbage lanterns, rolling lanterns with everlasting light and Gutian's word lanterns. They are all interesting and full of magic.

The making of Fujian lanterns started under the reign of Emperor Xuanzong of Tang and achieved major progress with more advanced techniques in the Song Dynasty. During that period a large quantity of lanterns were produced for the lantern fair in the Song capital Hangzhou every year. There were filament lanterns, paper lotus lanterns, rectangular-shaped wall lanterns, the



• 锡斗灯

锡斗灯是泉州一带流行的传统灯具，广泛地用于祭祀庆典或居家照明，也用作元宵观赏灯。此灯造型四方八面，方中带圆，显得庄重而灵秀；其饰鎏金加彩绘，与锡质本体银灰色交相衬托，金碧辉煌，显得华美而沉稳。

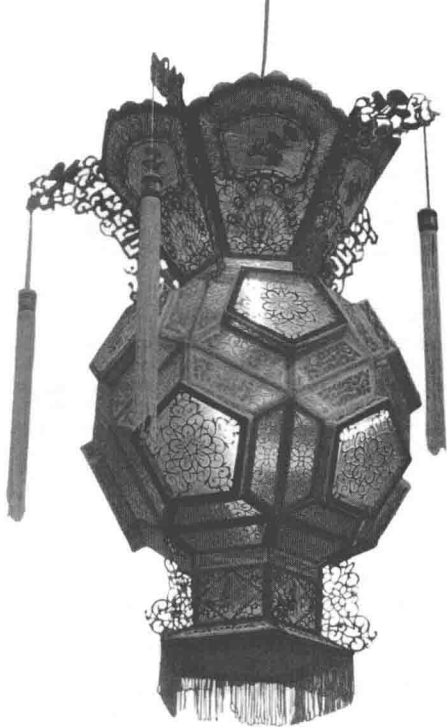
Tin Lantern

Tin lanterns are another type of Quanzhou lanterns used extensively in rituals, celebrations, home lighting or lantern display on the Yuanxiao Festival. They usually have a square shape of round corners. The lantern has a magnificent and splendid appearance with gilded and painted decorations against the backdrop of the silver-colored tin.

民力富庶，百工鳞集，元宵灯景盛极一时，不但家家户户张灯结彩，而且各家还举办小型灯会。清代时，每至灯节，福建各地更是热闹非凡。有一种“迎仙”活动，即用装饰成鱼龙的小舢板，沿河布撒花灯，举行迎仙活动。古田有字灯，是在贯穿城内的一条河的沿岸悬挂灯彩，每灯一字，集字为联。字由当地名人撰写，长句达七十余字，

bride's lanterns, celebration lanterns, eight trigram lanterns and flower lanterns made from hard and transparent keratin material. In the prosperous and affluent Ming-dynasty lantern fairs in the Yuanxiao Festival became tremendously popular. Every family hang up lanterns to celebrate the festival and some families even hosted small lantern shows. In the Qing Dynasty, there were even more exciting activities in Fujian. People scattered flowers along the river on small sampans decorated as fish and dragons to welcome deities. In Gutian, word lanterns were displayed on both sides of the river flowing through the city. One lantern had one Chinese character and a group of lanterns hung together formed a couplet. Usually the characters were written by





泉州彩扎灯

艺人们先用纸将竹篾绑扎成灯的骨架，再把裁好的纸或绸布喷水绷粘在骨架上，然后贴上花边，描上图案，挂上丝穗，便成了彩扎灯。

Quanzhou Flower Lantern

In making a flower lantern, the craftsman uses bamboo strips to build the frame, glue paper or silk cutouts to the frame, add decorative trims, paint different designs and finally tie silk tassels to the lantern.

短句也有十余字。字灯长达数里，蔚为壮观。字灯以字为主，形式有统一规定，但在字灯周围可以挂有小巧玲珑的肖形灯，如鱼灯、虾灯、果灯、花卉灯等。

其中最具特色的当属泉州灯彩。福建泉州自古以来就是“月牵古塔千年影，虹挂长街十里灯”的名城。泉州花灯起于唐代，盛于宋元，一直延续至今。灯市的主要分布区域为泉州市鲤城区、丰泽区，周边的晋江市、惠安县、南安县和

local celebrities. Some long couplets comprised as many as 70 characters and shorter ones had at least over ten words. It was a magnificent scene of word lanterns along the riverbank of several miles long. The display of word lanterns followed a standard format, but mini lanterns shaped as fish, shrimp, fruit and flower were allowed to hang around the word lanterns.

Fujian's Quanzhou was a city best known for its "ten-mile long lantern display in the moon shadow of the ancient tower" in old days. Quanzhou's flower lanterns originated in the Tang Dynasty and became popular since the Song and Yuan dynasties in many counties and towns around Quanzhou till the present

永春县。泉州花灯历史悠久，具有鲜明的地方特色，是南方花灯的代 表。

在制作工艺上，由于使用的材料不同，泉州花灯分为木制骨架、铁丝扎骨、竹篾扎骨，以及用纸折成方柱形的纸管骨架。花灯经过扎骨成型后，表面糊上丝绸或纸张，然后用框线剪贴结合包堆的彩绘作装饰，有的还配上诗、书、画；也有单纯用针刺孔表现纹样的，或运用刻纸手法镂空图案。此外根据花灯的结构和特点，可以制成悬挂、张挂、平放、手提、拖牵、挥舞等多种形式。

day. Quanzhou lanterns having a long history and distinctive local features are a representation of flower lanterns in South China.

Quanzhou lanterns use wood, steel wires or bamboo strips to build the armature, or paper to fold into a cylinder-shaped frame. Silk or paper is pasted to the frame decorated with painted designs, collage, paper-cuttings and tassels. Sometimes poems, calligraphy and pictures are added. Sometimes simpler patterns are pierced or carved onto the shade. Depending on the shape and the structure, flower lanterns can be hung, laid flat, carried by hand, pulled or pushed or used in dances.



> 广东灯彩

广东灯彩以佛山和潮州两地区最为出名。

佛山灯彩，当地称为“灯色”，早在明代就已盛行。据清代典籍《佛山忠义乡志》记载，农历正月十五，将普君墟设为灯市，灯的形状各不相同，其中最多的是茶灯。茶灯用极白的纸做成，其外形为茶壶形状，剔透玲珑，光从内向外流露。还有如树灯，砍下树枝为灯杆，缀灯彩于枝头，多至百余朵，点亮之后如树降琼苑。八角灯，中间做成莲花，下缀花篮，八面环以璎珞。除此之外，还有可以折叠的折灯，可以打着走的伞灯等。清代，佛山各种“扎作行”极为兴盛。

当地灯彩艺术的兴盛，与“出

> Guangdong Lanterns

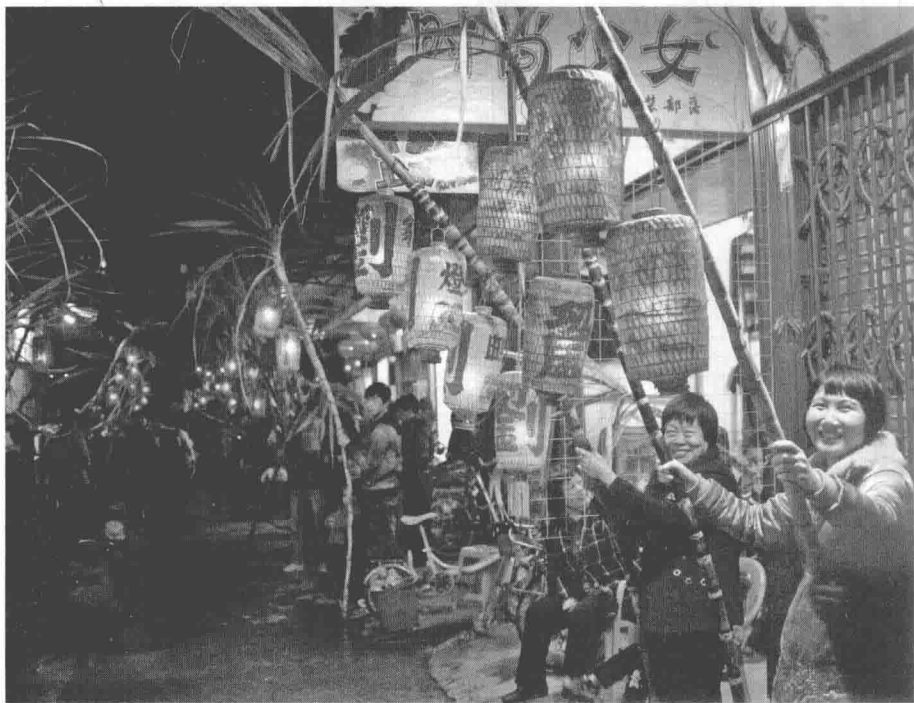
Lanterns of Foshan and Chaozhou are the most well-known Guangdong lanterns.

Foshan lanterns, known as “lantern color” locally, became popular in the Ming Dynasty. According to the Qing-dynasty Foshan records, every year on the 15th of the first lunar month a lantern fair was set up at downtown Foshan to display a variety of lanterns. The most popular were the delicate tea lanterns made of extremely white paper in a teapot shape illuminated from inside. Tree lanterns were hung on tree branches. When hundreds of tree lanterns were lit, the place looked like a wonderland. Octagonal-shaped lanterns were built with a lotus in the center, a flower basket attached below and tassels all around. There were also foldable lanterns and lanterns that could be held up as umbrellas. In the Qing Dynasty, shops of

秋色”的习俗密切相关。佛山秋色在每年的八九月间举行，这是当地群众庆祝丰收以及进行技艺交流的一项活动。“秋色”是当地百姓利用各种天然材料或边角废料制成的工艺品的统称。其中有纸制的万针灯、刨花制的刨柴灯、蛋壳制的蛋壳灯、用瓜子仁贴砌的瓜仁灯、稻草编扎的稻草灯等。这些灯彩的

decorative crafts were very popular.

The prosperity of Fushan lanterns is closely related to the local tradition of the fall crafts fair held between August and September every year when people celebrate good harvests and display handicrafts they have made. Most of the handicrafts are made from natural or scrap materials. There are over a dozen varieties of lanterns including paper



• 潮州灯彩 (图片提供: CFP)
Chaozhou lanterns





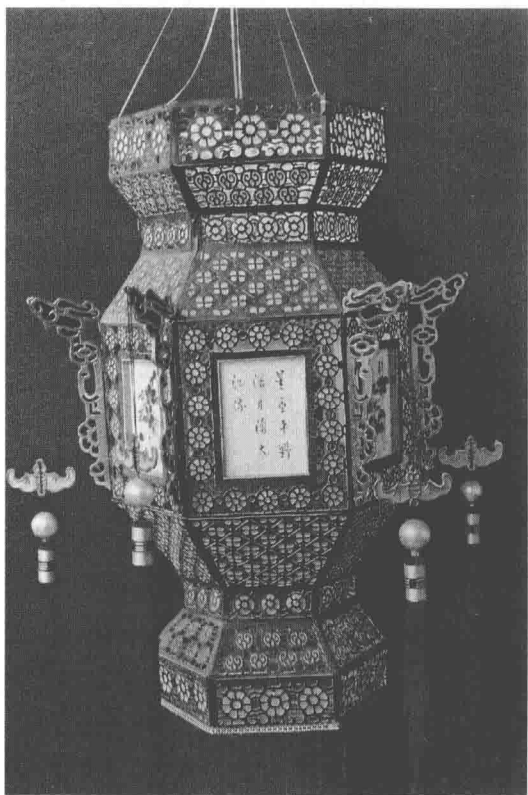
稻草灯
Straw Lantern

原料来源于农副产品，或手工业的废品原料，经艺人之手变得玲珑剔透、精美雅致。

在“出秋色”的队伍中，最有声势的要数提灯会。走在最前面的是4人扛着的高2米多，横阔1.5米左右的头牌灯。头牌灯一般由线丝、竹篾扎成轮廓，分为上、中、下三层。下层作花篮形；中层作

lanterns of a thousand pinholes, lanterns of wood shavings, egg-shell lanterns, lanterns built from shelled melon seeds glued together and straw-woven lanterns. Highly skilled local craftsmen are able to turn agricultural sideline products and waste materials into beautiful and elegant art work.

The lantern parade is the most exciting event at the crafts fair. The first



• 鱼鳞灯

以鱼鳞作为花灯的制作材料，利用鳞片的半透明性，嵌作纹样的花瓣，与黑色的线框和镂空的透地，形成灯面黑、白、灰的影调变化和点、线、面的形式融合，具有很强的装饰性。

Fish-scale Lantern

Fish-scales can also be used as the material for highly decorative lanterns thanks to their translucency and natural patterns of hollowed out black squares. The fish-scale lantern shade produces a perfect fusion of the black, white and gray color, and a harmony between dots, lines and surface.



六角扁橄榄形，以明纱或绸绢覆盖，两旁镶上绸制的人物，浑身扎出多层的堆突线，再粘上精美别致的花边图案；顶层多采用宫殿楼宇式、各类飞禽走兽灯配在其上，头牌里配上十数盏灯，光彩四溢、透彻玲珑。

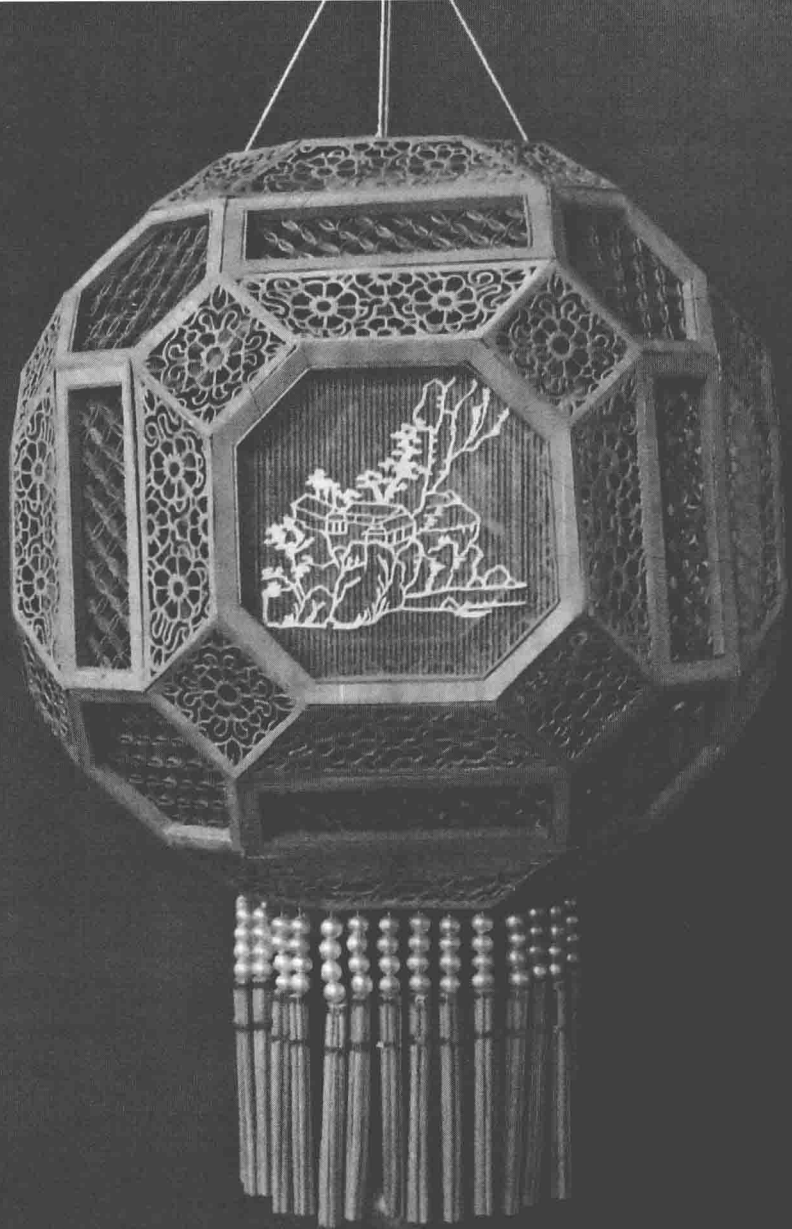
在头牌灯的周围嵌着数以百计的小灯，最为细致和壮观。头牌灯之后有各种各样的灯彩，如走马灯、针口灯、刨柴灯、通草灯、芝麻灯、瓜仁灯、谷壳灯、稻秆灯、鱼鳞灯等。有的灯彩还结合佛山铜衬剪纸的装饰。铜衬剪纸是用当地特产铜薄料凿刻衬饰而成的装饰剪纸，用其装饰灯彩既别致又富丽堂皇，再加上四周悬挂的七彩绣球、排穗、明镜、彩胶片、瓔珞等，更增添了华贵的效果，突出了佛山地方特色。

潮州灯彩在元明以前就已出现，距今至少已有700年的历史。潮州灯彩主要以古典人物故事为题材，内容极其广泛，多表现历史人物、戏曲故事、神话传说等题材，并构成一个情节完整、格局成屏的立体灯彩画面。潮州灯彩上的人物

lantern is 2 meters long and 1.5 meters wide carried by four people. The bamboo-strip armature has three levels with a basket-shaped bottom, a hexagonal olive-shaped middle covered with silk satin, elegant trims and embroidered figures, and a pavilion-shaped top decorated with different kinds of animal-shaped lanterns. The dozen lights installed at the top give the lantern a magnificent and brilliant visual effect.

The most delicate and amazing are the hundreds of small lanterns affixed around the first lantern. In the parade, the first lantern is followed by a great variety of lanterns such as revolving, pinholes, wood shavings, straw, sesame seeds, melon seeds, rice husk and fish-scale lanterns. Some lanterns are decorated by a special kind of paper-cuttings made locally with copper engraved patterns, which produce a unique and luxurious effect. Other ornaments such as colorful silk balls, tassels and transparency pieces give more local flavors to these lanterns.

Chaozhou lanterns emerged at least 700 years ago before the Yuan and Ming dynasties. Characters in historical stories, local operas and Chinese mythology are the main motifs and usually presented in a complete plot on the multi-panel lanterns.



球形刨柴灯

刨柴灯以软木和稻秸等材料制作而成，用排穗、瓔珞、串珠等加以装饰。

Ball-shaped Straw Lantern

Straw lantern is delicately woven from a mixed material of cork tissues and straws in a natural color, and decorated with accessories of tassels, jade and beads.

高度在45厘米到120厘米之间的，潮州人称其为“花灯”；人物高度在10厘米到40厘米的被称为“纱灯”；以花鸟虫鱼为造型，并让灯光透出的单个灯为“彩灯”。

最早的灯彩以竹做骨架，用绢绸做衣饰，人物面部以通草片彩绘。其形式丰富多彩，包括花灯、纱灯、彩灯，以及宫灯、走马灯等。清朝末年，“百屏灯”在潮州民间广为流传，每一屏上的故事各不相同。最鼎盛时期，潮



Lanterns with characters between 45 and 120 centimeters tall are referred to as “flower lanterns”; lanterns with characters between 10 and 40 centimeters tall are “gauze lanterns”; and lanterns built in the shape of birds, insects are “color lanterns”.

The earliest lantern characters had a bamboo skeleton, silk clothing and a painted face. They were built to fit into different types of lanterns such as “flower lanterns”, “gauze lanterns”, palace lanterns or revolving lanterns. In the late Qing Dynasty, lanterns of “a hundred screens” became very popular in Chaozhou. Basically each screen told a different story. In its prime time, Chaozhou once had over 200 “flower lanterns” of multiple screens showing characters and stories from the Chinese classics *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Water Margin*. With additional few hundreds of fruit, dragon and phoenix lanterns on display, the celebrations in the first two lunar months could continue for ten days or more.

Lanterns of “a thousand angles”

- 佛山剪纸宫灯 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Paper-cutting lantern in Foshan

州全城有200多屏以三国演义、水泊梁山等人物故事为题材的大花灯，连同一些果子灯、鱼灯、龙凤灯等，在游神赛会期间可一连闹灯十昼夜。

东莞的千角灯独树一帜，在其方言中“千角灯”与“千个丁”谐音，寓意多子多孙。千角灯沿用宋代八角宫灯，有一千个角，缀有一千盏灯，灯身由立体三角形拼接而成。相传，千角灯是宋代皇室后裔、广东赵家所独创，灯集剪纸、书画、刺绣等民间艺术于一体。

are a unique product of Dongguan. In the local dialect, “a thousand angle lanterns” sounds similar to a thousand children implying good fortune of having many descendants. Originated from the Song-dynasty’s octagonal-shaped palace lanterns, this kind of lanterns was constructed on three dimensional triangles with a thousand lights attached to a thousand corners. It is said that the Song-dynasty imperial family’s descendant the Zhao Family of Guangdong was the inventor of this kind of lanterns, which brought together the folk art of paper-cutting, painting and embroidery into one art form.



> 青海灯彩

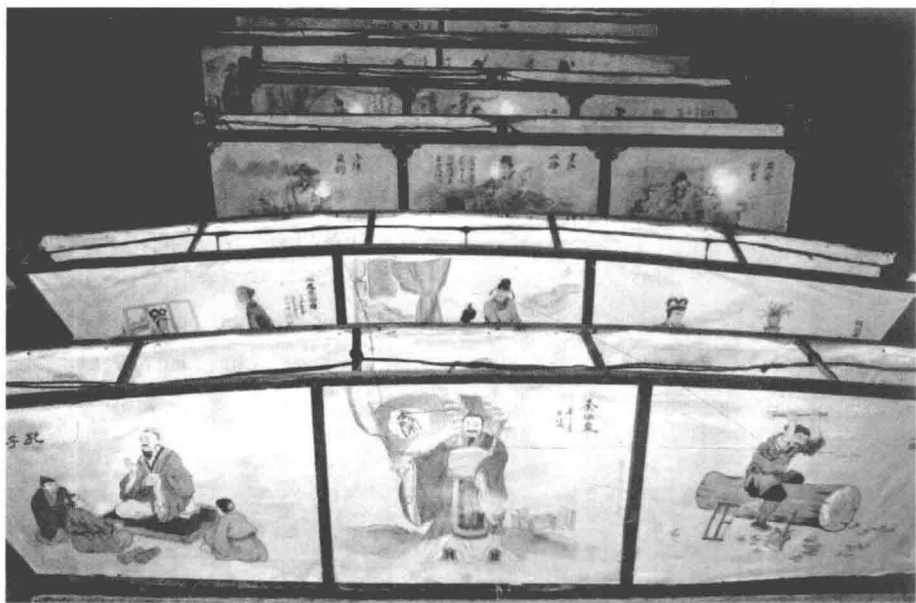
青海灯彩以起源于清代中期的湟源排灯最为著名。湟源排灯原本为街市上的商家制作的挂于大门上的广告牌灯箱，夜晚时将灯箱内的蜡烛点燃以招徕生意。此风俗一直沿袭至清代末年，每年的正月十五元宵节都会举行排灯展挂活动。这样一来，原本为了招徕生意的灯箱逐渐发展成为新



> Qinghai Lanterns

Huangyuan lantern boxes arranged in rows are the best known Qianhai lanterns originated in mid-Qing Dynasty. They were originally light boxes used as advertising signs hung on shop fronts. The store owners lit the candle inside to attract customers at night. This practice continued until the end of the Qing Dynasty. Lantern displays every year at the Yuanxiao Festival gradually transformed these light boxes into a new style of lanterns. A base was added to turn the hanging lantern into an upright lantern box on the floor. Besides rectangular boxes there are also oval, plum, fan, closet and bridge shapes. Decorations on lantern boxes include

- 屏风式的排灯
Screen-style Lantern Boxes



• 渥源排灯
Huangyuan Lantern Boxes

式灯彩，并在原有的基础上安装了底座，悬挂式变为落地式。其形式也更加多样，除了长方形、椭圆形，还有梅花形、扇形、立柜形、卧桥型等；灯箱上的艺术装饰除了雕刻、绘画，还增加了刺绣、皮影、剪纸、书法等。

制作排灯，首先要用上好的木料制作成框架，并对其进行雕刻，再装裱上丝纱，绘制上人们喜闻乐见的图案。排灯上的图案包括民间故事、神话传说、风土人情等内

not only carving and painting, but also embroidery, shadow puppets, Chinese paper-cutting designs and calligraphy.

A lantern box is built using wood of good quality with carvings and covered by silk gauze painted in popular motifs from folk tales, myths, and legends to local customs. These decorations mostly represent people's love for their hometown, longing for a better life and eulogy of prosperity. Some paintings on the lantern box even show historical events, commercial and cultural activities

容，多为表达人们对故乡的热爱、对美好生活的追求、对太平盛世的称颂。同时排灯上也有些图案记录了历史、商业和文化交往活动，如“茶马互市”、“环海商都”、“小北京”等。排灯一般长2米，高0.6米，厚0.4米左右，大都由四格组成（意为春、夏、秋、冬四季周而复始），每档画一图案，以连环画形式连接。

每年农历正月十五，在佛教圣地青海塔尔寺都会举行规模较大的祈愿法会，藏语称“默朗钦波”，汉语称“灯节”、“正月观经”。从西藏、四川、云南、甘肃、内蒙古以及青海各地来的藏族、蒙古族和汉族群众，成群结队地涌向塔尔寺，在万盏灯火下饱览享有“艺术奇葩”盛誉的酥油花。灯节期间，塔尔寺讲经院还有“跳神”等文艺活动。演员队伍有二三十人，头戴面具，身穿盔甲和绣花袍，在大喇叭、唢呐、牛皮鼓、锣、钹等乐器伴奏下，时而高唱，时而起舞。此外，在如意宝塔前，参加灯节的各族群众还举行“高跷会”，以

such as the tea-and-horse exchange market in the Tang Dynasty, Shanghai financial district and Beijing downtown. A lantern box is usually 2 meters long, 0.6 meters high and 0.4 meters deep consisting of four sections representing the four seasons. Each section shows a different plot and lantern boxes are arranged in rows in order to present the complete story in the form of a comic strip.

Every year on the 15th of the first lunar month a large-scale Tibetan Buddhist prayer ritual of lanterns is held at the Qinghai Buddhist sacred site Kumbum Monastery. Drove of Tibetans, Mongolians, and Han ethnic minorities and the Chinese from Tibet, Sichuan, Yunnan, Gansu, Inner Mongolia and Qinghai flooded into the Kumbum Monastery to see tens of thousands of famous butter sculptures and lanterns. During this event, the Kumbum Monastery also conducts some entertainment such as the “dances of immortals and ghosts”. A group of 20 to 30 performers wearing masks, armor and embroidered costumes sing and dance in the music played with different Tibetan musical instruments. Other activities include stilt walking, the lion dance, the

及舞狮、舞龙灯、舞牦牛、跑旱船等游乐活动。人们在昼夜不灭的灯火下欢乐歌舞。

dragon lantern dance, the yak dance and the paddle-boat dance. The celebration continues all night long.



● 青海塔尔寺酥油花 (图片提供: 全景正片)

酥油花是以酥油作原料, 加入各色矿物染料后制成坯料, 在低温的条件下雕刻出各种图案的艺术品。酥油花的造型多为佛像、人物、山水、亭台楼阁、飞禽走兽和花卉树木。

Butter Sculptures and Lanterns in Kumbum Monastery, Qinghai

These sculptures and lanterns are made under very low temperature from butter mixed with some minerals and dyes. They are mostly in the shape of Buddha statues, figures, landscape, pavilions and pagodas, animals and plants.





• “跳神”表演 (图片提供: 全景正片)

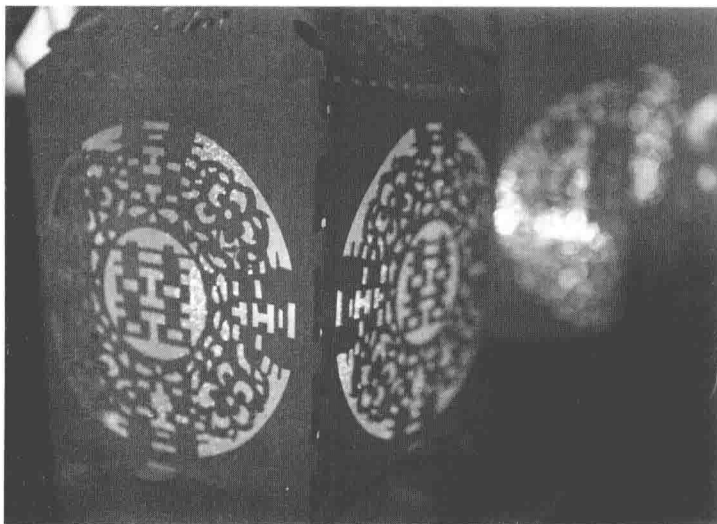
Dance of Immortals and Ghosts

灯彩与其他艺术

Lanterns and Other Art Forms

灯彩中广泛运用了剪纸、年画、书法等中国传统艺术形式，这就是灯彩之所以能够充满艺术性和趣味性的关键所在。

Traditional Chinese art forms such as paper-cutting, New Year's painting and calligraphy are widely used in the lantern making. The utilization of other art forms is the key factor that contributes to the artistic value and delightful taste of the Chinese lantern art.





> 灯彩与剪纸

剪纸，又叫“刻纸”，是利用剪刀、刻刀等工具，在纸张等材料上镂空出各种图案的一种艺术形式。剪纸这种民俗艺术，具有重要的装饰性，装裱后的被称为“剪画”，贴在窗户上的被称为“窗花”，贴在门楣上的被称为“门笺”，而贴在灯彩上的则被称为“灯花”。也可以直接用质地较厚的硬纸壳雕刻成各种图案，做成灯罩，制作出精美的剪纸灯。

东汉时期（25—220），蔡伦发明了造纸术，制造出质地优良的纸张，使剪纸艺术得以出现和发展。到了唐代，剪纸艺术就已经十分普及，工艺水平也极高，画面构图完整，许多地区还有剪纸迎春的习俗。剪纸样式在灯彩、印染、刺

> Lanterns and Paper-cutting

Chinese paper-cutting or carving is an art form that uses either scissors or knives to cut or carve out motifs or patterns on paper. It is a folk art mainly for decoration purposes. Mounted paper-cuttings are referred to as “cutting paintings”; paper-cuttings pasted on windows are called “window flowers”; paper-cuttings on doors are “door marks” and on lanterns are “lantern flowers”. Designs can also be cut out from hard cardboard to build elegant lantern shades.

In the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220) Cai Lun invented paper. Paper of good quality promoted the development of the paper-cutting art. By the Tang Dynasty, paper-cutting became very popular with more advanced techniques and more sophisticated designs. Many regions developed a tradition to use



• 灯彩剪纸

Paper-cutting lanterns

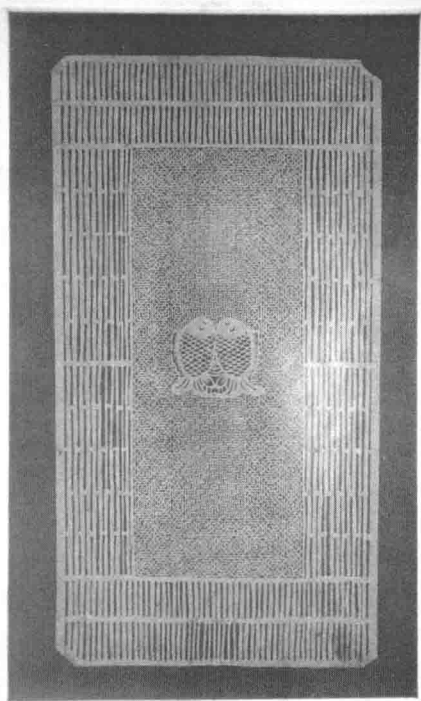


绣上都有应用，人们发明的漏版印花板，使剪纸更加具有实用性。这就是利用厚纸雕刻成花版，再将染料漏印到布匹上，便可制造出不同花样的布匹。江西吉州窑在宋代时还将剪纸作为陶瓷的花样烧制出美观的瓷器。而利用剪纸的样式，在驴、牛、马、羊等动物的皮上进行雕刻，可以制造出皮影戏的各种造型。

特别是在灯彩上的剪纸内容很多，包括自然景物、鱼虫鸟兽、人

paper-cutting as decorations in lanterns, embroidery, printing and dyeing to welcome the new spring. Thanks to the discovery of permeable printing blocks, paper-cutting became more practical. For example, heavy paper was carved into a printing plate of paper-cutting designs, which allowed dye to filter through so that various patterns could be printed on cloths. In the Song Dynasty, kilns in Jizhou of Jiangxi used paper-cutting motifs on their beautiful porcelain wares. Many shadow puppets were actually figures carved out from the skin of





物故事、民间传说、吉祥文字等。制作灯彩时，人们运用托物寄语的方式，通过一些约定俗成的事物用剪纸图案间接地表达人们内心的希望。例如，喜鹊又称报喜鸟，喜鹊剪纸代表着喜事临门。

浙江乐清的首饰龙灯彩，就运用了大量的剪纸工艺进行装饰。首饰龙的每一层楼阁上都贴有五彩缤纷的细纹刻纸，因而又称“龙船花”。其特点是纹样图案细如

• 乐清细纹刻纸龙船花 (图片提供: FOTOE)

乐清刻纸龙船花图案以几何图形为主，有人字格、正字形、喜字形、双喜形、寿字形、龟背纹、鱼鳞纹等。

Finely Carved Paper Dragon-boat Flowers of Yueqing

Paper-cutting designs of dragon-boat flowers from Yueqing are mainly symmetrical motifs such as grids of Chinese auspicious characters or fish-scale and turtle-back patterns.

donkeys, cows, horses or sheep.

Particularly used in lanterns are paper-cutting motifs such as landscape, fish, insects, birds, story characters, folk tales and auspicious Chinese words. People express their wishes through some conventional paper-cutting designs when making lanterns. For example, magpies are considered birds of good news and paper-cuttings of the magpie image represent the coming of good news.

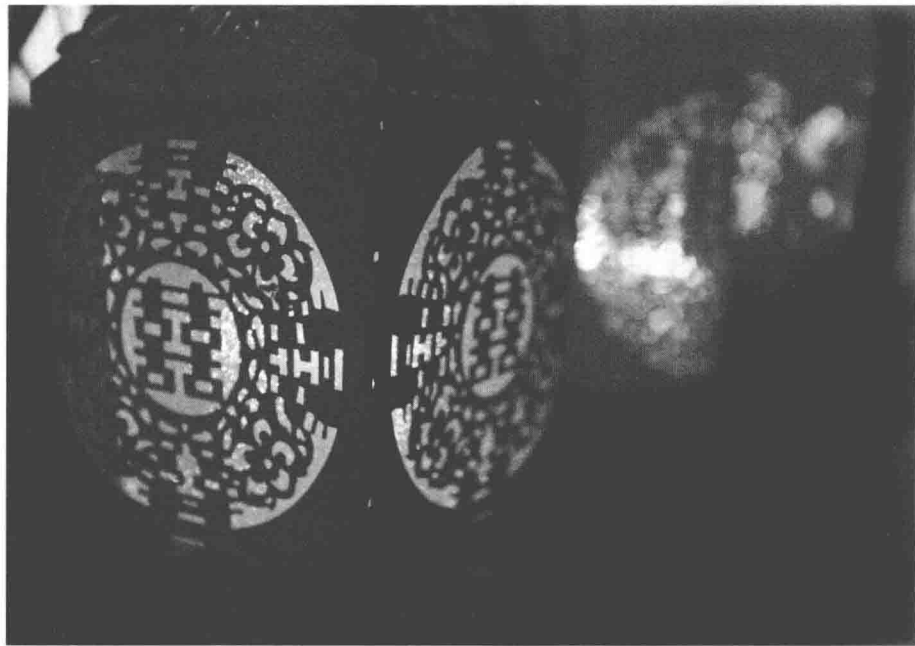
The ornamental dragon lanterns from Yueqing of Zhejiang Province are decorated extensively with paper-cuttings. Every level of the pavilion on the dragon lantern is pasted with colorful paper-cuttings known as “dragon-boat flowers” characterized by very fine and simple designs such as symmetrical patterns, flowers and birds, lotus and

发丝，又不显繁杂。所刻图案包括几何图形、花卉飞鸟、莲花鸳鸯等内容。

浙江温州的竹丝灯，因其做工精巧，在民间十分盛行。每逢元宵佳节，人们便将其挂在门口，将“太平花”、“迎春花”一类的剪纸贴在灯罩上。

ducks.

The exquisitely made bamboo-filament lanterns from Wenzhou of Zhejiang are very popular during the Yuanxiao Festival. People like to hang them at the front door and they are usually pasted with paper-cuttings of philadelphus and jasmine flower images representing peace and spring.



• 双喜剪纸灯

用剪刀、刻刀将较厚的纸张雕刻、镂空出各种图案，用其制作灯罩。

Lanterns Decorated with Paper-cuttings of Double Happiness Chinese Characters

Scissors and knives are used to cut out various patterns on relatively thick paper to make lantern shades.





吉祥图案

人们常常用各种吉祥图案来装饰灯彩。商周时期，吉祥图案便已出现。“图必有意，意必吉祥”，代表了人们对福、禄、寿、喜、财等美好愿望的期盼。吉祥图案的内容十分丰富，包括祥禽瑞兽、花木、器物、图文、人物等多个题材，用引申、谐音或者含蓄的手法来表达其寓意。灯彩上的吉祥图案以四季花、喜鹊、福禄寿、喜字、神话故事、历史人物等为主。

Auspicious Motifs

People often use auspicious motifs to decorate lanterns. In the Shang and Zhou dynasties, auspicious designs already existed. As a Chinese saying goes, "A picture must have some meanings and the meaning must be auspicious." These motifs represent people's longings for good fortune, career promotion, longevity, happiness and wealth expressed in a very subtle and implicit way through a rich variety of themes such as the images of auspicious animals, flowers, pictures and figures. The main motifs for lanterns include flowers of four seasons, magpies, Chinese characters of good fortune, promotion, happiness and wealth as well as mythical stories and historical characters.



- 宫灯 (图片提供: FOTOE)
宝瓶图案的剪纸装饰, “瓶”与“平”谐音, 寓意吉祥平安。

Palace Lantern

A palace lantern with a treasure-vase motif symbolizes forever peace. In Chinese "vase" has the same pronunciation as "peace".



> 灯彩与绘画

绘画是装饰灯彩的一种重要形式，一般绘制在灯面上，以中国画和年画最为常见。

中国画，又称“国画”，使用毛笔蘸墨等颜料将各种形象绘于宣纸、绢纱、玻璃等材料上，按照内容可分为人物画、花鸟画、山水画三大类。

人物画是以人物形象为主体的绘画的通称，按照内容大体可分为道释（以道教、佛教为主要内容）画、仕女画、肖像画、风俗画、历史故事画等，是中国画中出现最早的门类。人物画力求将人物个性刻画得气韵生动、形神兼备，通过对人物的身段、形态、环境、气氛等内容的描绘来渲染人物。

山水画，是以山川等自然景

> Lanterns and Paintings

An important way to decorate lanterns, usually on lantern shades, is paintings, most commonly Chinese paintings and Chinese New Year paintings.

Chinese paintings are also known as national paintings. The technique is to use a brush dipped into black or colored ink to paint on paper, silk or glass. There are three major themes in Chinese paintings: figures, landscape and flower-bird images.

Figure paintings came from the earliest school of Chinese paintings. They mainly cover Buddhists characters, court ladies, portraits and folk and historical stories requiring vivid depiction of the character's personality, posture and attitude, and the surrounding environment and ambiance through which the image is rendered.

The main motif of Chinese



- 山水画装饰的宫灯 (图片提供: FOTOE)
Palace Lantern Decorated with Landscape Paintings

landscape paintings is the natural scenery of mountains. Ancient Chinese had a special feeling about mountains and water, which always involved a certain symbolic significance. A landscape painting often demonstrates the artist's state of mind, philosophy and attitude towards life.

Flower-bird paintings are not only about flowers and birds, but also plants, vegetables, fruits, feathers, insects and animals. Artists use these images to express their feelings.

Chinese New Year paintings, commonly known as paintings of happiness, originated from the ancient paintings of door guardians. They are a very popular art form well-liked by the Chinese people. Representing happiness and blessing for the new year, these paintings should be replaced every year around the Chinese New Year and can be kept on the wall for the whole year. The printing techniques are divided into four categories: woodblock, water color, ash and offset printing. When used to

观为主要绘画对象的中国画题材。中国古人对于山、水具有浓厚的情感，山、水在绘画中具有一定的象征意义，它体现了作画者的心态、观念和人生态度等。

花鸟画所绘内容不仅仅是花、鸟，还包括花卉、蔬果、翎毛、草

虫、禽兽等各类动植物、人们借助这些形象来抒情言志。

年画，俗称“喜画”，起源于古代的门神画，是中国老百姓喜闻乐见的艺术形式。年画因需要一年更换一次，或张贴后可供一年之内观赏，故名。在春节时张贴年画，含有祈福迎新之意。按印制工艺划分，可分为木板年画、水彩年画、扑灰年画和胶印年画四类。年画常被用来装饰灯彩的灯罩，称为“灯画”。灯彩上的装饰年画多以花鸟、胖小孩、金鸡、春牛、神话传说和历史故事等为主要内容。例如，年画上常印有春牛图案，大体都是按古时迎春仪式上“打春牛”的情景描绘，寓意迎接春天的到来、农事的开展，祈求五谷丰登。

decorate lanterns, they are referred to as lantern paintings and mainly embody motifs of flowers, birds, chubby babies, golden roosters, cows, legends and historical stories. For example, the Chinese New Year painting with a cow image depicts an ancient ceremony of flogging the cow to welcome the new spring, which symbolizes the beginning of farming activities and blessing for bumper harvests in the new year.



• 仕女图灯彩

Lantern of Court Lady Portraits



新春大吉



黄韵伦 杨彦文制

泰山出版社



梅喜闹五福

薛良扬 山东人民美术出版社

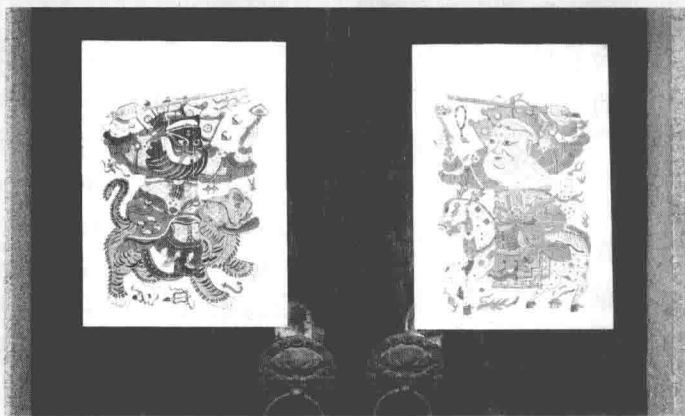
- 中国传统年画
Chinese New Year Painting

门神画

传说，门神是守卫门户的神灵，能够驱邪辟鬼，保卫家宅平安。春节时，人们将门神画像或者名字贴在门上，以祈求新的一年平安吉祥。门神一般都是成对出现的，例如能够抓鬼的神仙神荼和郁垒，唐代大将秦琼和尉迟恭等。门神画起源于桃符，桃符是写有门神名字或刻有门神画像的桃木板（传说，桃木有辟邪的功能，因此人们常常将其挂于家中）。门神画种类丰富，分为将军型、福神型、天仙型、童子型等。

New Year Paintings of Door Guardians

According to legends, door guardians were deities to protect the family from evils and demons, and to ensure the safety of the household. On the Chinese New Year, people post their pictures on the front door to pray for peace and good fortune in the coming year. Popular door guardians include the Tang-dynasty generals Qin Qiong and Yuchi Gong as well as Shentu and Yulei, two mythical figures that people believe could catch demons and evil spirits. Door guardian paintings originated from peach-wood charms, which were wood boards painted with door guardians' names and images. It was believed that hanging peach-wood charms at home could repel evils. Door guardians are portrayed in many ways such as generals, gods, fairies or kids of magic power.



• 神荼郁垒门神画

传说中，神荼、郁垒是两个能够捉鬼的神将，人们将二者的画像贴在门上祈求平安。

Door Guardian Painting of Shentu and Yulei

Shentu and Yulei are legendary demon-catching deities. People post their pictures on the door to pray for peace and safety.

> 灯彩与书法

书法是中国汉字特有的一种书写艺术，被誉为“无言的诗，无形的舞，无图的画，无声的乐”。书法可谓无处不在，在灯彩、中国画、建筑、剪纸等实用或观赏品上都能看到其身影。根据书写字体的不同，书法会呈现不一样的美感。作为灯彩的装饰，书法一般并不单独出现，而是和绘画两者相辅相成。

灯彩上所书写的有福、禄、寿、喜、财等单字，也有成语、传统诗词等具有吉祥寓意的文段，但一般以灯谜这一趣味性的游戏文字为主。“福”寓意福运当头，“寿”寓意健康长寿，这些文字的表现形式简单而直接，即人们对于福寿、安康等美好愿望的向往。

> Lanterns and Calligraphy

Chinese calligraphy is a unique fine art of Chinese handwriting with the reputation of being a “wordless poem, formless dance, imageless painting and soundless music.” Calligraphy is embedded in many other forms of art including Chinese paintings, architecture and paper-cutting. Different styles of calligraphy convey different sense of beauty and feelings. In lantern decorations, calligraphy is not used alone, but mostly added as a compliment to the painting.

Most characters and idioms written on lanterns have certain auspicious implications such as good fortune, career promotion, longevity, happiness and wealth. Auspicious verses from poems and word riddles are often written in calligraphy on lanterns. The most commonly used characters are “good fortune” and “longevity”, simple and



• 宫灯上的吉祥文字 (图片提供: FOTOE)

福, 即福气, 意思是多添福气。禄, 即禄位, 意思是升官发财。

Auspicious Characters on Palace Lanterns

The Chinese characters on the lanterns are "blessing" symbolizing good fortune and "salary" meaning getting promoted for more money.

“喜”字也十分常见, 多是两个并排的喜字, 表示双喜临门。

成语是一种结构定型、意义完整的固定词组, 一般由四个字组成。其来自于古代典故、著作、历史故事, 以及人们的口头故事等, 所表达的内涵十分精炼。灯彩上的

straightforward in expressing people's longings for a better future. The character "happiness" is always written twice as a ligature in calligraphy meaning double happiness for the family.

Chinese idiomatic expressions mostly consist of four characters, which convey the complete meaning in a



• 官灯上的成语书法 (图片提供: FOTOE)

天道酬勤, 意思就是上天会给予勤奋的人们相应的报酬, 勉励人们要勤劳做事。

Chinese Idiom on a Palace Lantern

The four-character idiom *Tian Dao Chou Qin* means that hard-working people will get rewarded appropriately. This phrase encourages people to work harder.

成语书法一般以具有祈福性、鞭策性的内容为主。

诗词是古代文人表达思想的一种独特的文学艺术形式。诗，即诗歌，起源于先秦，唐代最为兴盛。词，即曲子词（一种配合宴乐乐曲而填写的歌诗），起源于隋唐时期，宋代最为流行。诗词所具有的独特韵律、章法，以及其所表达的深刻含义，使其成为人们喜闻乐见的文学形式。制作灯彩的工匠，常常将古代文人墨客的诗词作品书写在灯彩之上，用以烘托灯节气氛。

conventional structure and syntax. They usually derive from an ancient fable, a literary reference, a historical story or a folk tale. These short and precise phrases often embody deep implications. The idioms written in calligraphy on lanterns usually express blessings or encouragement.

Chinese poems were a unique literary form of expressions by ancient men of letters. Originated in the Pre-Qin Period, Chinese poetry reached its golden age in the Tang Dynasty. Lyric poetry (poems written for songs with music) began in the Sui and Tang dynasties and became popular in the Song Dynasty. Chinese classic poems and lyrics follow certain traditional forms and genres to convey deep meanings. Well-liked by the Chinese people, lantern craftsmen often put famous poems or lyrics on lanterns to heighten the festivity.







中国的灯彩，又称“花灯”、“灯笼”，既是一种照明器具，又是传统节日的应时之物。在民间，每逢节日或婚寿喜庆之时，人们都要张灯结彩，以示庆贺。本书从对中国古代灯的描述开始，逐一阐述了灯彩的起源与发展，详细介绍了中国最具特色的灯彩种类，各地灯彩的特色，以及灯彩与剪纸、绘画、书法等中国民间传统艺术的关系，向读者展示了灯彩的民间艺术魅力。

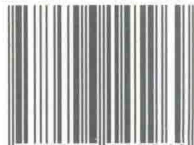


Chinese lanterns are used as lighting fixtures and seasonal decorations for the Chinese traditional holidays and festivals, or in the celebrations of weddings and birthdays. Also known as “flower lanterns” or “lighting balloons”. This book begins with Chinese ancient lamps, explains the origin and development of lanterns, and introduces in detail some of the most unique styles, various local features and connections between the Chinese lanterns and other Chinese traditional folk art forms such as paper cutting, painting and calligraphy. The book will lead readers on an exploration of the Chinese lanterns’ delightful characteristics.



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