

RED CRANE NEWS

Term 1 Newsletter, 27th Jan 2014

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辟邪 Bixie

Summer Issue, 2014

吉祥物

吉祥物 (Ji xiang wu)

Lucky Objects

Chinese New Year

31st of January, 2014 is the start of a new lunar new year - The Year of the Wood Horse. As such, if you have ever celebrated Chinese New Year, or been with friends who there, there is an abundance of 'lucky objects' that Chinese people surround themselves with to bring in the new year. We have in a previous edition, talked about the word 福 and it's symbolism when it is placed upside down during Chinese New Year. This edition, we will introduce four Chinese mythological creatures which you see often in China.

龙与凤 — Dragon & Phoenix

The Dragon and Phoenix are the principal motifs for decorative designs on buildings, clothing and objects of daily use in the imperial palace. The throne hall is supported by columns entwined by gilded dragons, the central ramps leading up to the palace are paved with huge slabs carved in relief with images of the dragon and phoenix. The screen walls within the palace also display dragons in brilliant colours. Names in Chinese language for nearly all things connected with the emperor or the empress were preceded by either 'dragon' or 'phoenix'. 'Dragon seat' meant the throne, 'Dragon robe' for the emperor's ceremonial attire. There was also the 'Phoenix carriage' and 'Phoenix canopies'. The national

flag of China under the Qing Dynasty was emblazoned with a dragon. The earliest postage stamps from China were called 'Dragon heads' because they depicted dragons in their designs. Even today the dragon is sometimes adopted as the symbol of Chinese exhibitions held abroad or on publications of books on China. It is no surprise that China is often known as 'The Giant Dragon of the East'.

Belief in the dragons and drawings of the mythological creature can be traced back to primitive society when some prehistoric tribes in China adopted the dragon among other totems as their symbol and guardian god. Some of the recently unearthed bronze vessels of the Yin Dynasty, which existed

吉祥物 Lucky Objects

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more than 3,000 years ago, are decorated with sketches of dragons of a crude form. Earliest legends in China described the dragon as a miraculous animal with fish scales and long beards. As time went on, it became more and more embellished in people's minds, acquiring the antlers of the deer, the mane of the horse, and the claws of the eagle. As such, the dragons that you see now at the palace are the result of the amalgamation of all these aspects of different creatures.

The Chinese phoenix, likewise, exists only in legends and fairy tales. Sovereign of all birds, it has the head of the golden pheasant, the beak of the parrot, the body of the Mandarin duck, the feathers of the peacock, and the legs of the crane. An early design of the phoenix can be seen on the silk painting discovered in a tomb of the Warring States Period (475 - 221 B.C.) near Changsha in Hunan Province.

The dragon and the phoenix often served in classical art and literature as metaphors for people of high virtue and rare talent, or for matrimonial harmony (The dragon representing the groom, and the phoenix representing the bride). As an important part of folk art, dragon lanterns, dragon boats, dragon & phoenix dances remain highly popular during important Chinese festivals.

天禄与辟邪 — Tianlu & Bixie

Tianlu (heavenly good fortune) and Bixie (evil dispeller) are two Chinese mythological creatures that herald in good fortune and keep evil at bay. Both look like a lion except for their wings. The one with only one horn on his head is Tianlu

and the one with two horns is Bixie. During the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. - 220 A.D.), the images of both animals were for ornamentation purposes. Sculptures bearing their forms were placed in front of tombs to suggest the dignity, power and authority the deceased possessed in their lifetime. As symbols of bravery and immunity to evil, the two creatures are meant for those aspiring to ascend to heaven to ride on. Images of Tianlu and Bixie were inscribed, embroidered or carved on fabrics, army banners, or the handles of seals and bells in ancient times.

Tianlu and Bixie are cast as a pair of gigantic sculptures that stand along the stone pillars on the path that leads to a tomb in the eastern suburbs of Nanjing. Buried in the tomb are the remains of Xiao Hong, the younger brother of Emperor Wudi of the Liang Dynasty. The sculpture of Bixie, 3.8 metres tall, 3.8 metres long and 1.55 metres wide, has a plump body and thick, short neck. Its chest puffing and its belly protruding, walking in giant strides with its tongue hanging of its wide open mouth. This is by far the best preserved large stone sculpture of Bixie.

These days, many Chinese people have small sculptures of Tianlu and Bixie carved from precious stone and jade, displayed in their homes, or they might have miniature sculptures of Tianlu and Bixie that they carry with them wherever they go. If you would like to have one of these creatures at home, I'm pretty sure you'll be able to find them in a shop in Chinatown, particularly since Chinese New Year is coming soon. Happy New Year!

Chinese Idiomatic Expressions

(Edition 26)

龙马精神 (long ma jingshen)

This expression literally means, 'dragon horse vigour'. The dragon-horse is a fabled winged horse with dragon scales, and can also be used to describe an eminent person. This idiomatic expression is often used as a Chinese New Year greeting during the Year of the Horse to wish people all the vigour and spirit of the legendary dragon-horse.

Book Corner:

1. Red Crane Glossary Book

This book is a glossary of the main words found in the first six books from Red One to Orange Two. It is used as a consolidated guide book to the vocabulary found in the main textbooks used in class. Highly useful in locating the context of where a word has been used in any of the above textbooks, without having to flip through all of them. Perfect for students who haven't had the time to consolidate their studies. **\$30 incl of GST**

2. Red Crane Chinese Character Picture Book

This book is a compilation of all the drawings used in classes from Red One and Two. Extremely helpful in helping students to identify and recollect how a Chinese character looks like, and its process of writing. **\$30.00 incl of GST**



LOCAL CHINESE LESSONS

NEW WITH

REDCRANE

SCHOOL OF CHINESE

Redcrane is an established Chinese school operating in Melbourne and Sydney for over 16 years. If you would like to learn Mandarin (the common language of Chinese people) locally, Redcrane will be starting Beginner's lessons in Brunswick & Yarraville in Term 1, 2014!

For timetables and Enrolment details contact us on 9378 8463 or email contact@redcrane.com.au
Please visit www.redcrane.com.au to view our full profile.

New Classes starting in Yarraville & Brunswick!

This is our poster that will be put up in local cafes & shops around Brunswick and Yarraville.

Help spread the word! And if Yarraville and Brunswick venues don't suit, hey, classes are still running in Melbourne City!



Short Story Competition Submissions are in!

We asked for submissions for our short story competition, and you delivered! The criteria was just for you to tell us in 250 to 500 words about your funny/interesting experiences related to Chinese people, language or culture.

There are two prizes to be won:

The Redcrane Short Story Prize, and also the People's Choice Prize.

We'll be publishing all the stories online <http://redcrane.com.au/fbookcomp.html> and everyone is

invited to vote for their favourite story. Please email us to let us know the title of your favourite entry, by the 21st of January, and we'll tally up the votes.

Names of the winners will be announced on the 23rd of January, 2014. Good luck, all!

Melbourne Timetable (Term I, 27th Jan -3rd Apr)

Red One (level 1)	Time	Location	Code
Monday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	C01
Tuesday	5.45pm - 7.30pm	City	C01a
Tuesday	6.30pm - 8.30pm	Brunswick	B01
Thursday	6.30pm - 8.30pm	Yarraville	Y01

Red Two (level 2)	Time	Location	Code
Monday	5.45pm - 7.30pm	City	C02
Thursday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	C02a

Blue One (level 3)	Time	Location	Code
Thursday	5.45pm - 7.30pm	City	C03

Blue Conversation (level 5)	Time	Location	Code
Wednesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	C05

Orange One (level 6)	Time	Location	Code
Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	C06

Intermediate Conv I (level 10)	Time	Location	Code
Wednesday	5.45pm - 7.30pm	City	CIC10

Intermediate Conv 7	Time	Location	Code
Thursday	5.45pm - 7.30pm	City	CIC16

High Intermediate / Advanced Conversation	Time	Location	Code
Thursday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	HIC

Sydney Timetable (Term I, 27th Jan - 3rd Apr)

Red One (level 1)	Time	Location	Code
Monday	5.45pm - 7.30pm	City	S01

Red Two (level 2)	Time	Location	Code
Tuesday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	S02

Intermediate Conversation I I	Time	Location	Code
Monday	7.30pm - 9.30pm	City	IC



Melbourne Class Locations

City - Suite 606, 343 Little Collins St, Melbourne 3000

Brunswick - 43A De Carle St, Brunswick 3056

Yarraville - 59 Francis St, Yarraville, 3013

Sydney Class Location

City - 661 George St, Sydney 2000

To Enrol:

Please make cheque payable to:

Red Crane School of Chinese P/L

For Enquiries, call:

(03) 9378 8463 or 0411 117 188

Email: contact@redcrane.com.au

Alternatively, if you prefer internet banking, please let us know and we will provide you with our school's bank account details. Fee: \$340 per term (inclusive of textbook and audio podcast where applicable) GST inclusive. Fees (less service charge of 10%) are not refundable after first lesson of term.

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Class Code: _____

I enclose a cheque of \$ _____

Name: _____

I found out about Red Crane from

Organisation: _____

_____ Yellow Pages Directory

Address: _____

_____ Yellow Pages Online

_____ post code _____

_____ Internet Search Engine

Tel: (hm) _____ (wk) _____

Other _____

Mobile: _____

Happy Chinese New Year, Everyone! Welcome, Year of the Wood Horse!

