
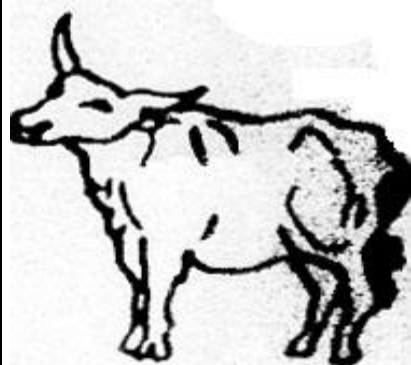


Meaning of Chinese Symbols

Gift of an Art Object carries with it the wish for the Good Fortune implied by the Symbols thereon. The Symbols given on this chart are representative forms, though many variations exist. In the descriptions below, the Symbolism is given in *italics*.

Oriental Culture Chart compiled and published by W.M.Hawley.

 <p>陽陰 Yang Yin 1. Dual Principle</p>	 <p>八卦 Pa Kua 2. 8 Trigrams</p>	 <p>聖面 Shên Mien 3. Sacred Disc</p>
 <p>壽 Shou 4. Longevity</p>	 <p>福 Fu 5. Prosperity</p>	 <p>祿 Lu 6. Riches</p>
 <p>囍 Hai (喜喜) 7. Double Joy</p>	 <p>萬 Wan 8. Swastika</p>	 <p>鼠 Shu 9. Rat</p>



牛 Niu
10. Ox



虎 Hu
11. Tiger



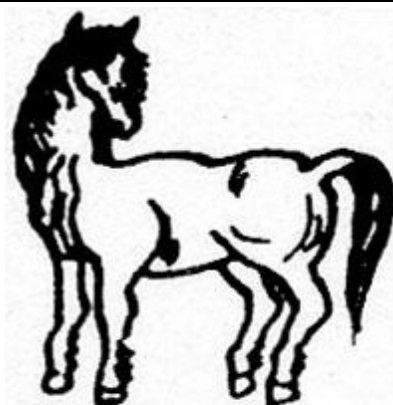
兔 Tu
12. Hare



龍 Lung
13. Dragon



蛇 Shé
14. Serpent



馬 Ma
15. Horse



羊 Yang
16. Goat



猴 Hou
17. Monkey



雞 Chi
18. Cock



犬 Ch'uan
19. Dog



豕 Shih
20. Boar



火 Huo
21. Flames



粉米 Fên Mi
22. Rice Grains



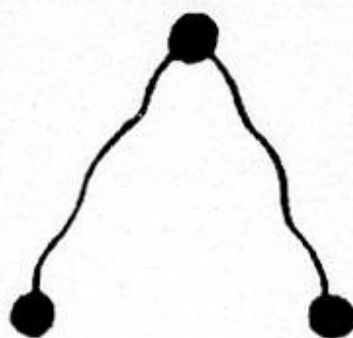
宗 Tzung I
23. Two Goblets



日 Jih
24. Sun



月 Yüeh
25. Moon



星 Hsing
26. Stars



龍 Lung
27. Dragons



魚龍 Yü Lung
28. Fish-dragon



蟠龍 P'an K'uei
29. Dragon



雙蛟 K'uei Wan
30. Dragons



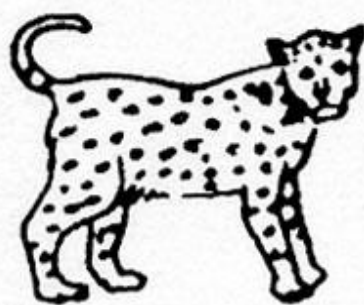
𪛗 Tao T'ieh
31. Ogre Mask



麒麟 Ch'i Lin
32. Unicorn



獅 Shih
33. Lion



豹 Pao
34. Leopard



貓 Mao
35. Cat



蝦蟆 Hsia Ma
36. Toad



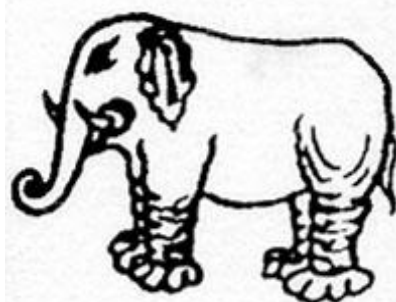
鹿 Lu
37. Deer



鹿 Lu
38. Deer



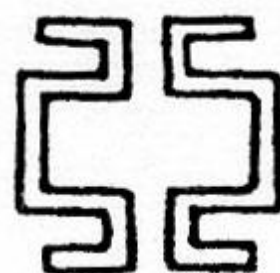
龜 Kuei
39. Tortoise



象 Hsiang
40. Elephant



鉞 or 斧 Fu
41. Axe



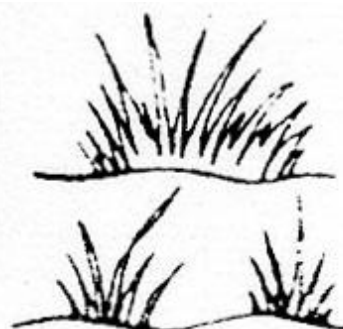
𢱿 Fu or 𢱿 Ya
42. Bow



山 Shan
43. Mountains



萍 Tsao
44. Pondweed



萍 Tsao
45. Pondweed



野雞 Yeh Chi
46. Pheasant



鶴 Ho
47. Crane



鶴 Ho
48. Crane



鳳凰 Feng Huang
49. Phoenix



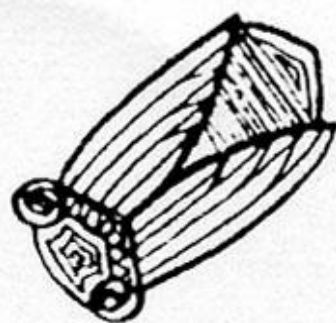
蝙蝠 Pien Fu
50. Bat



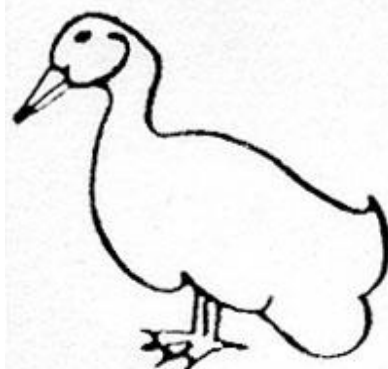
蝙蝠 Pien Fu
51. Bat



蝴蝶 Hu Tieh
52. Butterfly



蟬 Ch'an
53. Cicada



鴨 Ya
54. Duck



蟋蟀 Hui So
55. Cricket



佛手 Fo Shou
56. Citron



柿 Shih
57. Persimmon



桃 Tao
58. Peach



石榴 Shih Liu
59. Pomegranite



梨 Li
60. Pear



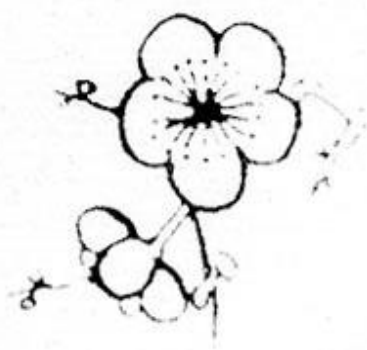
竹 Chu
61. Bamboo



松 Sung
62. Pine Tree



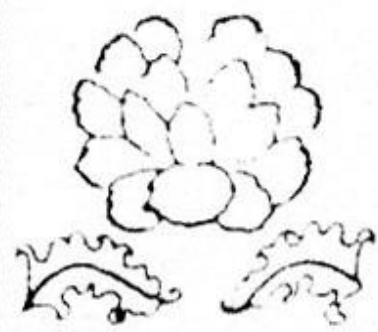
花籃 Hua Lang
63. Flower B'akt.



梅花 Mei Hua
64. Prunus



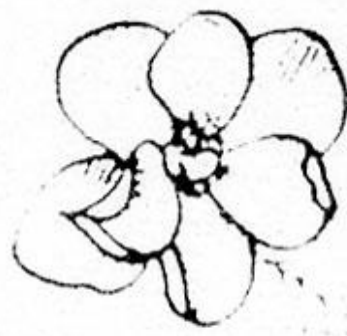
桃花 Tao Hua
65. Peach



牡丹 Mu Tan
66. Tree Peony



櫻花 Ying Hua
67. Cherry



木蘭 Mu Lan
68. Magnolia



丹桂 Tan Tsao
69. Pomegranite



蓮蓬 Lien P'eng
70. Lotus Pod



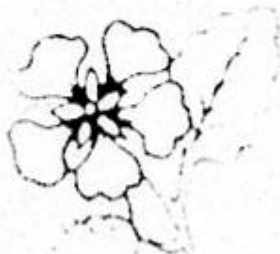
蓮花 Lien Hua
71 Lotus



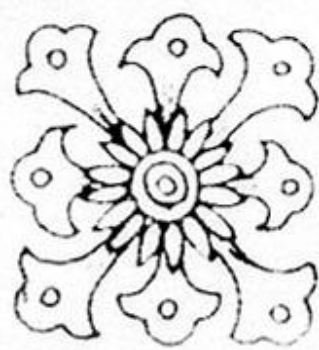
蓮花 Lien Hua
72. Lotus



梨花 Li Hua
73. Pear



葵花 Kuei Hua
74. Mallow



葵花 Kuei Hua
75. Mallow



菊花 Chü Hua
76. Chrysanthemum



白牡丹 Pai Ch'an
77. Gardenia



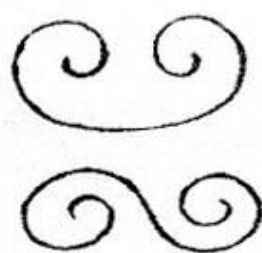
阿芙蓉 A Fu Jung
78. Poppy



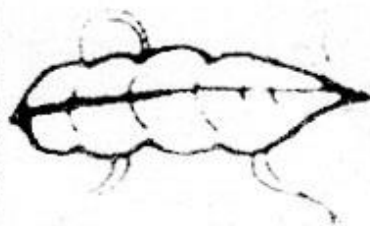
靈芝 Ling Chih
79. Fungus



葫蘆 Hu Lu
80. Gourd



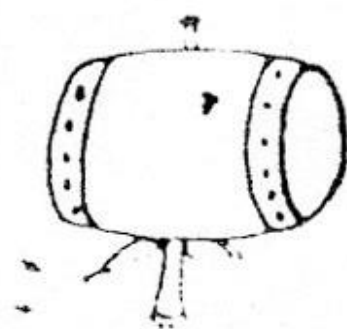
蠶 Wo Ts'an
81. Silkworm



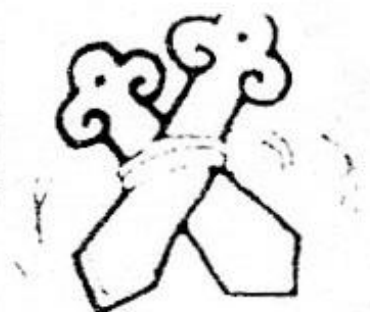
魚葉 Chiao Yeh
82. Palm Leaf



琴 Ch'in
83. Lute



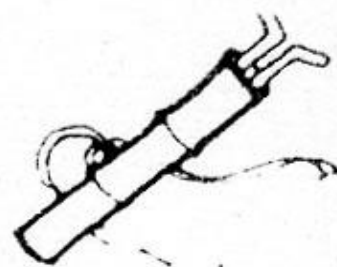
鞀鼓 T'ao Ku
84. Hand Drum



拍 Bo
85. Castanets



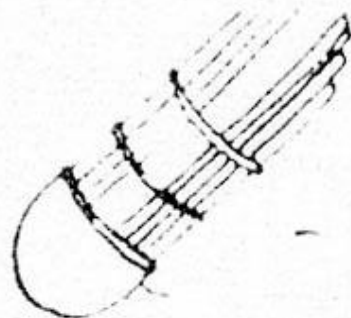
笛 Ti
86. Flute



魚鼓 Yü Ku
87. Bamboo Tube



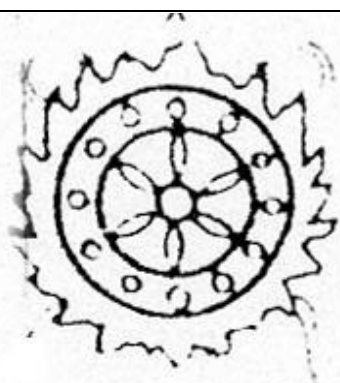
琵琶 P'i P'a
88. Guitar



笙 Sheng
89. Reed Organ



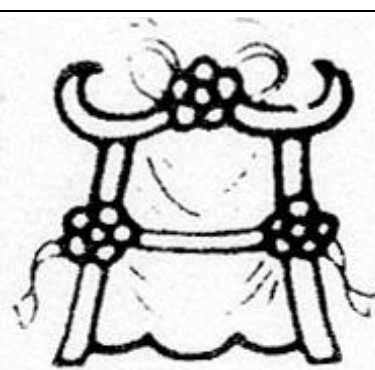
鐘 Chung
90. Bell



法輪 Fa Lun
91. Wheel



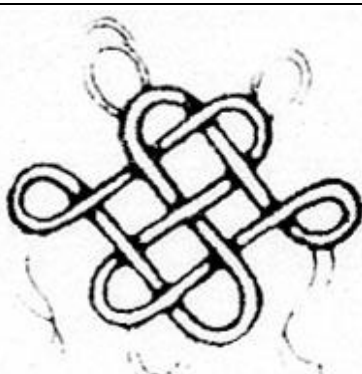
螺 Lo
92. Conch Shell



蓋 Kai
93. Canopy



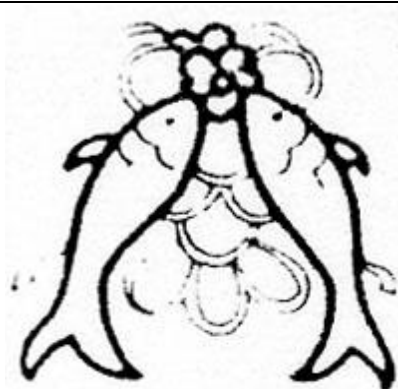
荷花 Ho Hua
94. Lotus



腸 Chang
95. Entrails



瓶 Ping
96. Vase



雙魚 Shuang Yü
97. Fish



傘 San
98. Umbrella



傘 San
99. Umbrella



塵尾 Ch'en Wei
100. Fly Whisk



恆山 Hēng Shan
101. North Peak



衡山 Hēng Shan
102. South Peak



嵩山 Ta'ung Shan
103. Center Peak



泰山 Tai Shan
104. East Peak



華山 Hua Shan
105. West Peak



鍾離權 Chung-li
106. Ch'uan



何仙姑 Ho Hsien-
107. A Sage \ku



藍采和 Lan Ts'ai-
108. A Sage \ho



曹國舅 Tsao Kuo-
109. Sage \chiu



韓湘子 Han
110. Hsiang-tzu



李鐵拐 Li Tich-
111. Sage \kuai



呂洞賓 Lü Tung-
112. Sage \pin



張果老 Chang
113. Kuo-lao



雷 Lei
114. Thunder



珠 Chu
115. Pearl



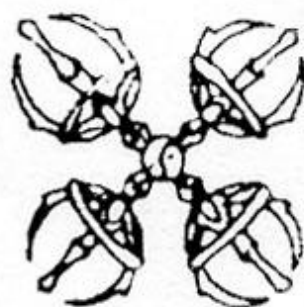
佛足跡 Fu Tzu Chi
116. Footprint



寶塔 Pao Ta
117. Pagoda



權杖 Chuan Cha-
118. Mace \ng



跋拆羅 Po-c'hai-lo
119. Thunderbolt



鑿刀 Tao Tao
120. Knife



波浪 Po Lan
121. Waves



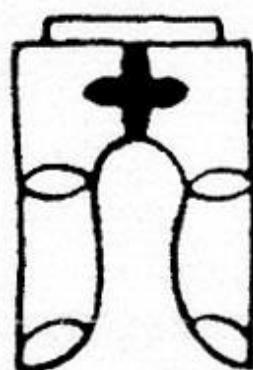
波浪 Po Lan
122. Waves



雲 Yun
123. Clouds



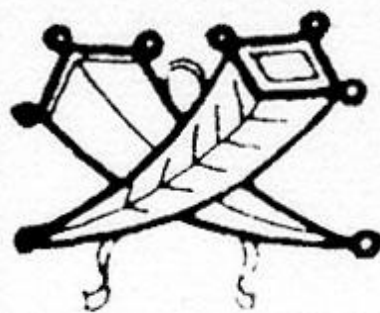
磐石 Pang Shih
124. Rocks



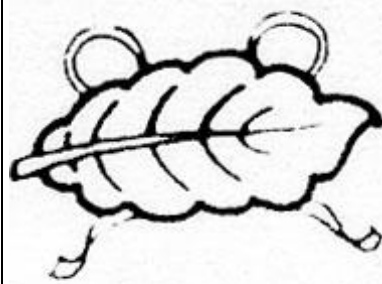
足布 Tau Pu
125. Spade Coin



錢 Ch'ien
126. Coin



犀角 Hai Chüeh
127. Horn Cups



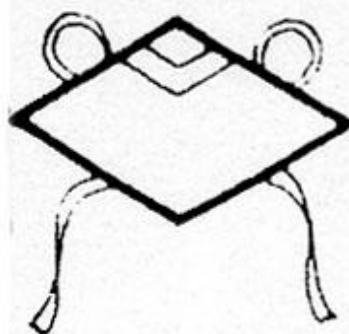
艾葉 Ai-yeh
128. Artemisia



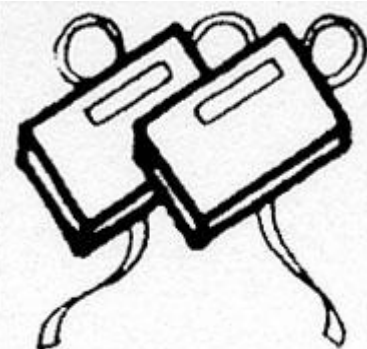
方勝 Fang Sheng
129. Lozenge



方勝 Fang Shen
130. Lozenges



畫 Hua
131. Painting



書 Shu
132. Books



特磬 T'ê Ch'ing
133. Jade Gong



鏡 Ching
134. Mirror



印 Yin, 印 Chang
135. Seal



犀角 Hai Chiao
136. Horn Cup



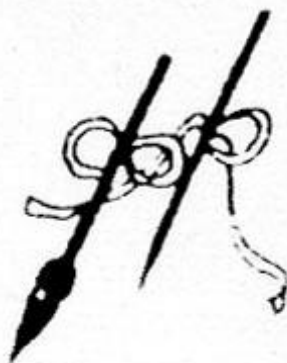
筆筒 Pi Tung
137. Brush Pot



筆釘如意 Pi, Ting,
138. Rebus\ Ju I



硯 Yen
139. Inkstone



筆 Pi
140. Brushes



銅鑑 Tung Chien
141. Old Mirror



茶壺 Ch'a Hu
142. Teapot



扇 Shan
143. Fan



如意 Ju I
144. Scepter



元寶 Yüan Pao
145. Silver Ingot



劍 Chien
146. Swords



劍 Chien
147. Sword



珊瑚 Shang Hu
148. Coral



鼎 Ting
149. Tripod



花瓶 Hua Ping
150. Flower Vase



銅爵 Tung Chüeh
151. Wine Cup



鼎 Ting
152. Vessel



甗 Fu Tsun
153. Wine Pot



寶瓶 Pao Ping
154. Rare Vase



花盤 Hua Pang
155. Flower Dish



幅 Fu
156. Scrolls



壽圖 Shao Tu
157. Painting



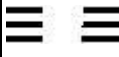





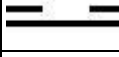
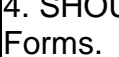
翎 Ling
158. Plumes



圍棋 Wei C'hi
159. Checkers



書 Shu
160. Books

1. YANG is related to Light, Male, Heaven, Sun, Vigour, YIN to Dark, Female, Earth, Moon, Passiveness.	<p>2. The PA KUA are used in divination, each having it's own set of values. Solid line Male, broken line Female. {"Pa" means eight and "Kua" means changes}</p> <p> Earth, Submission, Ox (in the zodiac), North.</p> <p> Hills, Resting, Dog, North-west.</p> <p> Moving water, Moon, Peril, Boar, West.</p> <p> Wind, Wood, Flexibility, Cock, South-west.</p> <p> Heaven, Power, Horse, South.</p> <p> Still Water, Pleasure, Goat, South-east.</p> <p> Fire, Sun, Brightness, Pheasant, East.</p> <p> Thunder, Movement, Dragon, North-east.</p>
3. The SACRED DISC represents the PA KUA in motion. Symbol of Heavenly Perfection.	4. SHOU is the character Longevity. Many Forms.
5. FU is the character Prosperity. Many Forms.	6. LU is the character Riches. Many Forms.
7. HSI Joy doubled. Married Happiness.	8. WAN 10,000, Many, Resignation, The Mind, Buddha's Heart, Symbol of Shakyamuni { <i>Shakyamuni (Gautama Siddhartha) is the historical founder of Buddhism</i> }.
9 to 20. ANIMALS of the ZODIAC representing Years, Hours, Points of the Compass. RAT - North, HARE - East, HORSE - South, COCK - West.	11. TIGER one of the "ANIMALS OF THE 4 QUADRANTS". Power, Energy, Military Prowess.
12. DRAGON Royalty, Rain, Spring. One of the four quadrants.	13. 21 to 27, 41 to 46. THE TWELVE ORNAMENTS. Collectively the symbolize Authority and Power.
21. FLAMES Fire, Spirit, Hear, Yang.	22. RICE or MILLET Prosperity.
23. PAIR OF GOBLETS Ceremonials, Sacrifice.	24. SUN with the 3 LEGGED RAVEN Active, Principle, Young, Male, Emperor.
25. MOON with HARE pounding the Elixir of Life in a Mortar. Passiveness, Yin, Female, Sacrifice,	26. STARS Heart of the Emperor and of China. Inexhaustible Source of Pardon and Love.
27. DRAGONS Eternity, Emperor.	28. FISH-FOOTED DRAGONS A Carp changes into a Dragon on ascending a waterfall. Passing Examinations.
29. COILED K'UEI DRAGON Ancient Form.	30. FIN-FOOTED DRAGONS Ancient Form.
31. WATER BUFFALO HEAD Avarice, Gluttony.	32. UNICORN Benevolence, Rectitude, Symbol of Officials of the First Grade.
33. LION Valour, Officials 2nd Grade. One of the four Animals Symbolic of Power, Energy. See 11, 40.	34. LEOPARD Bravery, Martial Ferocity, One of the "Four Animals". See 11, 33, 40.
35. CAT Protects, Silkworms, Disperses Evil Spirits.	36. TOAD A Legged Toad in the Moon which it swallows during the eclipse. The

	Unattainable, Wealth.
37, 38. DEER Longevity, Official Emolument.	39. TORTOISE Longevity, Strength, Endurance. One of the "Four Animals". See 11, 13, 49.
40. ELEPHANT Strength, Sagacity, Prudence. One of the "Four Animals". See 11, 33, 34.	41. AXE Emblem of God of Carpenters, Go-between.
42. CONVENTIONAL BOWS Embroidery.	43. MOUNTAINS Place of Worship.
44, 45. PONDWEED Spirit of the waters.	46. PHEASANT Beauty, Good Fortune. Gold Pheasant = Civil Official 2nd Grade Silver Pheasant = Civil Official 5th Grade.
47, 48. CRANE Longevity, Bird of the Immortals. Communications with the Divinities. Civil Official 4th Grade.	49. PHOENIX Empress, Beauty, Goodness, Peace, Prosperity, Sun, Warmth, Abundant Harvests, Reason in Government. One of the "Four Quadrant Animals".
50, 51. BAT Longevity, Happiness. FIVE BATS Symbolize Age, Wealth, Health, Virtue, Natural Death.	52. BUTTERFLY Joy, Conjugal Felicity.
53. CICADA Immortality, Resurrection, Happiness, Eternal Youth, Restraint of Cupidity and Vice.	54. DUCK Felicity, Conjugal Fidelity.
55. CRICKET COURAGE, Summer.	56. CITRON (BUDDHA'S HAND) Wealth.
57. PERSIMMON Joy.	58. PEACH Immortality, Marriage, Springtime. Symbol of the God of Longevity.
59. POMEGRANATE Posterity, Offspring, Essence of the Favourable Influence.	60. PEAR Purity, Justice, Longevity, W??? and Benevolent Administration.
61. BAMBOO Longevity.	62. PINE TREE Longevity.
63. BASKETS OF FLOWERS Emblem of ????	64. PRUNE BLOSSOM First Chinese Month, ??, Winter. One of the "Four Seasons". See 66, 72, ??.
65. PEACH BLOSSOM Charm against Evil, Second Chinese Month.	66. TREE PEONY Spring, Third Chinese Month, Riches, Hor????
67. CHERRY BLOSSOM Feminine, Beauty, Fourth Chinese Month	68. MAGNOLIA Feminine Sweetness, Fifth Chinese Month.
69. POMEGRANATE BLOSSOMS Sixth Chinese Month.	70. LOTUS SEED POD Offspring, Fruitfulness.
71, 72. LOTUS Summer season, Creative Power, Purity amid adverse surroundings, Seventh Chinese Month.	73. PEAR BLOSSOM Wise administration, Eighth Chinese Month.
74, 75. MALLOW Ninth Month.	76. CHRYSANTHEMUM Autumn, Life of E????, Joviality, Retirement from Public Office, Tenth Chinese Month.
77. GARDENIA Eleventh Chinese Month.	78. POPPY Twelfth Chinese Month.
79. FUNGUS Longevity, Immortality.	80. GOURD Longevity, Necromancies, Wards off influences. Emblem of 111.
81. RECUMBENT SILKWORMS ??????	82. PALM LEAF Self Education.
83. LUTE Marital Bliss, Suppression of Lust. One of the "Four Signs of a Scholar".	84. DRUM Movement, Ritual Music.

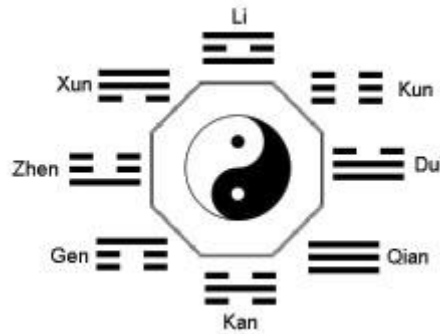
See 131, 159, 160.	
85. CASTANETS Music, Emblem of 113.	86. FLUTE Emblem of 110 and sometimes 108.
87. BAMBOO TUBE (DRUM) Emblem of 113.	88. GUITAR Purity, Fidelity, Determination of the Mind.
89. REED MOUTH ORGAN Assembly of the Multitudes. Symbol of the Phoenix.	90. BELL Respect, Veneration, Obedience, Signals, Martial Enthusiasm. AN Alternate to 91.
91. WHEEL OF THE LAW Crushing all Delusions and Superstitions. Symbol of Buddha's Person.	92. CONCH SHELL Royalty, Prosperous Voyage, Voice of Buddha.
93. CANOPY (FLAG?) Royal Dignity.	94. LOTUS Faithfulness. See 70, 71, 72.
95. ENDLESS KNOT Receiving and Forwarding Abundance, Longevity, Buddha's Entrails.	96. VASE Perpetual Harmony, Supreme Intelligent Triumph over Birth and Death. Jar for Relics.
97. PAIR OF FISH Conjugal Felicity, Marriage, Charm against Evil.	98. UMBRELLA Spiritual Authority.
99. 10,000 PEOPLE UMBRELLA Respect, Purity.	100. FLY WHISK Magic, Do Not Kill.
101 to 105. THE FIVE SACRED MOUNTAINS	101. NORTHERN PEAK Associated with Water Element, Black colour.
102. SOUTHERN PEAK Fire Element, Red.	103. CENTRAL PEAK Earth Element, Yellow.
104. EASTERN PEAK Wood Element, Green.	105. WESTERN PEAK Metal Element, White.
106 to 113. EIGHT IMMORTALS Abstraction, Transmutation, Happiness, Taoism.	106. CHIEF OF THE IMMORTALS Has the Elixir of Life, Power of Transmutation. Emblem of 58, 143.
107. FEMALE SAGE Assists in House Management, Emblems of 70 and 71, sometimes 100.	108. SAGE Patron of Florists, Delusive Pleasures. Emblem 63 or sometimes 86 or Cymbals.
109. SAGE Patron of Theatre. Emblem 85.	110. SAGE Patron of Musicians. Power to make Flowers Grow and Blossom Immediately. Emblem 86.
111. SAGE Magician. Emblems Iron Crutch and 80. Sometimes stands on a crab or beside a deer.	112. SAGE Patron of Barbers, Worshipped by the Sick, Slays Dragons and checks Evils. Emblems 100, 147.
113. SAGE. Rode a White Mule Backwards. Emblem 87.	114. THUNDER (DRUMS) Political Revolution.
115. Flaming Jewel. Pure Intentions, Genius in Obscurity, Feminine Beauty and Purity, Charm against Fire, Heart of Buddha.	116. BUDDHA'S FOOTPRINT Buddha's Teachings. For the symbols on the foot, See 91 to 98.
117. PAGODA Buddhist Relic Preserver.	118. DIAMOND MACE Weapon of the Buddhist Deities, Power, Authority.
119. VAJRA Ritual Scepter, Lamaist Power.	120. CHISEL KNIFE Buddhist Sacrificial Knife, Worship, Sacrifice.
121, 122. WAVES Abode of Dragons.	123. CLOUDS Beneficial Rain.
124. ROCKS Permanence, Solidity.	125. ANCIENT SPADE COIN Riches.
126 to 134. THE EIGHT TREASURES Red Ribbons make each a Charm.	126. COIN (A CASH) Wealth.

127. RHINOCEROS HORN CUPS Happiness.	128. ARTEMISIA LEAF Healing Plant, Felicity.
129, 130. LOZENGES (A Head Ornament) Victory.	131. PAINTING Culture, Scholar. See 83, 159, 160.
132. BOOKS Learning, Wards off Evil Spirits.	133. MUSICAL JADE Exercise of Discrimination.
134. MIRROR Unbroken Conjugal Happiness, Counteracts Evil Influences.	135 to 160. The 100 ANTIQUES Any Assortment of art objects not fitting into other groups but it may include some already listed. Meaning of some unknown.
135. SEAL Power of Authority. The Impressions. Cure Diseases when applied to open sores.	137. BRUSH HOLDER Scholarly Attainment.
138. BRUSH, GILDED INK, CAKE, SCEPTER A Rebus meaning May your Wish be Fulfilled.	139. INKSTONE Attribute of a scholar.
140. WRITING BRUSHES Scholar.	141. OLD BRONZE MIRROR See 134.
143. FAN Revives the Souls of the Dead. Emblem of 106.	144. SCEPTER Prosperity, Contentment, Magical Powers, Symbol of Buddha.
145. SILVER SHOE INGOT (SYCEE) Wealth.	146, 147. SWORDS Victory over evil, Wisdom and Penetrating Insight. Emblem of 112.
148. CORAL CARVING Longevity, Promotion Second Grade Official wore Coral Hat Ornament.	149. TRIPOD Ancient Ritual Vessel.
150. FLOWER VASE Maintenance of Peace.	151. BRONZE WINE CUP Ancestral Worship.
152. INCENSE BURNER Ancestral Worship.	153. BRONZE WINE POT The Shape is Supposed to be a Warning Not to Drink Too Much!
154. RARE VASE Perpetual Harmony.	156. SCROLLS Writing and Painting, Truth.
157. PAINTING God of Longevity.	158. PEACOCK FEATHERS Official Rank.
159. SURROUNDING CHECKERS Scholar.	160. BOOKS Learning One of the "Four Signs of Scholar". See 83, 131, 159.

The Four Animals:

At the heart of Chinese mythology are four spiritual creatures -- four celestial emblems -- each guarding a direction on the compass. In China, the four date back to at least the 2nd century BC. Each creature has a corresponding season, color, element, and virtue. Further, each corresponds to a quadrant in the sky, with each quadrant containing seven seishuku, or star constellations (also called the 28 lunar mansions or lodges; for charts, see this wonderful outside site). Each of the four groups of seven is associated with one of the four celestial creatures. There was a fifth direction -- the center, representing China itself -- which carried its own seishuku.

Pa Kua and the Sacred Disc:



Fu, Lu, Shou:



The Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove:

The Seven Sages of the Bamboo Grove were a group of Chinese Taoist Qingtan scholars, writers, and musicians who came together in the bloody 3rd century CE. Later it has been determined that the group is mostly fictitious; although the individual members all probably have existed, their interconnection is highly suspect, as is their alleged previous court official career. Careers notwithstanding, key members were linked with the "Taoist" Cao Wei; they found their lives to be in danger when the avowedly "Confucian" Jin Dynasty came to power. They wrote taoist poems, poems criticizing the court and the administration and manuals on taoist mysticism and alchemy. It would be a mistake to assume that all members had similar views regarding immortality or politics, however, and while some members tried to negotiate their difficult political positions by self-consciously adopting the roles of ale-fueled jokesters and eccentrics, others eventually capitulated and joined the Jin dynasty (most notably Wang Rong). Although it is unknown how much they personally engaged in Qingtan, they became the subjects of it themselves in the Shishuo Xinyu.

As is traditionally depicted, the group wished to escape the intrigues, corruption and stifling atmosphere of court life during the politically fraught Three Kingdoms period of Chinese history. They gathered in a bamboo grove near the house of Xi Kang (aka Ji Kang) in Shanyang (now in Henan province) where they enjoyed, and praised in their works, the simple, rustic life. This was contrasted with the politics of court. The Seven Sages stressed the enjoyment of ale, personal freedom, spontaneity and a celebration of nature.

Liu Ling, Ruan Ji, Ruan Xian, Xiang Xiu, Wang Rong and Shan Tao were the other six sages who made up the group. Xi Kang was especially close to Ruan Ji; their relationship was described as "stronger than metal and fragrant as orchids". The wife of a fellow sage was said to be impressed by Ruan Ji and Xi Kang's prowess when she spied on them during sex.

It would be Xi Kang's disdain for courtly life which would eventually lead to his execution. The group's rural life became a common theme for art, and they inspired other artists who wished to retreat during times of political upheavals. The myth spread rapidly, and within a few generations the pa ta were so inspired by the supposedly anarchist revelry of the Seven Sages that they sought to copy them fully, while naked.