



# CHINESE PAPER-CUTS



SUPPLEMENT TO  
CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, NO. 12, 1955

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*Supplement to*  
**CHINA RECONSTRUCTS**  
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PAPER CUT-OUTS, done with scissors or knives, are a truly mass art form of rural China. They have been known since at least the twelfth century, and have developed constantly in liveliness, ingenuity and fine feeling for design. These charming silhouettes vary from simple outlines to embroidery-like patterns of great intricacy. Their subjects are as varied as life itself — birds, animals, fish, insects, landscapes, scenes from everyday life and work, folk tales and traditional drama. They have never become completely conventionalized. Direct observation and individual elaboration on conventional themes have always played a part in their creation. Many of the new ones depict our present-day life.

Throughout the length and breadth of our vast country, these cut-outs are used for a great many ornamental purposes. They are pasted on windows, gift parcels and revolving paper lanterns. They serve as patterns for embroidered hats, slippers, handkerchiefs, table-cloths, bedspreads, curtains, cushions and so on.

The cut-outs are never made singly. When scissors are used, four sheets of paper are cut together. With the knife, as many as sixty or seventy sheets may be worked on at one time. Coloured paper may be used, or the completed designs may be tinted afterwards, often in many different shades.

In the period of national crisis and decline under foreign and Kuomintang rule, our popular arts were sadly neglected. Now all the fine things in China's na-

tional tradition are being restored. In the summer of 1955, four hundred of the best cut-outs collected from all parts of the country were shown in a fortnight-long exhibition in Peking. Many sets of reproductions have been published in the past few years.

**T**HIS small collection contains the work of several peasant artists. Here we will mention two.

Tsung Lin, who cut "Cricket on a Cabbage" and "Cricket on a Turnip" on page 5, is a 70-year-old village woman from the seacoast of Shantung province. She learned to make scissor-cuts at the age of six. Insects and plants have always been her favourite subjects. Early encouragement from her elder brother, a painter, helped her to develop her talent. Her work, full of imagination and vivacity, expresses the intimate feeling of our people towards the nature that surrounds them.

Chang Yung-shou, of Yangchow in northern Kiangsu province, is a man of 50. He was preceded, as a famous paper-cut artist, by his great-grandfather, great-aunt and father. He has raised flowers, fish and chickens so that he could work always from living subjects. His "Goldfish" and "Hen with Chicks" (page 4) show the freedom and charm of his work.







**Chrysanthemums**

*by Chang Yung-shou, Kiangsu province*



**Hen with Chicks**

*by Chang Yung-shou, Kiangsu province*



**Goldfish**

*by Chang Yung-shou, Kiangsu province*





**Cricket on Cabbage**  
*by Tsung Lin, Shantung province*



**Cricket on Turnip**  
*by Tsung Lin, Shantung province*





Deer

by Li Yao-pao, Fukien province





Lions

by Li Yao-pao, Fukien province



Immortal Riding a Crane

*From a Chinese folk tale.  
by Yang Chang-fa, Hupeh province*





Shadow-puppets

*by Wang Cheng-cheng, Shensi province*



Ploughing

*Design by Huang Hsing-chu  
Cut by Tai Cheng-peng, Hupeh province*





Fine Crops

*Design by Chang Lang  
Cut by Liu Shao-ching, Hupeh province*



Harvest Celebrations

*Design by Chang Lang  
Cut by Liu Tun-chin, Hupeh province*





Fruit Picker

*Design by Tung Po  
Cut by Wang Hung, Hopei province*



Miao People's Dance

*Design by Chen Mu-hsiang  
Cut by Chiang Tsai-pu, Hupeh province*





An Immortal Courts a Bride

*From a Chinese folk tale.  
Anonymous, Chekiang province*





**Beating the Tiger** From the novel "All Men Are Brothers".  
by Jui Chin-fu, Kiangsu province





A Despot Thrown from the Balcony

*From the novel "All Men Are Brothers"  
by Jui Chin-fu, Kiangsu province*





Celebrating Liberation

*Designer and province unknown*





Bumper Harvest

*Design by Tsu Hsu  
Cut by Wang Hung, Hopei province*





Long Live Peace

Design by Chang Lang  
Cut by Tai Cheng-peng, Hupeh province



"Chinese Paper-cuts", a special supplement to CHINA RECONSTRUCTS for December 1955 (Vol. IV, No. 12), consists of delightful reproductions of this ancient folk art, which is now applied to many fresh themes.

CHINA RECONSTRUCTS, a monthly magazine, presents articles, features, photographs, maps, colour plates, news of life in China today. Paper-cuts are frequently used as illustrations.

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This supplement will not be sold separately from the magazine.

