



Smithsonian

National Museum of Natural History

MS 7322 Portrait of Pangu, the
creator of the universe, undated

National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
4210 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, Maryland 20746
Business Number: Phone: 301.238.1300
Fax Number: Fax: 301.238.2883
naa@si.edu
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa/>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents	1
Names and Subjects	

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	MS 7322 Portrait of Pangu, the creator of the universe
Date:	undated
Identifier:	NAA.MS7322
Extent:	1 Print (woodblock print colored in red and green on oiled paper ; 9.75 x 24 inches)
Language:	Chinese .
Digital Content:	Image(s): MS 7322 Portrait of Pangu, the creator of the universe
Container:	Folder 7322

Administrative Information

Provenance

The print was originally included in the United States National Museum ethnology collection without provenience data. It was transferred from the object collections of the Department of Anthropology to the National Anthropological Archives in March 1986.

Processing Information

Data furnished by Chang-su Houchins, of the Department of Anthropology. She consulted Rita Aero, *Things Chinese*, 1980, and W. M. Hawley, *Chinese Folk Designs*, 1949.

Preferred Citation

MS 7322 Portrait of Pangu, creator of the universe, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of one (1) woodblock print of Pangu, the creator of the universe in Chinese mythology. A print of this type was used in Chinese homes as a talisman. The print shows Pangu holding in his hands the sun (with yang symbol in ideograph) and the moon (with yin symbol in ideograph). Pangu created the universe by transforming yin and yang. An ax on a tree stump is an instrument believed to have been used by Pangu to separate earth and heaven. Inscribed at the top of the print is Chiling (magic credentials from the folk cult of Taoism), supplemented with yin-yang (the dual principle in nature) and bagua (the eight trigrams) symbols. The main inscription, as magic words, reads: Lingfu chenche chuxie xifu (An amulet to dispel evil, to guard home, and to bestow good fortune).

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or National Anthropological Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

Local Numbers

NAA MS 7322

NAA INV 10000049

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Chinese

Cultures:

Chinese

Types of Materials:

Woodblock prints

Works of art

Names:

Pangu (Chinese mythological character)

Places:

China

East Asia