



Chinese New Year Envelop

gao cui

Chinese New Year--also known as the Spring Festival--is the most important holiday in china. The Festivities last for 7-15 days and includes many different kinds of celebrating and traditions. One of the most visible and well-known traditions is the giving of red envelopes with money.

It is a tradition that during the Chinese New Year, the young generation of the family is given money in the red envelope to pray for their abundance and good luck. The amount of money in the envelop is often some lucky number (such as a number containing many eights, which sounds similar to the Chinese term for "prosperity").

lucky money envelope in contemporary china

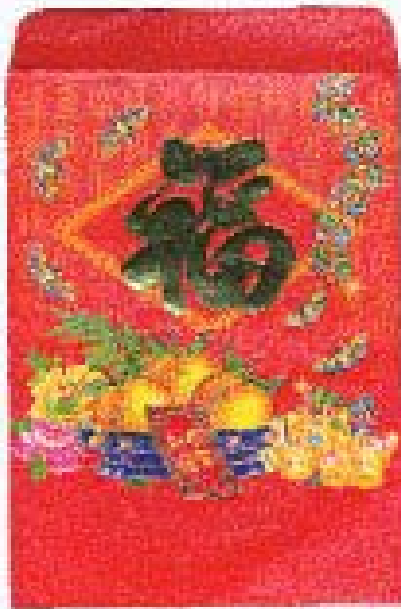


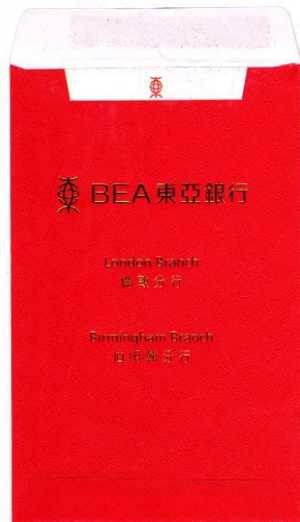
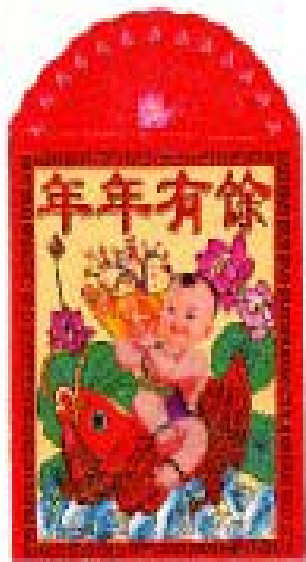
The first lucky money envelope appeared around 1900 when the technology of the printing was used widely in china. At that time, the making of lucky money was quite easy. After the red paper was printed with butter, some gold powder was put on the wetting butter. Then, add some lucky words on the envelope.

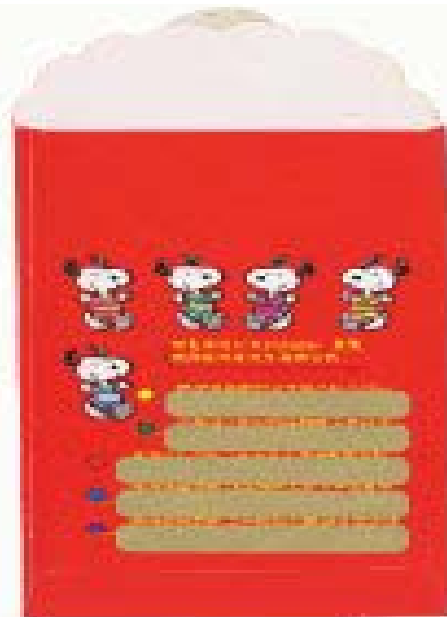
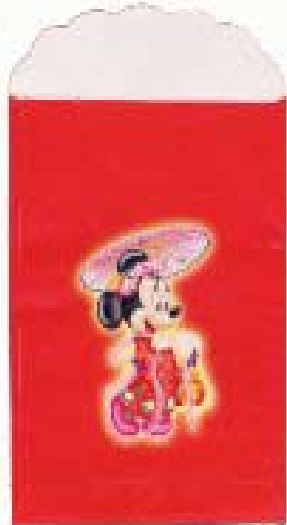
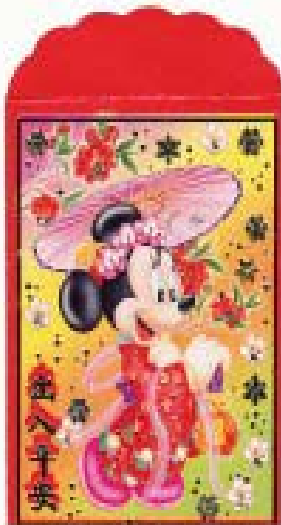
In the 80s, lucky envelope decorated with gilt words appeared. The design was only put some lucky words on the front cover of the lucky envelope. There are also simple but famous design embellished with the surnames and Chinese patterns.

In the 90s, lucky envelopes designed with the colour and gilt pattern were quite popular.

After the year of the 2000, lucky envelope with cartoon images appeared in the market. Colorful, three-dimensional and irregular forms of lucky envelope also emerged. The design of the lucky envelope presents a diverse trend.







A similar custom also exists in some Asian countries .In Japan, where a monetary gift, called otoshidama, is given to children by their relatives during the New Year period.



The history of lucky money



Lucky Money has a long history. Its origination can be traced back to the Han Dynasty. It was originally called Ya Sheng Qian. Ya Sheng Qian was not the coin in circulation. It was just shaped as coins. People at that time wore it and took it as a lucky talisman.

In the Tang Dynasty, it was a convention prevailing at imperial court to give out money as a gift for one's relatives, friends in Spring Festival.

In Song and Yuan Dynasty, the convention became popular among the civilians and some changes took place. People began to give money as a gift to children.

In the Ming and Qing dynasty, lucky money string together with red rope was mostly sent to children .



In the period of People's Republic of the China, people packed one hundred copper coin with red paper. The coin means longevity. When the currency change to the banknote, Parents prefer the new number-connected banknote for children. This means fortune and fortune.



Nowadays, The custom is still popular in china, the amount of the money may change from dozens to several hundreds. The money can be used to buy the book, school supplies, toys and so on.

making an lucky money envelope

- Cut out the envelope pattern.
- Color the envelope red.
- fold the red paper giving it a shape of an envelope and then glue down the opening flaps.
- use gold paint to draw any lucky Chinese character and any traditional lucky symbol or some picture on the envelope.
- Can you design a Chinese new year envelope or use your culture elements to do your own country's envelope.

Some ideas on the display

- I will put the preface and the lucky money envelope in contemporary china (ppt 2-3) on the left side of the wall.
- put the image of the new year envelop (ppt 4-7) at the middle of the wall.
- Put the history of the money (ppt 8-9) on the right side of the wall.
- In the middle of the room, I' d like to put a round table. On the table, I' d like to put the ppt10 “make an money envelop” and some paper and painting tools for people to try.