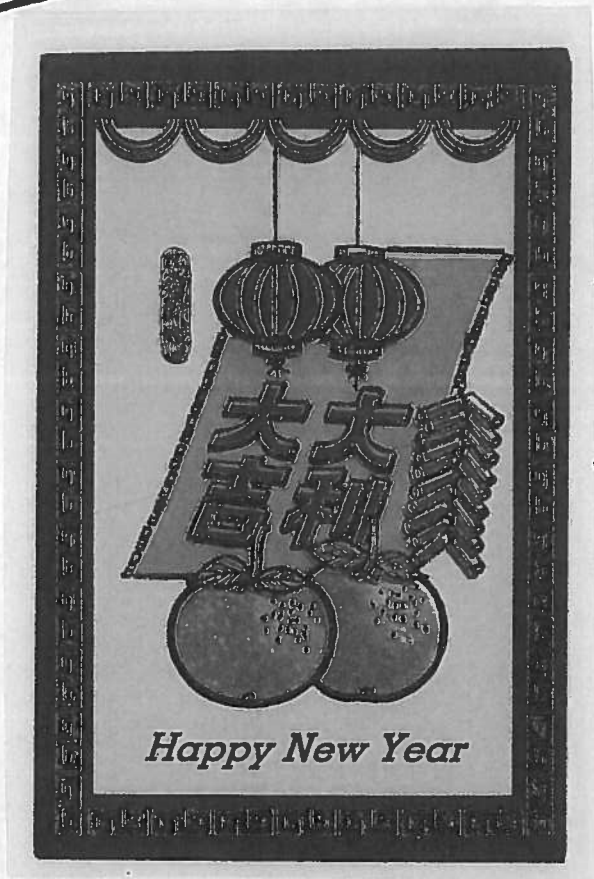


THE STORY OF
THE Red
Envelopes



紅封的故事

Gordon Lew

It is with pleasure that the Chinese Bilingual Program ESEA TITLE VII, disseminates this information about a specific custom in the celebration of Chinese New Year. Due to "assimilation", much of the content within this booklet has either been taken for granted or has been forgotten by many within the Chinese community. May this be the beginning of many attempts to bring into focus a very rich heritage - one of America's total heritages.

February, 1971

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中美雙重語言教育計
劃為溝通中美文化，開始
嘗試介紹我國傳統習俗，
在這本小冊子內，一項宣
揚有關慶祝農曆新年派
利市_{紅包}的習慣介紹給
閣下



新年到了!

Chinese New Year is here!

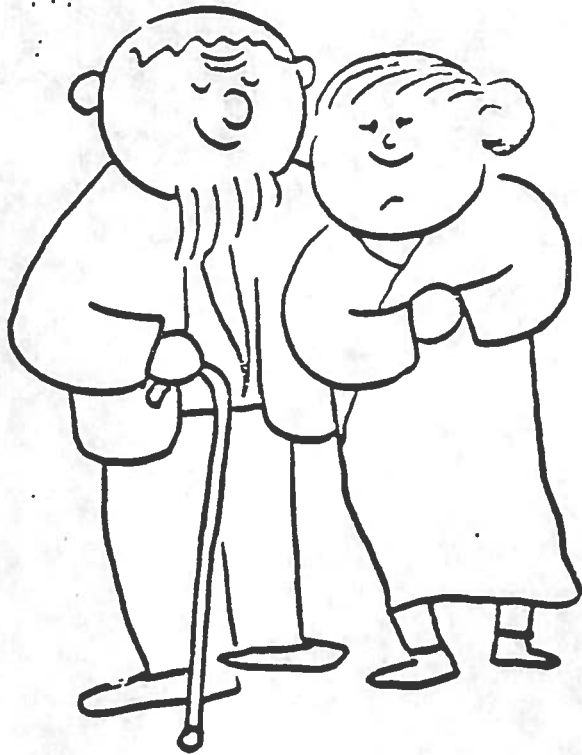


小美和
小明

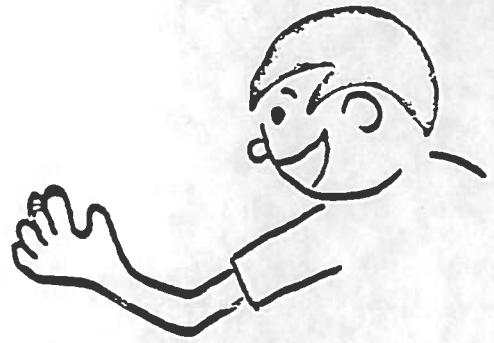
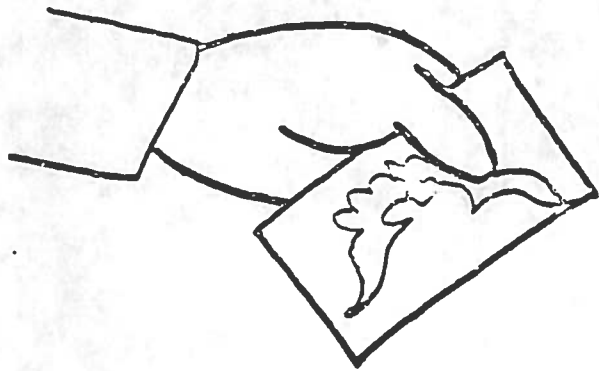
很
早
起
床

May and Robert got up early.

向祖父母拜年。



They greet their grandparents on
New Year's Day.



祖
父
母
給
他
們
紅
封

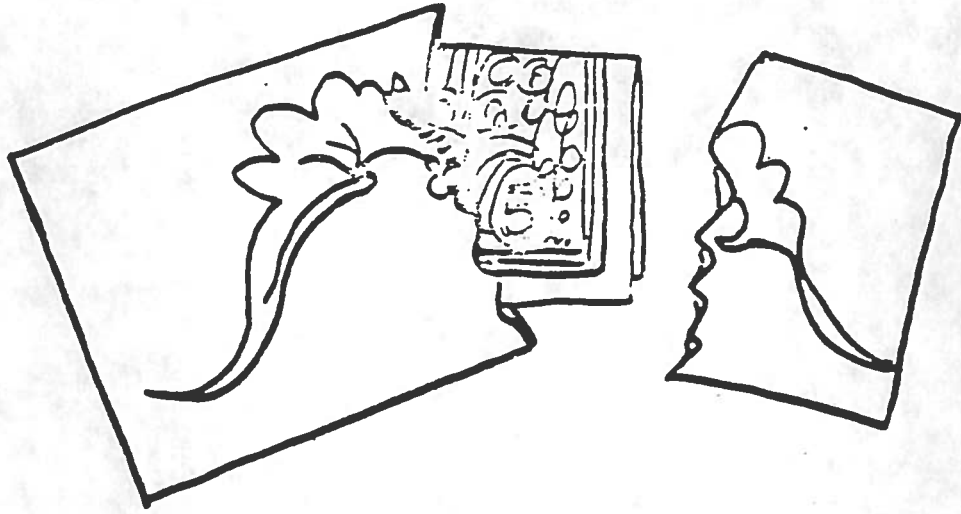
Grandparents give them
red envelopes.



小明十分高興

他說：「我有錢了，我有錢了。」

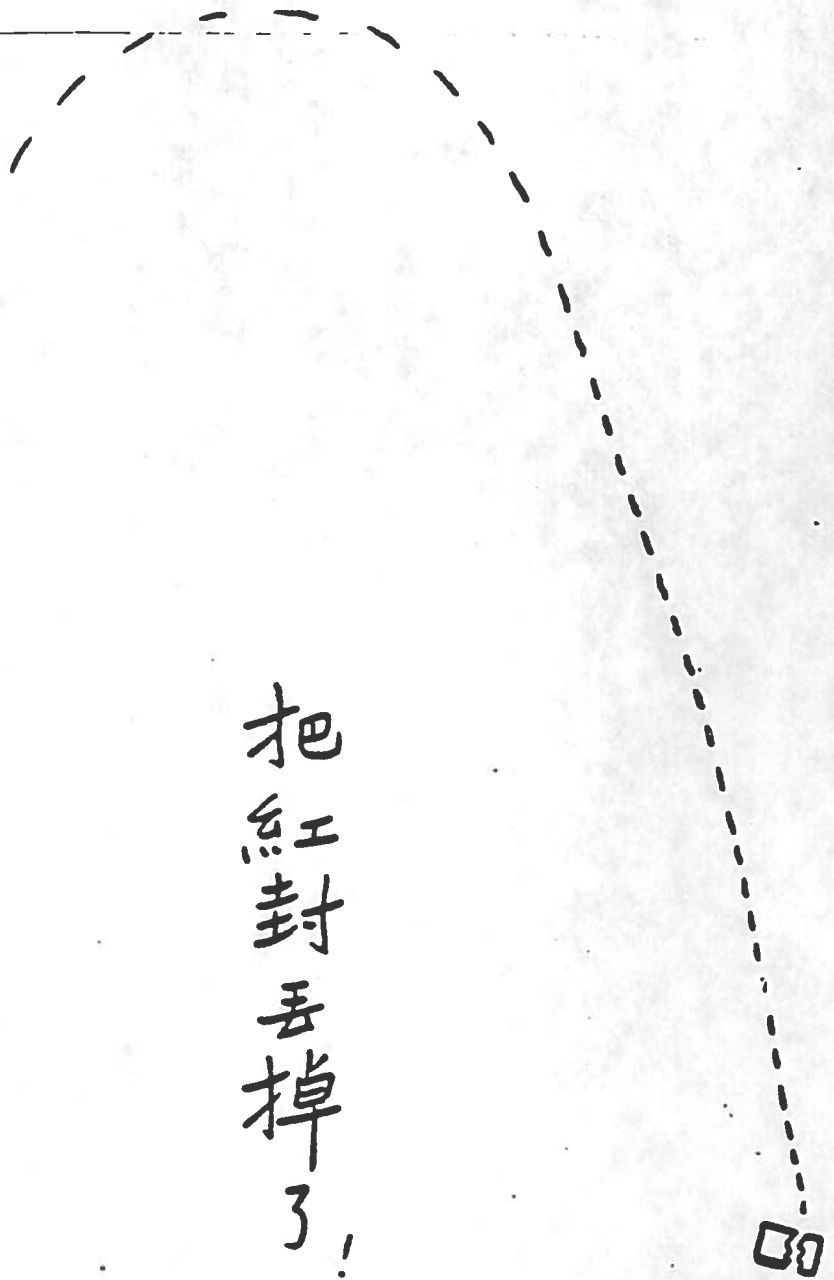
Robert is very happy.
He yelled: "Oh boy! Money!"



小明拆開紅封，

拿了裏面的鈔票，便...

Robert opens the envelope,
takes out the money,
and...



把紅封丟掉了！

... throws away the red envelope!

小美說：「不要把紅封丟掉。」

你知道紅封上圖案的意義嗎？

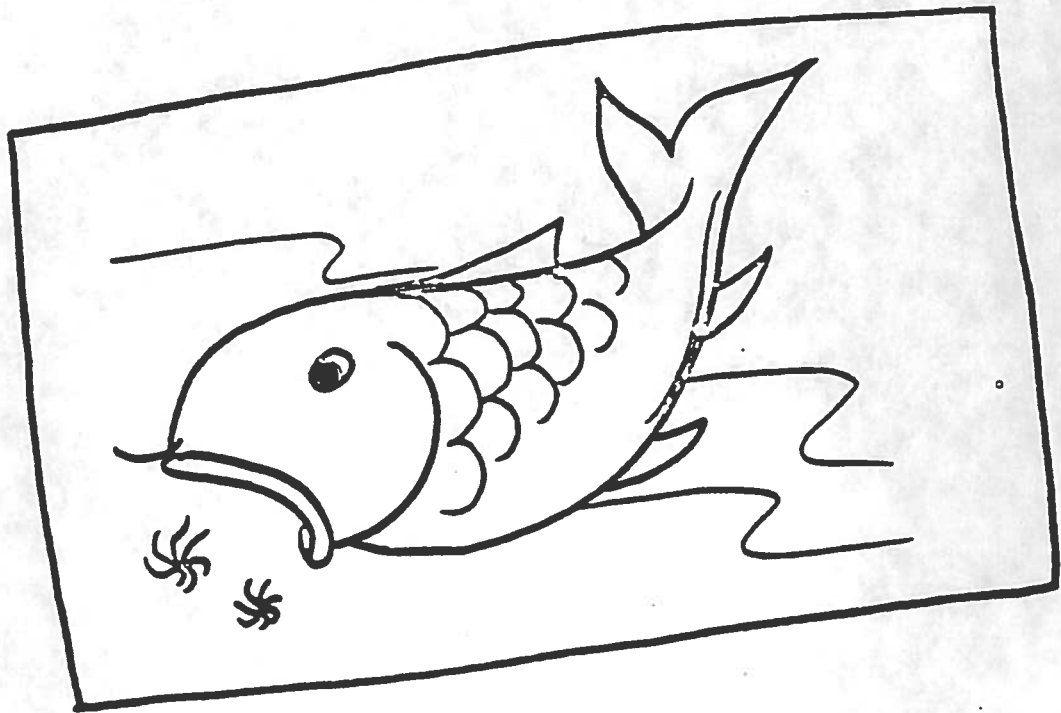


May said "Robert, don't throw the red envelope away. You're supposed to keep it." "Why?" asked Robert.

"Because along with the money is a good wish from our grandparents."

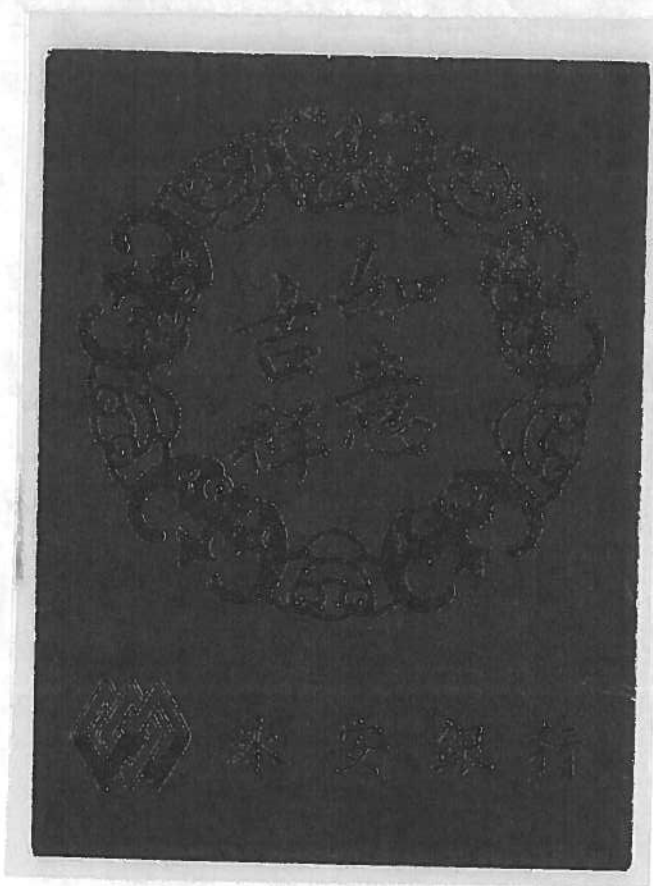
Look! There's something printed on the envelope."

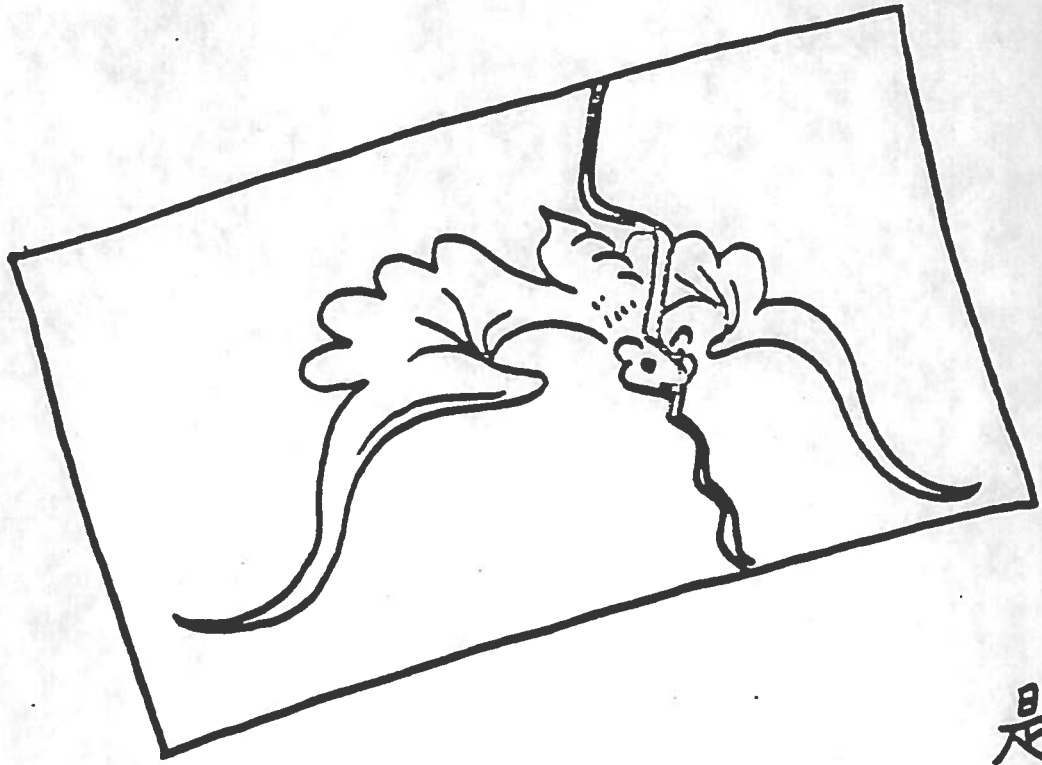




This has a fish on it.
It is a wish that in the
coming year there will be
plenty of food. The words
fish 魚 and plentiful 餘 (surplus)
have the same sound "yue".

有的印上一條魚，
是採家中糧食有餘
的意思。



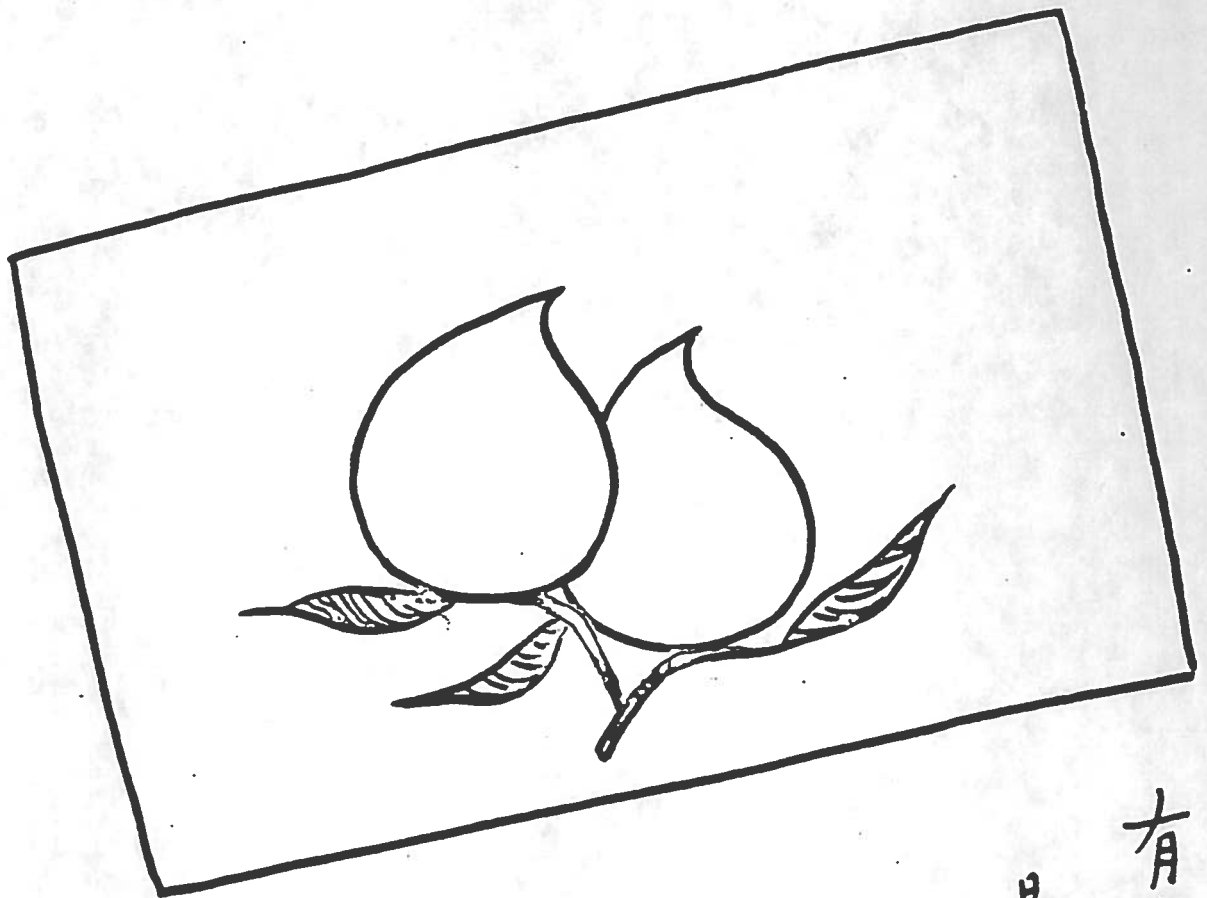


This one has a bat on it.
It means blessing because
the Chinese words bat 蝠
and blessing 福 both sound
and look alike. Look! You
broke the bat's wing!

這紅封印的是一隻蝙蝠。
是恭賀別人有福的意思。

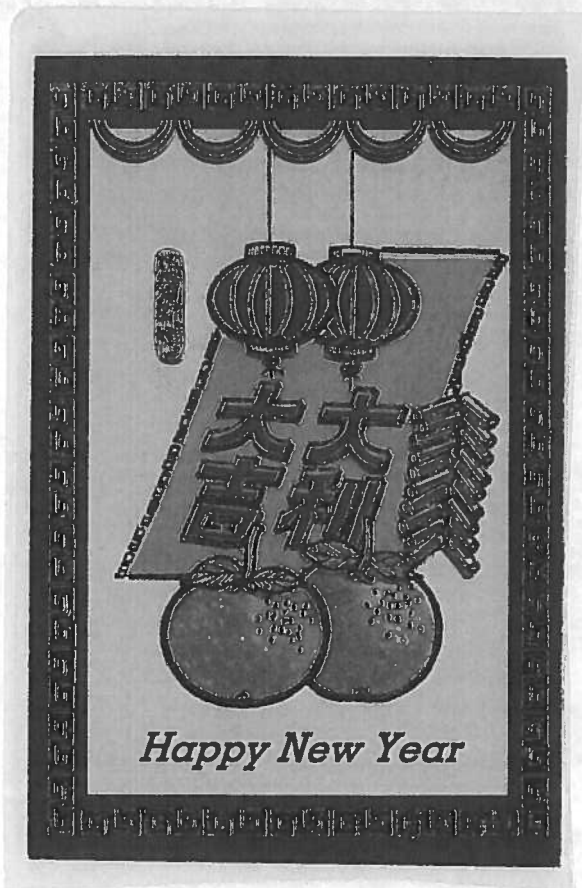
喜 壽 祿 福



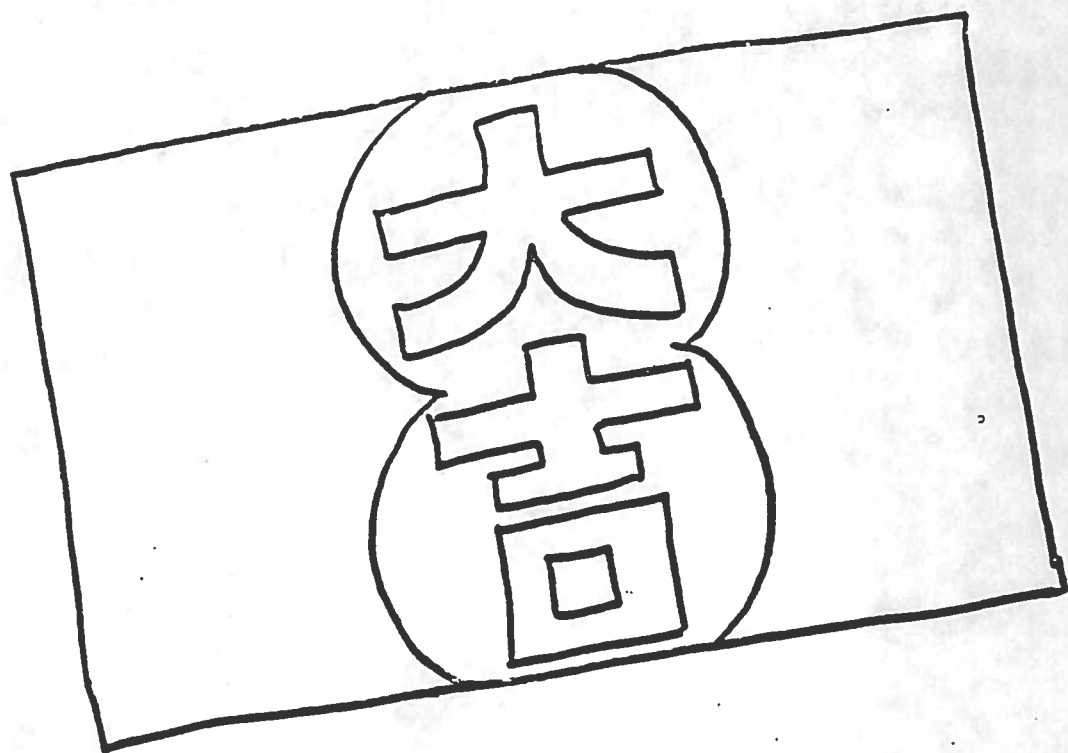


This has peaches on it.
It is a good wish for long
life. The Chinese use the
peach as a birthday fruit.

有些印上桃子，
是採長壽的意思。



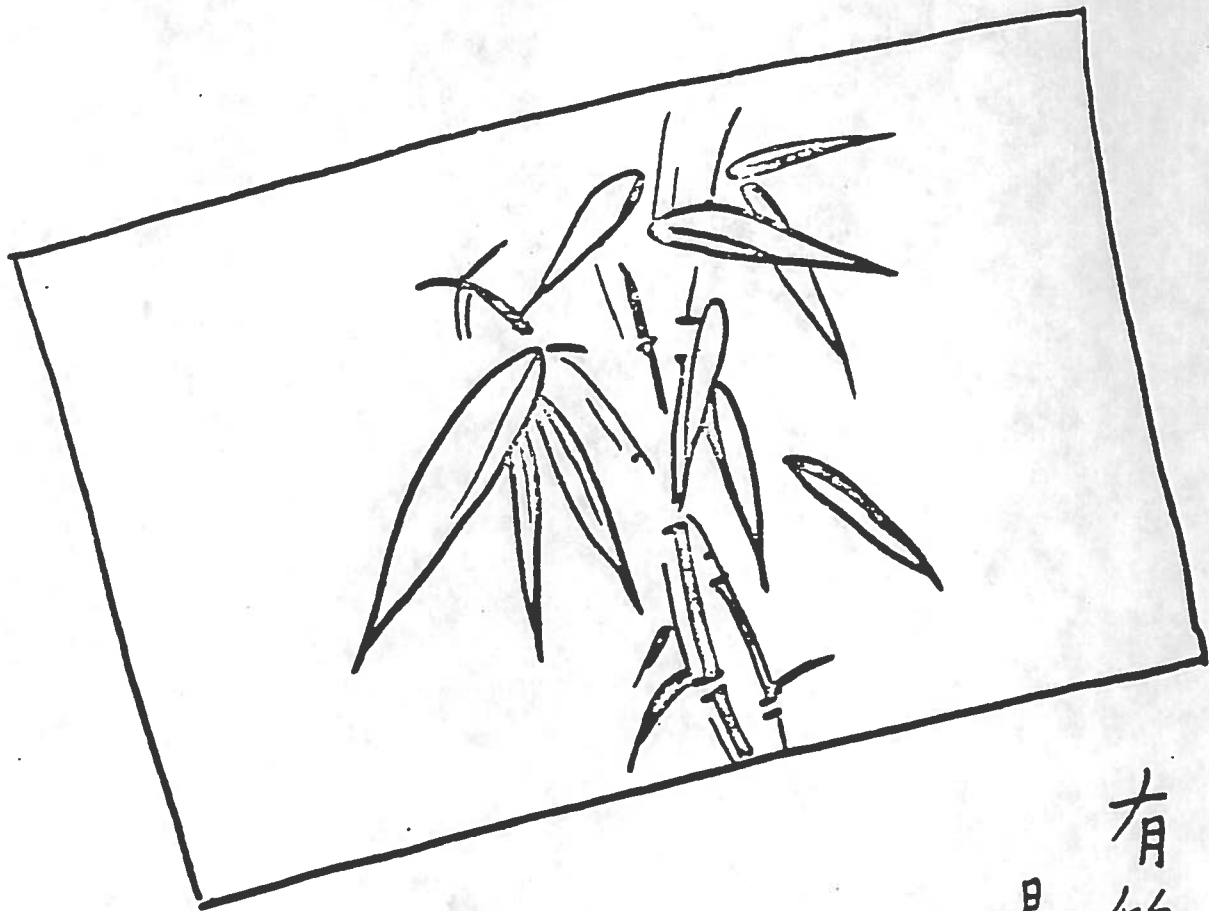
Happy New Year



Some have the Chinese words
大吉 on them to wish the
New Year full of good news
and good thoughts.

有些有「大吉」兩字，
採新年吉祥的意思。

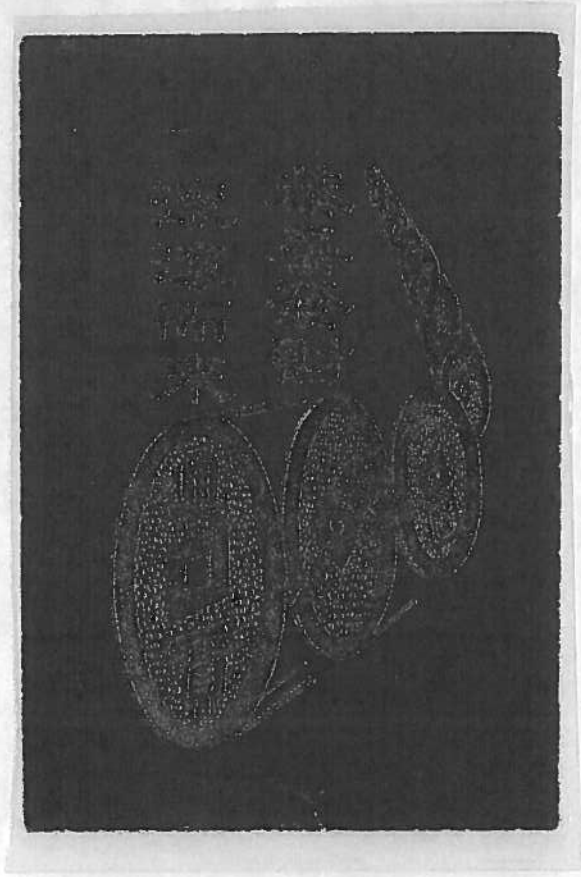


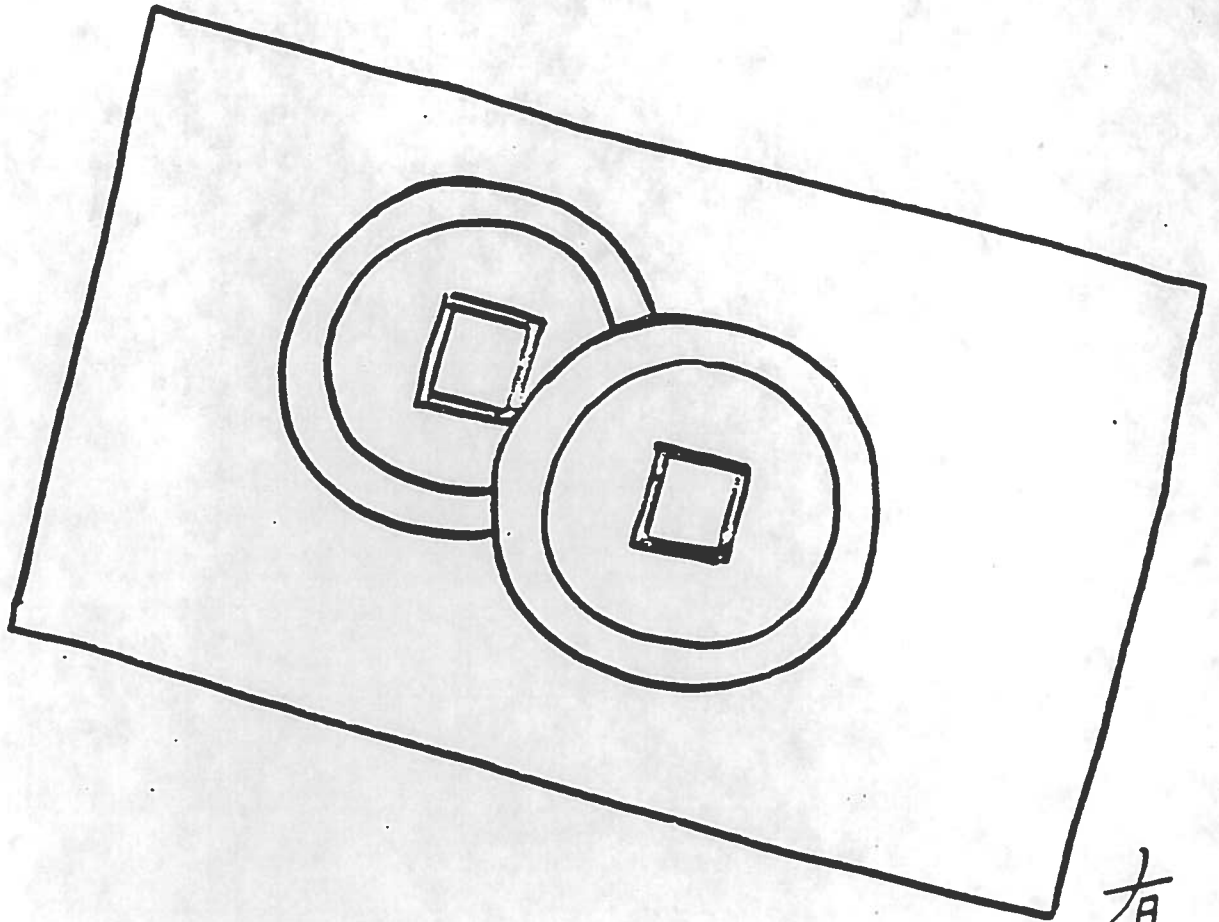


Some have bamboo.

This is a wish for peace.

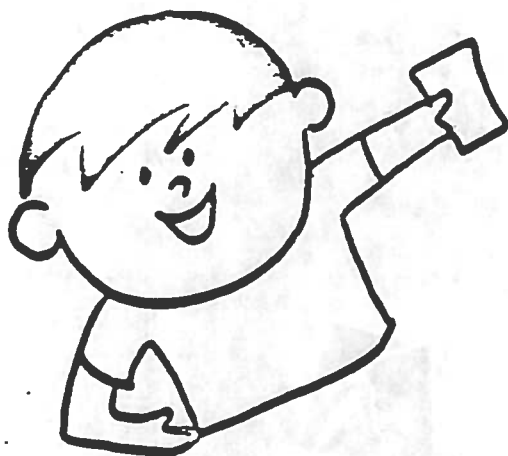
有的有竹，
是採竹報平安的意思。





Some have old Chinese coins printed on the envelopes. This is a good wish for a prosperous year.

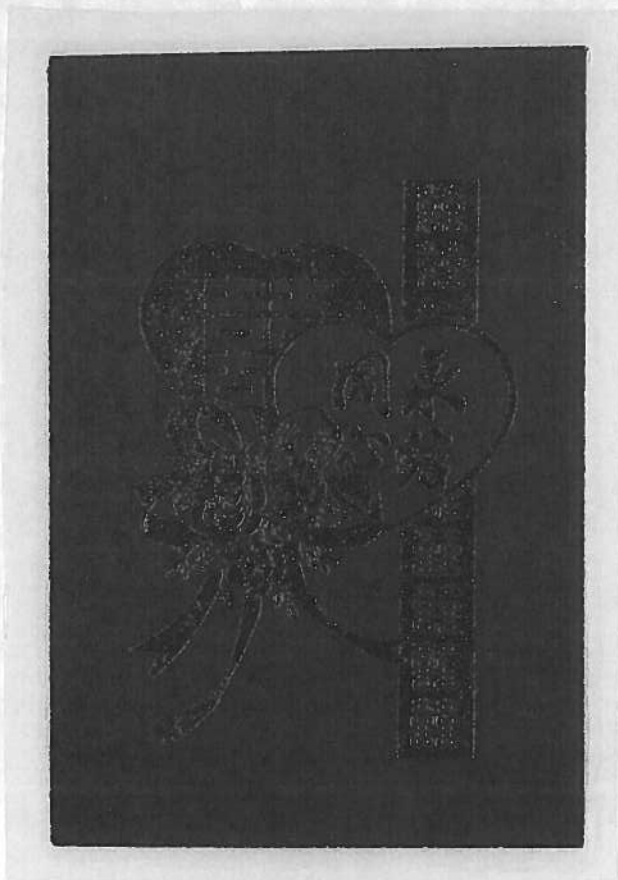
有的有兩個錢，
是採新年發財
的意思。




Robert said "Wow! There are so many good wishes printed on these red envelopes. I guess I will save my money as well as the envelopes. Thanks for letting me know."

我不再把紅封隨便丟了。

小明說：原來紅封上的圖案這樣有意思，



NOTES:

- 1) *Red envelopes are used in Chinese New Year and other festivities. They are used to express gratitude, to send good wishes, or as gifts.*
- 2) *Red envelopes with a printed design should be treated as greeting cards. It is considered bad manners for children to take out the money and throw away the envelope in front of the giver or out on the street.*
- 3) *The giver could put any amount of money into the envelope. Children should learn that it is the thought that counts.*
- 4) *Red and gold are the lucky colors in China. It is a tradition to use red envelopes on happy occasions and white envelopes on funerals.*
- 5) *Red envelopes with any good-wish designs could be used during the Chinese New Year, with the possible exception of the "double-happiness"  one, which is traditionally associated with weddings.*
- 6) *Married adults are the givers of the red envelopes. Children and single adults (who are considered children) should not give out red envelopes.*