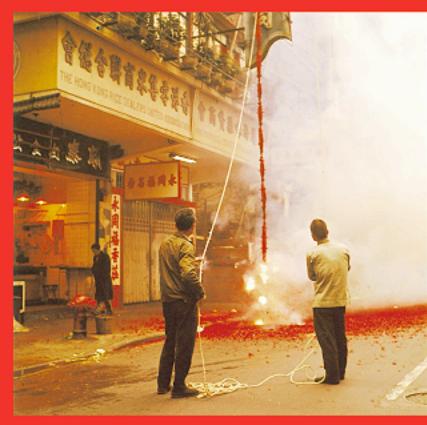
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在農曆除夕,地方社會有放炮竹的傳統,傳說是要驅走「年獸」。 在儀式上,炮竹的爆炸聲有一個標誌的功用。除夕的炮竹標示著 新一年的開始。不過,基於炮竹爆炸的危險,香港已禁止燃放炮 竹・

On Lunar New Year's Eve, there is a tradition to let o recrackers, which, legend has it, frightened away a fearsome monster called nian. In ceremonial rituals, the sound of exploding recrackers is a ritual marker, presaging the dawn of a new year. However, because of safety concerns, recrackers are banned in Hong Kong today.



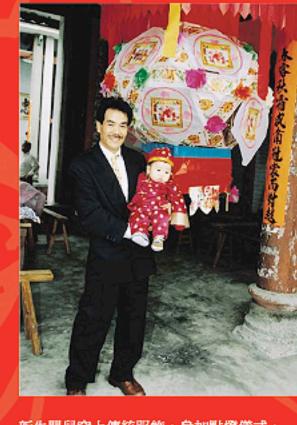
1996年開始,市區有花車巡遊活動,慶祝新年,這是2002 年巡遊中的京劇面譜花車・

Since 1996, parades of well-decorated oats have been organized to celebrate the Lunar New Year. This is the Peking Opera Masquerade Float at the 2002 parade.



農曆正月十五日,鄉村社會舉行點燈儀式, 懸掛代表新添男丁的花燈。花燈之下,桌 面上的是添丁家庭供奉神明及祖先之祭品。

On the 15th day of the rst lunar month, rural communities hold the Lantern-lighting Ceremony, in which lanterns representing the boys born in the village during the past year are hung in the ancestral hall. Beneath the lanterns are o erings to the deities and ancestors by the new born sons' families.



新生嬰兒穿上傳統服飾,參加點燈儀式。

The baby boy is dressed in traditional clothes to attend the Lantern-lighting Ceremony.



人們相信新年時在家中或店舖內擺放花卉,寓意吉 祥,帶來好運。歲晚時,香港不同地方都設有臨時 之「年宵花市」、售賣年花。盆栽小桔樹、有大吉 大利的意思。

Displaying owers in homes and shops is believed to be auspicious at the passing of the year. Building up to a climax on New Year's Eve, ower markets with trees and plants for sale are open in many places around Hong Kong. Bright green bushes laden with tiny oranges are much sought-after, since its homophones mean "gold" and "lucky".



The traditional golden dragon dance is a key programme of the annual parade.



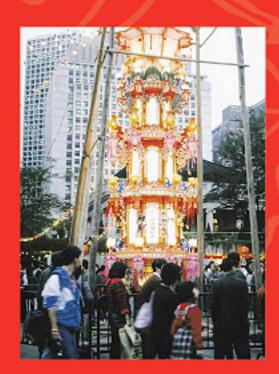
每一個花燈下面都繫有字條,寫上男丁名字, 並繫著帶葉小桔子、柏樹葉、紅封包及古錢等 吉祥物品,希望爲小孩帶來好運。

Tied to the bottom of each lantern is a paper note, on which the name of the baby boy is written, and auspicious objects including tiny tangerines with leaves, cypress tree leaves, red packets and antique coins.



農曆年初二日是「開年」,晚上在維多利亞港舉行之煙花匯演,吸引數十萬人觀賞。

The rework display staged in Victoria Harbour on the evening of the second day of Lunar New Year, kainian (beginning of the year), attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators.



每年農曆正月十五日,市區不同地方都 舉辦元宵花燈會,把傳統藝術帶到市民 眼前,十多米高的花燈與中環的高樓大 厦相映成趣。

Held in many places around Hong Kong on the 15th day of the rst lunar month, lantern carnivals manifesting traditional paper-crafts have caught on successfully in the city. This 10-metre lantern stands in contrast to the high-rise buildings in the Central District.



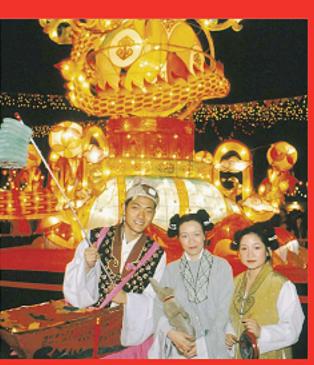
母親教導小孩欣賞傳統花燈。

A mother with her children at the lantern carnival.



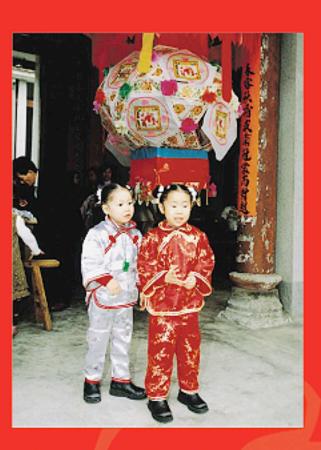
桃花樹可以花瓶栽養一段長時間・桃花樹枝茂盛, 花蕾眾多,寓意花開富貴,桃花亦寓意姻緣,是 流行之年花。

Peach branches can be kept in a vase for a relatively long time. Peach branches are adorned with lots of ower buds which, when they blossom, signify openness to all the good of the New Year. As the peach blossom also heralds love and marriage, it is the favourite plant to buy at Lunar New Year.



工作人員古裝打扮,爲花燈會營造傳統氣氛。

Carnival sta dressed up in period costumes to add a traditional touch to the lantern festival.



雖然點燈儀式只爲男丁而設,小女孩也穿起傳 統服飾參與弟弟的儀式・

Although the Lantern-lighting Ceremony is only held for boys, little girls in traditional costumes also take part in their brothers' celebration.



元朗錦田鄧氏宗族的點燈儀式,以一個懸掛於祠堂中央的大花燈 爲代表・大花燈內,安放了與新添男丁同等數目的油燈。

The Lantern-lighting Ceremony at the Tang Ancestral Hall of Kam Tin. Yuen Long, is characterized by a large lantern hung at the centre of the hall. The same number of oil lamps as the boys born in the village during the past year is placed inside the large lantern.



祠堂的點燈儀式結束後,男丁的家長將代表新生男嬰的油 燈放在米斗內,接回家中。這樣祠堂的香火,便在族人家 中延續・

After the Lantern-lighting Ceremony in the ancestral hall, the parents carry the burning oil lamp home by keeping it inside a rice hopper. Then the re, symbolizing the family line, is being extended from the ancestral hall to individual families.



男丁家人準備精緻的食品供奉祖先。在點燈儀式後,宗族成員一起享用, 佐以稀飯・稱爲「吃燈粥」。

Families with boys born during the past year are preparing gourmet delicacies for their ancestors. After the Lantern-lighting Ceremony, members of the lineage gather for a special meal served with rice congee.