福壽無疆 – 館藏賀壽文物展

Boundless Happiness and Longevity:

A Glimpse of Chinese Birthday Celebration from Museum collections

康樂及文化事務署主辦

香港文化博物館籌劃

Presented by the Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Organised by the Hong Kong Heritage Museum

前言

傳統中國文化以現世為安身立命之所，每一代人都積極為更美好的生活而奮鬥，特別注意養生延壽。漢代磚瓦銅鏡上的銘文，不乏「長壽貴」、「長生無極」和「與天相壽」等祈求長壽的祝禱語，而馬王堆漢墓出土的絲織品亦有「安樂如意」和「長壽無極」等吉祥字句。

時至今日，世界各地的華人社會仍然十分重視慶祝生辰，賀壽不僅是對長輩或朋友的祝福，更有着鞏固家庭或友儕關係的深厚意義。「壽」字象徵長壽、健康和福祉，寄託了人們對生辰主角的美好祝願。賀壽儀式，無論是對家中長輩或平輩朋友，其中都蘊含着人與人之間的互愛，而祝壽禮物和典禮用具上的吉祥符號，則承載着各種傳統倫理價值和民間信俗的內容。

慶生的觀念更投射到民俗信仰的天界諸神之中。香港傳統節慶就有專門為神明生辰而舉辦的「賀誕」活動，信眾參與祭祀、進香、巡遊、演神功戲等，場面熱鬧，彰顯「神人同慶」的節日精神。這些原來以村落、族群、同業或信眾為基礎的慶祝活動，今天已經成為香港非物質文化遺產的重要組成部分，得到整個社會的共同關注、保護和傳承。

2027 年適逢香港特別行政區成立三十周年，香港文化博物館特別舉辦是次以中國壽文化為主題的展覽，透過精選自康樂及文化事務署轄下博物館的珍貴藏品，提早為這個

標誌着世界和平與正義事業勝利的大事誌慶；展覽亦為弘揚中華文化系列的活動之一，旨在讓市民認識博大精深的中華文化。

FOREWORD

Traditional Chinese culture treasures the earthly world as the anchor for life. Every generation strives for a better life, paying special attention to health cultivation and longevity. Inscriptions on bricks, tiles and bronze mirrors of the Han dynasty abound with praying for long life, such as *chang shou gui* (Longevity and nobility), *chang sheng wu ji* (Long life without end) and *yu tian xiang shou* (Longevity enduring as the heaven). Similarly, silk textiles unearthed from the Han tombs in Mawangdui feature auspicious phrases including *an le ru yi* (Peace, happiness and all wishes fulfilled) and *chang shou wu ji* (Boundless longevity).

To this day, Chinese communities across the globe continue to place great importance on birthday celebrations. Celebrating a birthday is not only a blessing for elders or friends, but also holds deep significance in strengthening bonds within families and friendships. The *shou* (longevity) character symbolises longevity, health and well-being, conveying people's heartfelt wishes for the birthday person. Birthday celebration etiquette – whether for family elders or peers – embodies mutual love and care, while the auspicious symbols on birthday gifts and ceremonial utensils carry a variety of traditional ethical values and folk beliefs and customs.

The concept of celebrating birthdays extends even to the celestial deities of folk beliefs. In Hong Kong's traditional festivals, vibrant celebrations are dedicated specifically to the birth of deities. Worshippers participate in rituals, incense offerings, processions and Cantonese opera

performances in thanksgiving to the deities, creating lively scenes that embody the festive spirit of deities and mortals rejoicing together. These celebrations, which were originally held to strengthen the bonds within villages, clan groups, trade guilds or worshippers, have now become an essential part of Hong Kong's intangible cultural heritage, receiving collective care, protection and preservation from across society.

As 2027 marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum presents this special exhibition themed on the longevity culture of China. Featuring selected precious items from the collections of museums under the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, the exhibition serves as an early celebration for this major landmark in world history that signifies the triumph of world peace and justice. It is also part of the Chinese Culture Promotion Series, aiming to enhance public appreciation of the depth and breadth of Chinese culture.

祝壽

祝壽的傳統可追溯到中國上古時期，主要是用以表達對長輩的尊敬，充分體現傳統社會的倫理價值。祝壽承載着祈求長輩健康長壽、家庭幸福美滿的文化意義。「壽」字象徵生命延續，亦是古代中國常見的紋飾，具吉祥寓意，廣泛出現在宮廷器物、建築構件及民間用品上。「壽」字常與花卉、蝙蝠、祥雲等圖案結合，形成多樣的吉祥圖樣；亦與壽桃、仙鶴、松樹、神仙等長壽象徵相搭配，製成各式賀壽禮品，藉此表達孝道傳承、福氣盈門與家族凝聚的美好願景。隨着時代演變，祝壽的形式不斷更新，但尊敬與愛戴長輩的核心價值始終不變。

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

The tradition of celebrating birthdays can be traced back to ancient China. It serves primarily to express respect for elders, fully embodying the ethical values of traditional society. Birthday celebrations carry deep cultural significance, conveying prayers for the health and longevity of elders as well as family happiness and harmony. The ‘longevity’ character symbolises the continuation of life. It is also a common decorative motif in ancient China with auspicious meanings, widely appearing on imperial palace utensils, architectural features, and everyday household items of the common people. The ‘longevity’ character is frequently combined with motifs such as flowers, bats and auspicious clouds to create a diverse array of auspicious patterns. It is also paired with longevity symbols such as peaches, cranes, pine trees and immortals to craft various birthday gifts, thereby expressing cherished aspirations for the inheritance of filial piety, overflowing good fortune and family cohesion. Although the forms of birthday celebrations have continually evolved with the times, the core values of respecting and cherishing elders remain unchanged.

祝壽賀幛

清 同治十一年（1872 年）

鄧胤權先生捐贈

香港歷史博物館藏品

Embroidered hanging presented as a birthday gift

11th year of the Tongzhi reign of the Qing dynasty (1872)

Donated by Mr Tang Yan-kuen

Collection of Hong Kong Museum of History

五福捧壽紋掛幅

19 世紀

香港藝術館藏品

Embroidered hanging with ‘Five blessings holding longevity’ motif

19th century

Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art

《雙壽圖》

齊白石（1864–1957）

1950 年代

香港文化博物館藏品

Painting of Two Peaches

Qi Baishi (1864–1957)

1950s

Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum

《祝壽圖》

趙少昂（1905–1998）

1929 年

香港文化博物館藏品

Painting of Birthday Wishes

Chao Shao-an (1905–1998)

1929

Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum

青花百壽大罐

明 萬曆（1573–1620）

徐氏藝術基金捐贈

香港文化博物館藏品

Large jar with a hundred *shou* (longevity) roundels in underglaze blue

Wanli reign of the Ming dynasty (1573–1620)

Donated by The Tsui Art Foundation

Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum

竹雕壽星像

18 世紀初期

葉義醫生捐贈

香港藝術館藏品

Bamboo carving of the God of Longevity

Early 18th century

Donated by Dr Ip Yee

Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art

壽宴

壽宴，又稱生日宴席，源於中國敬老孝親的傳統思想，是專為長者賀壽而安排的聚會和儀節。多在長者六十歲或逢十的「大壽」時舉辦，由子女籌備，讓親朋戚友聚首一堂，以感恩父母養育，祈求長壽，象徵壽喜與家族團圓。中國傳統視生辰為重要的慶祝時刻，對長壽的追求不僅體現在壽宴本身，也透過餐具、席間佈置及服飾等細節傳遞祝福。壽宴大廳多以喜慶的紅色為主調，佈置金碧輝煌，並點綴各式祥瑞圖案；席間菜餚以寓意長壽的食材及菜式為主，宴後亦常邀請戲班演出賀壽戲曲，營造熱鬧喜慶的氛圍。

BIRTHDAY BANQUET

A longevity banquet, also known as a birthday celebration feast, originates from the traditional Chinese culture of respecting the elderly and showing filial piety to parents. It is a ceremonial gathering specifically held to celebrate an elder's birthday. Hosted by children to celebrate the parents' milestone birthdays – particularly the 60th and subsequent decades – the banquet gathers relatives and friends to express gratitude for the parents' care and offer prayers for their long life, a gathering that itself symbolises longevity, joy and family reunion. Traditional Chinese culture views birthdays as important moments of celebration. The pursuit of longevity is reflected not only in the banquet itself, but also in details such as tableware, table decorations and attire, all of which convey blessings. The banquet hall is predominantly decorated in festive red with resplendent adornments and embellished with various auspicious patterns. The banquet menus focus on ingredients and dishes symbolising long life. After the banquet, Cantonese opera troupes are often commissioned to perform celebratory operas, creating a lively and festive atmosphere.

龍鳳大禮堂

1970 年代

鑽石酒家有限公司捐贈

香港文化博物館藏品

Dragon and Phoenix Banquet Hall

1970s

Donated by Diamond Restaurant Limited

Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum

龍鳳圖案壽宴裙褂

1960 年代

王麗芬女士捐贈

香港歷史博物館藏品

Qungua costume with embroidered dragon and phoenix motifs for birthday banquet

1960s

Donated by Ms Wong Lai-fun

Collection of Hong Kong Museum of History

廣琺瑯靈芝壽字紋攢盒

清 乾隆（1736–1795）

鍾棋偉先生捐贈

香港藝術館藏品

Canton enamel compartmentalised box with *lingzhi* and *shou* (longevity) character patterns

Qianlong reign of the Qing dynasty (1736–1795)

Donated by Mr Cheung Kee-wee

Collection of Hong Kong Museum of Art

同慶

在香港的傳統節慶習俗中，以神誕活動最為豐富熱鬧，更成為地方上每年一度的盛事。各廟宇供奉不同的神明，如天后、觀音、洪聖、北帝、譚公等。每逢神誕期間，信眾都會攜帶祭品前往廟宇參拜，酬謝神恩，並組織各類「賀誕」活動，包括廟宇祭祀、抽花炮、舞龍舞獅、神功戲、巡遊等酬神活動。「賀誕」活動與地方文化及信眾的日常生活緊密結合，有着凝聚社區與許願酬還等重要功能。「香港天后誕」因其獨特的文化價值與世代傳承，對維繫社區關係具有重要作用，已列入「香港非物質文化遺產代表作名錄」。

SHARED CELEBRATIONS

In Hong Kong's traditional festive customs, celebrations of deities' birthdays are the most vibrant and elaborate, serving as major annual events in the local community. Various temples are dedicated to different deities, such as Tin Hau, Kwun Yum, Hung Shing, Pak Tai and Tam Kung. On the birthday of each deity, worshippers bring offerings to temples to pay homage and express gratitude for divine blessings. They also organise a range of celebratory activities during these festive periods, including temple rituals, paper floral tribute lucky draw, dragon and lion dances, Cantonese opera performances in thanksgivings to the deities, and festive parades. These celebratory activities are deeply integrated with local culture and the daily lives of worshippers, serving vital functions such as strengthening community cohesion and making wishes and expressing gratitude to the deities. Due to its unique cultural value and transmission across generations, Tin Hau Festival in Hong Kong plays a crucial role in maintaining community relationships and has been inscribed onto the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Hong Kong.

天后誕巡遊神輿

1906 年

糧船灣天后宮值理會捐贈

香港文化博物館藏品

Divine sedan chair for the procession held during Tin Hau Festival

1906

Donated by The High Island Tin Hau Temple Committee

Collection of Hong Kong Heritage Museum

壽金花籃

1950 年代

施天賜博士捐贈

香港歷史博物館藏品

Longevity joss papers in flower basket form

1950s

Donated by Dr Jane Lee Scott

Collection of Hong Kong Museum of History

喜賀

香港歷經各種跌宕起伏，最終成為繁華璀璨的「東方之珠」，躋身國際大都會之列。1997 年，香港回歸祖國懷抱，成為香港特別行政區，發展更上層樓。當時，中央人民政府及全國三十一個省、自治區和直轄市均向香港特別行政區致送珍貴賀禮，表達對香港的深切祝福。每逢特區成立的周年紀念，特區政府與社會各界都會舉辦一系列繽紛多彩的慶祝活動，讓市民共享回歸的喜悅。適逢香港特區邁向成立三十周年之際，我們共同祝願香港在「一國兩制」的獨特優勢與中央的全力支持下，進一步融入國家發展大局，迎接新機遇，邁向更美好的未來。

JOYFUL CELEBRATION

Hong Kong has weathered many twists and turns throughout its history, ultimately emerging as the dazzling 'Pearl of the Orient' and taking its place among the world's great cosmopolitan cities. In 1997, Hong Kong returned to the Motherland, becoming the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and embarking on a new phase of development. At that time, the Central People's Government, alongside 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities across the country, presented precious celebratory gifts to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to express their profound blessings. On each anniversary of the SAR's establishment, the SAR Government and various sectors of society organise a vibrant array of celebratory activities, allowing members of the public to share the joy of the return. While the 30th anniversary of the SAR's establishment is approaching, we come together in wishing that Hong Kong – under the unique advantages of 'One Country, Two Systems' and with the full support of the Central Authorities – will further integrate into the national development, embrace new opportunities, and forge ahead towards a brighter future.

紫荊歸春

1997 年

黑龍江省贈送的回歸賀禮

Bauhinia Blossoming Once Again in Spring

1997

Reunification gift from Heilongjiang Province

香港沙田文林路一號

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香港文化博物館

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Hong Kong Heritage Museum

1/F, Thematic Galleries 3 & 4

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這個展覽亦是弘揚中華文化系列的活動之一。康文署一直積極推廣中國歷史和文化，透過舉辦多元化的節目和活動，讓市民認識博大精深的中華文化，想獲得更多資訊，請瀏覽網頁 https://ccpo.gov.hk/tc。

The exhibition is also one of the activities in the Chinese Culture Promotion Series. The LCSD has all along promoted Chinese history and culture through organising an array of programmes and activities to enable the public to learn more about broad and profound Chinese culture. For more information, please visit https://ccpo.gov.hk/en.