

Prayer wheel - Field Museum

The prayer wheel is the most ingenious religious device of the Tibetans. It consists of a cylinder of brass, copper, silver or ivory, through which runs an ~~any~~ axle of wood or iron around which it pivots. This axle is prolonged below to form a handle. The cylinder is filled with paper rolls of printed prayers and charms which revolve as the instrument is turned round from left to right. Every revolution of a prayer is equivalent to its recitation and insures the same religious merit. Every priest & layman carries such an instrument with him and keeps it in perpetual motion, assisted by a cube of iron fastened by means of a small chain to the bottom side. The kings of ancient India received the honorary title "he who turns the wheel".

This epithet was transferred to Buddha who turned the wheel of the law. The wheel hence became one of the sacred emblems of Buddhism and the notion of turning the wheel of the law seems to have given the impetus to the construction of prayer wheels.

Tibet



CONGRESS HOTEL AND ANNEX

CHICAGO

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dragon on top); the sword of supernatural power (right & left in middle) the magic pilgrim's gourd or calabash; pair of castanets (in center above 3 peaked tomb & rods (above to the right & left of lower claws of the dragon) a yellow flute (above r. & l. on sleeves) & the lotus flower (below to r. & l. of the 2 dragons)

This description is for one Manchu prince's coat-

Garuda (or eagle) the sacred bird the vehicle of the Hindu god Vishnu seizing a snake & surrounded by 2 female serpent-spirits (Nagi) The Garuda is believed to be the constant enemy of the Naga: until Buddha himself brought about a reconciliation

"The eagle of Vishnu believed to make war against the serpent"

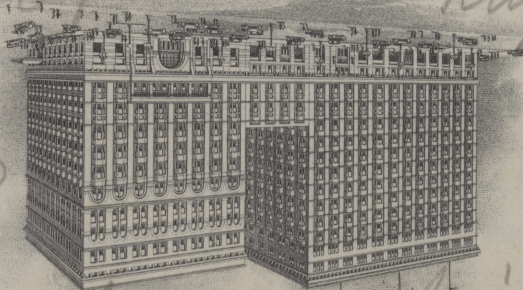
Horse of happy augury - (horse with jewels & flames) carrying on its saddle the flame wishing jewel granting every desire. It belongs to a group of 7 jewels which are the sacred gold wheel (the cakras) the wishing jewel, queen, minister, elephant, horse, general the cherished property & insignia of an Indian King.

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These seven jewels made from bronze, porcelain or other materials are arranged in the altars of all Shamaist temples

Field Museum - coats (Kinglung period 1738-95)
red & blue precious stones are floating on the waves
pleasant floating on a cloud -

By 3 islands

These 12 emblems indicate that the sovereign held
sway over the universe.

"8 emblems of happy augury introduced into China
with Buddhism - & anciently used in India
as emblems of the kings -"

These are as follows - the wheel, (as the king turns
the wheel of law) the conch shell, the state umbrella (representing twice) the sacred knot-
(in center) double fish (beneath the canopy) lotus
flower in vase.

Another series of 8 emblems of luck are spread over the
waves in the lower border.

"Empress coat has medallions embroidered
yellow ground. Each (medallion) containing an
upright 3-clawed dragon in gold threads. framed
by a wreath of waves from which emerges a rocky
island with 3 peaks. The blue waves are
in the

State Robe of Manchu prince -

In the center (front & back) there is a flower basket
holding 2 peaches surrounded by bats (symbols
of luck) & cloud designs. Indicating that the dragon
soar in the clouds. The sun-bat disks or sun balls
for which the dragons are making, are surrounded by
flames. The robe is further decorated with 8 attributes
of the 8 immortals (Pa-Sien) shown twice in symmetric arrange-
ment; the fan which revives the souls of the dead (above