View on the Ancient Decoration Ideas of China and Korea from the Angle of Zodiac Culture

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From the "Zodiac", we can see the thought-form which is related with the ancient craft decoration. The decorative art, which depends on the respect for the day and time, is a common phenomenon in the history of ancient art. It can be said, the sequence and correspondence of Zodiac are all from the thought of ancient craft decoration. To be known as "four great ancient civilizations" also ever used the zodiac. Many Asian countries under the influence of Chinese Confucian culture circle also have Zodiac culture, and very similar to China. As can be seen, the zodiac is a global culture. Korea has its own zodiac culture, and also with a long history. The zodiacs of China and Korea are similar in the order and name point of view, they should be homologous; however, they also have some differences in the use method. The "Zodiac" decoration that corresponding to the weather. "Zodiac" contact with Earthly Branches. In Pre-Qin era, the astronomy gradually developed, the prototype of Chinese zodiac has been bred. The "Zodiac" decoration that mark the bearing. The ancients used the "Zodiac" not only for indicating the time, but also for marking the heaven and earth bearing. The "Zodiac" that marks the bearing comes from the four images of constellation in Chinese astronomy. "Zodiac" decoration that pursue good fortune and avoid disaster. It goes round and round, reveals forever, and this derives the costume ideas that pursue good fortune and avoid disaster, to show the enjoying of the endless happy life. The "Zodiac" is no longer confined to the area of astronomical calendar, but also into the folk life.

Dr. Li Nan got her PhD at Tsinghua University in 2010 and majored in history and theory of design art. She received her B.A. and master's degree from Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology and majored in fashion design and costume culture research. Since 2004, she has been a teacher at Communication University of China, Beijing City, China. Now, she is an associate professor in the Department of Art, Communication University of China. Her major research interests are related to comparison of Chinese and Western costume culture, research on Chinese minority costume, costume culture communication, folk custom and fine art, history and theory of design art.

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