


Traditional New Year picture - Wrestling (Vietnames: Đánh vật)

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 61.1.11 

Type: print; woodblock print

Date of production: between 1950 and 1960

Place of production: Bắc Ninh province, Đông Hồ village, Vietnam, Southeast Asia

Materials/Technique
s: paper, coloured woodblock print

Dimensions: height: 24. 8 cm
width: 35. 4 cm

This engraving, made in the Đông Hồ workshop in Vietnam, shows wrestlers performing various holds, dressed for the occasion (the rules only allow wrestlers to wear loincloths).

Wrestling is traditionally part of the New Year celebrations in Vietnam. These competitions are contested by men from many village communities and men from different shrine districts.

According to some ethnographers, wrestling is in fact a symbolic fertility rite.

