

Traditional New Year painting - The crowing of the cock brings good luck (Vietnamese: Gà Dạ Xướng)

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 2018.1.4 

Type: woodblock print

Date of production: 1960s

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

Materials/Technique
s: paper, coloured woodblock print

Dimensions: height: 43 cm
width: 27.5 cm

The caption of the picture, taken in the Đông Hồ workshop in Vietnam, reads: 'Cries out at night, brings harmony at the fifth watch.'

The traditional division of time divides the night into five two-hour watches, the fifth being the hour of the cock. In the upper left corner of the image, in medallion, is a stylised inscription of "long life" and "good fortune", with the figure of a bat between the two medallions. The word 'bat' is synonymous with the word 'happiness', and the bat is therefore traditionally regarded as a lucky animal. And the rooster, as a zodiac animal, brings luck to those born in the year of the rooster. In addition, the image also contains a play on words based on the same pronunciation of the words 'chicken' and 'luck'.

