



THE EVOLUTION OF PROTECTION

Mastercard®, together with Dr Indira Arumugam, an Anthropologist from the National University of Singapore, looked through history to identify the evolution of how people have always protected themselves.

Feng Shui Coins



4TH CENTURY BCE

Initially used as currency, Feng Shui coins come from China and have a distinct square center where a red string binds them together to be hung in homes or on a person, in the hopes that good fortune will follow.

Lime Chilli Dangle



17TH CENTURY CE

Originating in South Asia and used mainly by Indians, one lime and seven green chilies are threaded and hung on doorways. The yellow of lime is highly regarded as auspicious while the heat from chili is said to repel bad fortune.

Rolling Pineapples



17TH CENTURY CE

Derived from Hokkien and Teochew groups, the act of throwing a pineapple sounds like 'Ong' or prosper in Hokkien. This custom was then adopted by several other Chinese dialect groups to cleanse the energy and environment of a new home or property.

Golden Toad



18TH CENTURY CE

Placed facing the main door, the Golden Toad rests on a pile of cash with a Chinese coin in its mouth and serves as a symbol of wealth. It is based on a Chinese legend where the wife of a God stole an immortality elixir only to be turned into a toad when she drank it.

Maneki Neko



19TH CENTURY CE

Maneki Neko, or beckoning cat, originated in Japan. Used mainly by business owners, the raised left paw of the cat is believed to welcome wealth and fortune. Today it can also be found in homes, with the left paw is moveable via solar power.

Breaking Coconuts



19TH CENTURY CE

A traditional Hindu custom, breaking of a coconut symbolizes breaking through the many layers of one's past to embrace a better future. This is typically done at the start of a huge milestone or as thanksgiving. The key is that the coconut must be completely smashed with the water inside drained out.



TODAY

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