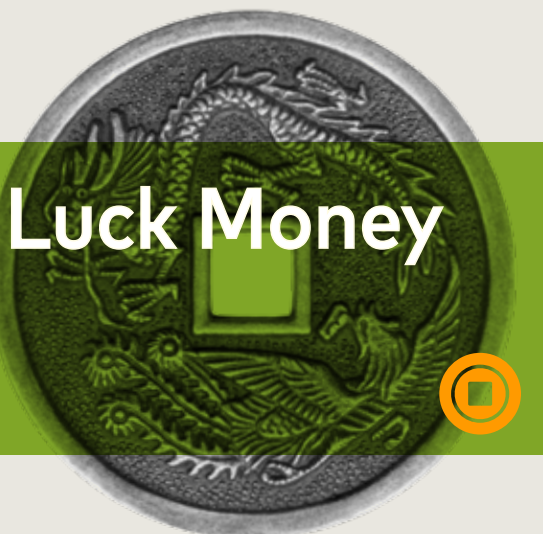




THE EVOLUTION OF PROTECTION

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.

Luck Money



UNKNOWN

Luck Money or Li Xi has its roots in Vietnamese folklore about the ogre, Tuy. The ogre is said to attack children in their sleep, but deities disguised themselves as gold coins wrapped in a red envelop to drive the ogre away. The tradition of giving children with money in a red envelope thus continued to protect them against bad health and misfortune.

Visiting the Pagoda



UNKNOWN

Visiting the pagoda at the start of the New Year is essential if seeking health, happiness and luck. Many would bring offerings of fruit, incense and flowers too. After prayers, the buds from the trees in the pagoda are plucked and brought home to protect the user from misfortune, bad health and evil.

Calligraphy



7TH CENTURY BCE

Believed to have been part of Vietnamese culture for over 1000 years, calligraphy was a highly revered form of art and during Tet. Calligraphers were often asked to write messages of good fortune for the people to place in their homes as a form of protection against evil forces.

Rituals during Tet



6TH CENTURY BCE

Many rituals take place during Tet, from cooking and eating auspicious dishes to visiting graves of ancestors, to laying out sweets for the 'Kitchen God' Ong Tao. While these serve as a form of protection against misfortune and calamities, sometimes a decorated bamboo or kumquat tree is used too.

Xoi Gac



1ST CENTURY BCE

Xoi Gac is one of the most popular dishes in Vietnamese cuisine. It is sticky rice flavored by jackfruit and is a symbol for good luck and fortune. It is mainly eaten at auspicious festivals and seen as a form of protection against misfortune.

Dong Ho Painting



11TH CENTURY CE

A type of Vietnamese folk painting, the Dong Ho paintings tell the stories of popular legends and folklore. Initially drawn only in black and white, color soon followed. Paintings are bought during the New Year to bring good luck and energy into the household.

Hung King Worship



15TH CENTURY CE

The Hung King was a sacred title bestowed upon Vietnamese rulers during the Hong Bang period. Many claim them to be the founders of the Vietnamese civilization. In 2012, worship of the Hung Kings was recognized by UNESCO, leading to an annual festival to commemorate them with offerings to protect believers from bad weather, misfortune and ill-health.



TODAY

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