



*Proclamation of the
Seven Deities of Good Fortune*

KNOW YE BY THESE PRESENTS

that, having entered the ethereal realm of the Sun, the Sky and the Moon, while spanning the Pacific on the Wings of the New Japan,

Mrs. Tomoyo Takahashi

has crossed the International Date Line, and thus has jumbled Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow from their mundane, time-worn order.

Now, therefore, know ye, that the Seven Benign Deities of Good Fortune, Happiness and Longevity do hereby extend their eternal blessing to this esteemed individual.

At the exact hour of 18:14 this Nov. 18 the Day of Two Suns
EASTBOUND WESTBOUND
the Day that Never Dawned

1955 the Year of the HITSUJI, aboard Japan Air Lines'
 "Pacific Courier" City of NAGOYA

七福即生

七難即滅

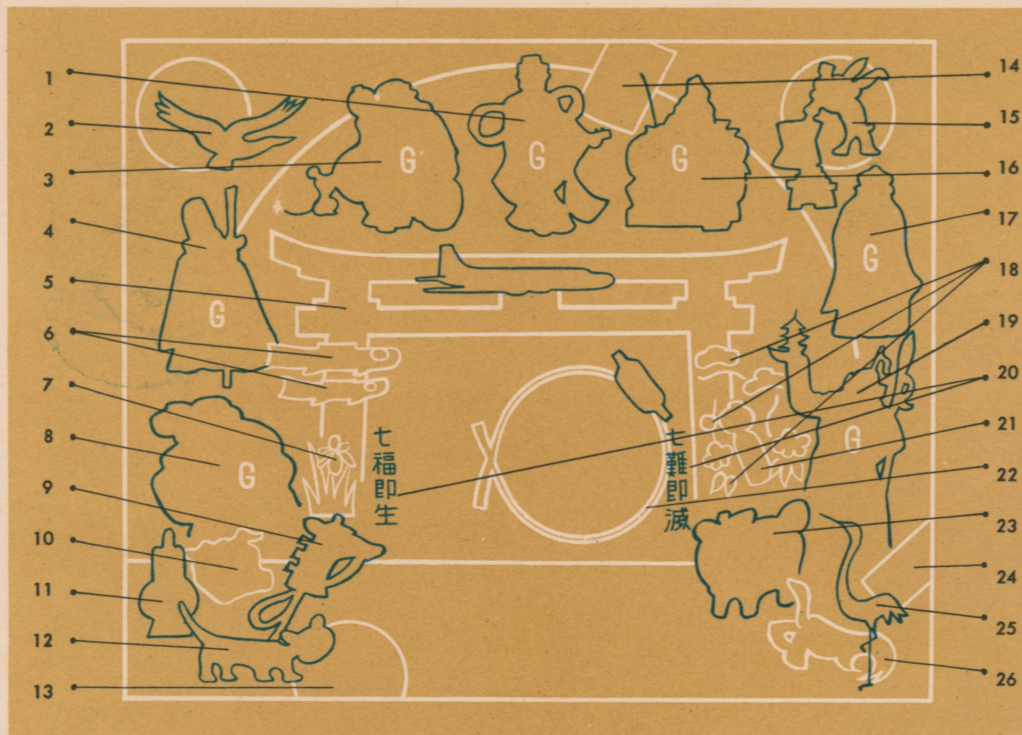
GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL

A. F. Ryan Captain



JAPAN AIR LINES

nagai



- 1 **BENTEN**, the Goddess of Beauty, is the only female figure among the Seven Deities of Good Fortune. She is pictured here playing a "biwa," her favorite instrument.
- 2 **KINSHI**, the "Golden Kite," according to an ancient Japanese legend, once saved the Emperor Jimmu and his army from losing a great battle. The bird perched upon the Emperor's bow and shone so brightly it blinded the soldiers of the enemy.
- 3 **DAIKOKU** is the God of Wealth. Carrying a rice bag on his shoulder and a mallet in his left hand, he sits upon a rice bale which symbolizes wealth. His mallet is believed to produce anything a worshiper desires.
- 4 **FUKU-ROKU-JU**, the long-headed God of Wisdom, was a Chinese philosopher who, as the legend goes, could foretell events and "live on mists of heaven and dews of earth."
- 5 **TORII** is a gateway of rough logs erected at the approach to every Shinto shrine. Entering through this is believed to purify the body and soul of a worshiper.
- 6-7 **TANGO NO SEKKU** or "Boys' Day" is a festival celebrated annually on the 5th of May. Huge streamers of carp, the fish symbolic of vigor, fly from Japanese homes, and the "shōbu" leaves of the iris are displayed everywhere.
- 8 **HOTEI** is the God of Happiness. His huge belly symbolizes great cheerfulness. The bag he carries is packed with rewards for those who never worry.
- 9 **TAKE-UMA**, the "bamboo horse," is a bamboo pole with a horse's head. Japanese youngsters ride it as a pony.
- 10 **SHISHI-GASHIRA**, the "lion's head," is worn by celebrants in the New Year's festival to guard against devils.
- 11 **KADO MATSU**, a spray of pine and bamboo, placed at every front door at New Year's to symbolize long life.
- 12 **HARIKO NO TORA**, the paper tiger of the God of Medicine, protects a family from illness and epidemic.
- 13 **MON**, the family crest, is used to decorate formal kimonos and special Japanese household items.
- 14 **TAKO**, a kite, was originally given to feudal lords on the birth of a son. Huge kites are flown nowadays on "Boys' Day."
- 15 **USAGI**, the "hare," is supposed to live in the moon where you can often see him pounding rice in a mortar.

子丑寅卯辰巳午未申酉戌亥

1. Ne the Rat
2. Ushi the Bull
3. Tora the Tiger
4. U the Hare
5. Tatsu the Dragon
6. MI the Serpent
7. Uma the Horse
8. Hitsuji the Ram
9. Saru the Monkey
10. Tori the Cock
11. Inu the Dog
12. I the Boar

- 16 **EBISU**, the God of Good Fortune, fishes for lucky "tai-fish" (sea-bream).
- 17 **JU-RO-JIN**, the God of Long Life, is depicted in Japanese folklore as a venerable old man with a long white beard.
- 18 **SHO-CHIKU-BAI**, a combination of pine, bamboo and plum symbolic of longevity and good luck. This is used on felicitous occasions like weddings and childbirth.
- 19 **BISHAMONTEN**, the God of Dignity, is always armed with a spear to conquer devils and protect the righteous. The tiny pagoda signifies his religious mission.
- 20 This is an excerpt from a Buddhist script meaning "Down with the Seven Devils! Bless the Seven Deities!" By reciting this passage, it is believed anyone can overcome all obstacles and have the blessings of the Seven Gods.
- 21 **KOKESHI** is a popular Japanese doll, played with by the youngsters, but regarded by childless women as a charm to bring them families.
- 22 **MIZU-HIKI** is a paper cord used in gift wrapping. Traditionally it is bright red and white for celebrations and black and white for times of mourning.
- 23 **INU HARIKO** is the saucy toy dog which is presented to a boy at birth to guard him from the devils.
- 24 **O-FUDA**, a Shinto charm, protects the worshiper's body from all evil spirits.
- 25-26 **TSURU-KAME**, the "crane and turtle," symbolizes a rich and long life.



"Juni-shi," the Oriental Zodiac

In Japan, the years, days, hours and points of the compass all have their symbols of "Juni-shi." These are the twelve signs of the ancient Oriental Zodiac, referred to often in Japanese history, literature, art and lore. In terms of "Juni-shi," for instance, the current twelve-year cycle began in 1948 with the Year of the Rat, "Ne," and ends in 1959, the Year of the Wild Boar, "I." 1954, the seventh year, falls on the sign of the Horse, "Uma," which is also used to indicate the hours from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m. and the compass direction, South.

To read time by "Juni-shi," note that each figure represents two hours. "Ushi" the Ox is 1 to 3 a. m. "Tora" the Tiger is 3 to 5. "U" the Hare is 5 to 7. "Tatsu" the Dragon is 7 to 9, and so on around the clock.

To read the compass by "Juni-shi," let the animals stand for directions. North is "Ne" the Rat. South is "Uma" the Horse. East is "U" the Hare. And West is "Tori" the Cock.



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At the exact hour of 01:30 this Sept 26 EASTBOUND *the Day of Two Suns*
WESTBOUND *the Day that Never Dawned*

In 1955 the Year of the HITSUJI, aboard Japan Air Lines' "Pacific Courier" City of NARA

七福即生

七難即滅

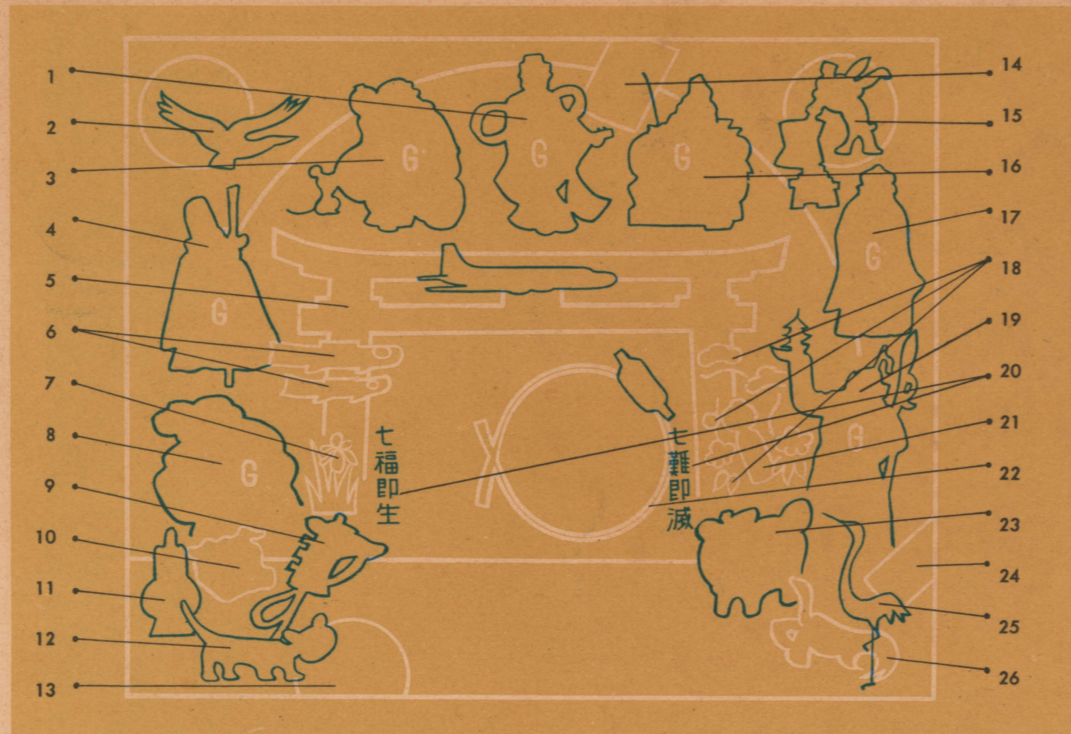
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TOKYO BLDG.
2-CHOME, MARUNOUCHI, CHIYODA-KU,
TOKYO, JAPAN



JAPAN AIR LINES Co., Ltd.



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1661 Post St., San Francisco, 15,
California, U.S.A.

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MARUNOUCHI, CHIYODA-KU
TOKYO, JAPAN

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