THE COVER DESIGN

The character "‘福’" carved on the cover, is the most popularly used in the forty thousand characters of the Chinese language. It means "Happiness". It is the "Foo" of Foochow, the City of Happiness.

The character has two parts—right and left. The right half "‘福’" is pictorial. The top part "‘——’" is the numeral one; below is a mouth "‘口’" at the bottom. In a rice field "‘田’" you see the little dykes crossing it. Each of the four sections is a sixth of an acre. If the rice from these four little fields goes to one month, there will be no hunger, which is reason for happiness in China. The left half of the character, "‘吉’" means "Spiritual". It suggests that the Chinese have long known that "man does not live by bread alone".

At New Year time this character is written on red (color of happiness) paper, and pasted on the doors of houses. It is sometimes written six or eight feet in height on the wall opposite to the main entrance of the house. Thus, everyone opening the door will see it, and be conscious that "Happiness" is always near.
THE STORY OF SILK

Silkworm eggs normally hatch in March or April at the time when mulberry trees put forth their leaves.

生業焉

蠶卵常孵於三四月之間

方是時也桑樹正在發芽
Leaves of the white mulberry tree are needed in great abundance, for the tiny silkworms must increase to five thousand times their original weight.
In most homes round trays made of bamboo are used for feeding the mulberry leaves to the rapidly growing silkworms.
In the final larval stage the worms are carefully watched for signs that they are ready to spin silk.
The spinning larvae are given space on a bamboo frame which provides a firm support for fastening and weaving a good cocoon.
After only a few days the cocoons must be carefully sorted as to color and quality of silk.
Next, the cocoons are put through a boiling process which kills the pupa and loosens the filaments of silk.
When the silk is reeled off into skeins it is thoroughly washed to free it from all gum.
These skeins when dried are known as raw silk, and it is in this state that it is exported.
Formerly the making of silk thread was a home industry. As many as twenty filaments may form a single thread.
Chinese beautiful silk brocades and gauzes have for centuries been produced on looms in rural homes.
The tailor held the responsibility to finish the work of making garments, but they could be completed to export from China until the sixth century.