

Divination has roots in past

by Heather Kirby

Fortune telling has been very popular in the eyes of Americans. But this new age fad has roots that lead back to ancient history. The many different types of divination that we use as past times in today's society are very important in some cultures.

Tarot cards is an never popular means of fortune telling, which is commonly believed to have originated in Italy and France as early as the 1400's. Using Tarot cards a "reader" can read another's fortune by interpreting designs on the cards that are dealt to them. For example, if a person receives "The Empress" it means that they have domestic stability. If the person receives "The Lovers" it means that they will make an important decision.

Palmistry, or palm reading, is another popular type of divination. Palmistry is developed from the ancient belief that the palm of the hand contains a map of each individual's characteristics and

inner feelings. Psychotherapists even take prints of there patients hands to form a psychological diagnosis. You could tell a person's inner feelings, character, and predict their destiny by noticing his/her hands in general. It is believed by many Indian palmists that the whole of a person's character and life story are shown in the hand.

Crystal gazing is probably the most ancient form of fortune telling. It is believed to have originated in Egypt almost six thousand years before the birth of Christ. Today, it is frequently used in Japan, where a crystal can be found in almost any home.

Crystal gazing is also another method commonly used by psychotherapists to draw up early memories of their patients. While gazing a person is drawn into a relaxed and dreamy state where dis-

tant memories will be projected into the crystal. Ancient practitioners also believed that mysterious psychic forces carrying future destinies will also rise in the crystal.

Astrology is defined as a way of relating everything in nature and using this relationship to detect facts about individuals, their lives; and to predict the changes of the whole human race. With its many different branches, Astrology is probably the most popular form of divination in today's society.

Chinese astrology is also very popular through out the world. Like the zodiac, Chinese astrology uses twelve different signs or symbols to define the twelve categories of a human being; however, while the zodiac signs are set by month to each individual, the Chinese signs are set by birth year. Each sign has a different animal name and corresponds to a different Chinese year.

The origins of the animals of Chinese astrology are unclear. It is commonly believe that Buddha invited all the earths animals to a gathering before his final departure. Of all the animals only the rat, the pig, the rabbit, the ox, the dragon, the snake, the monkey, the goat, the dog, the horse, and the rooster showed up. Thus Buddha named a year after each of these animals to honor them.

Although the different types of divination are very popular in today's society and are believed to be a fun past-time. But the history of these forms of fortune telling show that they have a great historical importance over time.

The Chinese zodiac is based on a twelve year cycle—each year is represented by an animal. Traditionally, the Chinese believe a person's year of birth holds the key to their life-long character and well-being. For example, 1983 was the year of the Boar. People born in this year are splendid companions, sincere, tolerant, and honest...and expect the same from others. Nineteen eighty four was the year of the Rat; people born in this year have a tendency to be quick tempered and overly critical.



Cancer

6/21-7/22

Crabs can sometimes be a bit...crabby; they can be snappy and

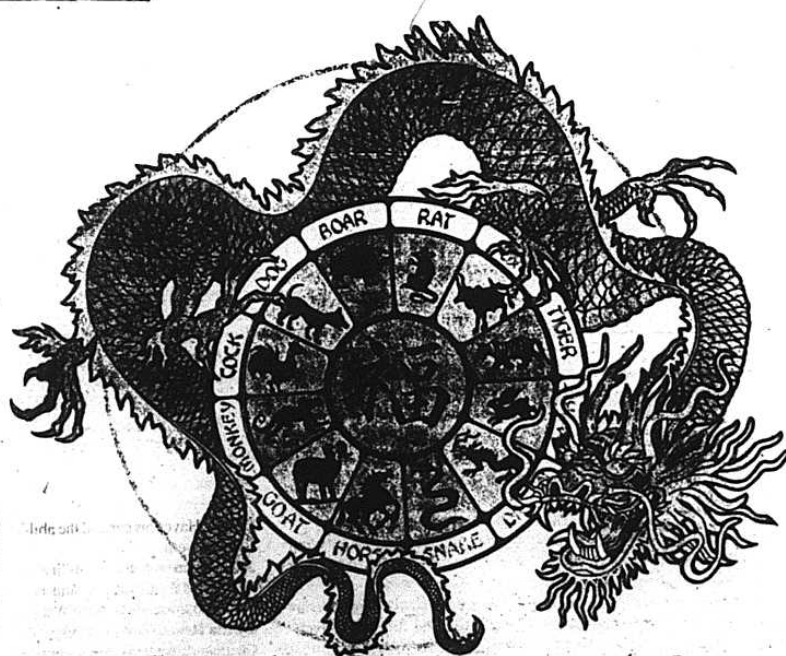
cranky, but they also guard their secrets and stay within their shell. Described as sensitive, imaginative, sympathetic, shrewd, and loyal. Crabs are wonderful listeners and will offer the advice you need to hear, but might not want.

Capricorn

12/22-1/19

Goats are ruled by Saturn who represents responsibility and discipline;

practical, patient, and purposeful are all apt descriptions of Capricorn. Extremely self-sufficient with a dry sense of humor, Capricorns are sometimes mistaken as cold; however, underneath is a sensitive and sympathetic person.



CHINESE ZODIAC