

# New China Calendar

## 1978



Woodblock printing has had a long history in China. The earliest examples are Buddhist images printed in the Tang Dynasty – ninth century. For a thousand years woodcuts made by the common people have been used for popular book illustrations, playing cards, and New Year's pictures. But by the nineteenth century this ancient art was stagnant, part of a dying feudal culture.

In the late 1920s the prominent writer and cultural leader Lu Hsun looked for a new art style to use in the rising struggle against feudalism and the reactionary forces of old China. He especially admired the bold, simple woodcuts created by Kathe Köllwitz, the German Socialist artist, in the print series "Der Krieg" (War). Lu Hsun brought albums of these prints to China, and taught young artists the new techniques. "In a revolutionary age, woodcuts have the widest use," he wrote, "they can be quickly produced by busy people." Using only the simplest tools – a block of wood, a sharp knife, paper, and ink – and the new simplified method, many prints of each design could be made.

The woodcuts reproduced in this calendar are examples of this flourishing medium in China today. Woodblock printing is widely used by both professional artists and workers who are artists in their spare time, and reflect the spirit and accomplishments of the people in their struggle to develop a modern, industrial, socialist state. The urban environment, with men and women building the future, is sharply in focus. Now, as earlier, woodcuts have an important place in China's revolutionary culture.



*Learning from the People — Ye Xin*

January 1978

New China Magazine

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*New Year's Day*

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*Health Station in a Li Minority Village — Wei Zhi-ren*

February 1978

New China Magazine

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*Washington's Birthday*

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Painting Our Old Captain — Guo Li-cheng

*March 1978*

*New China Magazine*

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Testing in the Fields — Pu Guo-chang, Dong Ke-jun



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*Happy to See the Operation of the New Cart — Yan Zong-lin, Wang Zu-yin*



May 1978

New China Magazine

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*Memorial Day*

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*New Doctor in Tibet — Li Huan-min*



June 1978

New China Magazine

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*Building the Oil Tanker Taching — Wang Ke-hua*



July 1978

New China Magazine

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*Independence Day*

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Little Propaganda Team — Sui Gui-min



*August 1978*

*New China Magazine*

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*Night School — Liu Shu-fan*



September 1978

New China Magazine

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*Labor Day*

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*The New Generation — Ren Shang-yong*



October 1978

New China Magazine

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*Columbus Day*

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*A Storehouse Strong as Steel — Sui Gui-min*



November 1978

New China Magazine

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*Veterans Day*

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*Thanksgiving Day*

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*Worker Lecturers Are Fine — Deng Tai-he*



December 1978

New China Magazine

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*Christmas*

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January 1979

New China Magazine

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*New Year's Day*

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