

Fenghua Cloth Dragon Helps Chinese Children Bond with French Peers

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▲ Children are packing the gifts in Ningbo.

◀ Kids in France share the Spring Festival gifts from Fenghua, Ningbo.

2024 marks the 60th anniversary of China-France diplomatic ties. In tribute to the enduring friendship, the Fenghua Cloth Dragon - an invaluable artifact of intangible cultural heritage - embarked on its journey from Ningbo, China across the skies to land in Paris, France.

2024年是中法建交60周年。一条非遗布龙,从宁波奉化出发,“飞”到了法国巴黎。

“Hello, our dear friends in Paris. Please find an international parcel from Ningbo Fenghua First Experimental Kindergarten!” This Chinese New Year, students and teachers from the kindergarten engaged in a significant endeavor. They crafted a traditional cloth dragon and dispatched it with heartfelt blessings to their peers in Paris.

“叮咚!法国巴黎的小朋友你们好,这里有一份来自宁波市奉化区第一实验幼儿园小朋友的国际邮件,请查收!”这个春节,奉化第一实验幼儿园的师生们做了一件很有意义的事情:将非遗布龙和新春祝福一起打包送至法国小朋友的手中。

“We made this paper pulp artifact together!” said Li Mingyu, a child from the kindergarten. He carefully placed the delicately crafted souvenirs into the cardboard box and introduced, “This little dragon is adorned with two persimmons on top, promising all the best to our friends in France!”

“这是我们幼儿园小朋友用纸浆做的小龙,头上顶着两个柿子,祝法国的小伙伴们‘柿柿如意’!”该园的李铭宇

把小伙伴精心制作的礼物小心翼翼地放入纸箱里。

“We put down the peaches from our hometown Fenghua. They exude fragrance and sweetness.” On behalf of the senior class, Dong Yuyan rendered a painting and explained, “It is a warm invitation to our French friends; welcome to savor our beloved speciality in Fenghua, Ningbo.”

董琰言代表幼儿园大一班送出的是一幅画作:“这是我们家乡奉化的水蜜桃,吃起来又香又甜,欢迎法国的小朋友来品尝我们宁波奉化水蜜桃。”

Inside the cardboard box lie an array of treasures—New Year dragons crafted from wool felt, intricately designed paper-cut Chinese dragons, and an assortment of creative “Fu” characters (meaning “good fortune”). Yet, the centerpiece of these gifts is the majestic cloth dragon from Fenghua. Crafted with bamboo and colorful cloth, the lifelike dragon showcases the intricate craftsmanship, especially evident in its detailed dragon head. As the traditional lunar New Year of the Dragon draws near, the seventh generation of young inheritors from the First Experimental Kindergarten in Fenghua - devoted to preserving the intangible cultural heritage of Fenghua cloth dragons - meticulously packaged this highly ingenious and artistic offering. Laden with sincere blessings, it set off on a transoceanic journey through the CCTV4 program *Legendary Chinese Festival*.

纸箱里还有羊毛毡扭扭棒做的

年龙、纸雕的中国龙和各种创意福字龙……礼物里面最“大件”的是来自家乡奉化的布龙,龙身以竹制成,以布为衣,五彩斑斓,龙头更是工艺复杂,栩栩如生。在传统农历龙年来临之际,致力传承奉化非遗布龙文化的第一实验幼儿园的第七代“小龙人”,把这份极具匠心的非遗文化艺术之礼精心打包,带着诚挚的祝福,通过CCTV4《传奇中国节》节目组寄往大洋彼岸。

This “international gift package” departed from Fenghua, travelled along the cooperative bridge of the “Belt and Road Initiative” and finally arrived at the Seine River in romantic Paris. It is further illustration of deeper relationship ties between China and France.

这份从浙江宁波奉化出发的“国际大礼包”,沿着“一带一路”的合作桥梁,最终抵达浪漫巴黎的塞纳河畔,为中法两国的友谊锦上添花。

While children in Fenghua were celebrating the Chinese New Year of the Dragon, the mail successfully reached Paris. French children happily opened the package, absorbed in studying the Fenghua Cloth Dragon that had traveled across the ocean. After assembling the cloth dragon with the help of teachers and receiving training in dragon dance moves, the children performed the dragon dances at the “Chinese New Year in Belleville”. Spectators raised their cameras to record this scene, immersing themselves in the charm of Chinese traditional culture.

在奉化小朋友欢度龙年春节时,邮件也顺利抵达巴黎。法国小朋友高兴地

打开包裹,对远渡重洋而来的奉化布龙仔仔细“研究”了一番,在老师的帮助下完成布龙组装,现场训练舞龙动作,并在“巴黎美丽城新春市集”上进行舞龙表演。大家纷纷举起相机记录这一幕,切身感受中国传统文化的魅力。

Following the performance, the kids graciously shared other gifts from Ningbo, including the woolen New Year dragon toys, the Fenghua peach painting, the paper pulp craft, and fans decorated with “Fu” characters. In return, they thoughtfully prepared gifts such as small tiger pendants and colored face masks, and extended warm wishes for a “Happy New Year” and “Good luck in the Year of the Dragon” to their young friends in Fenghua, Ningbo.

表演结束后,法国小朋友分享了除布龙外从宁波奉化寄来的春节礼物,争相从老师手中接过羊毛毡新年龙、奉化水蜜桃彩绘、“柿柿如意”纸浆手作、福字扇等礼物。同时,他们也为宁波奉化的小伙伴准备了小老虎挂件、彩色脸谱等“回礼”,祝福“新年快乐”“龙年大吉”。

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