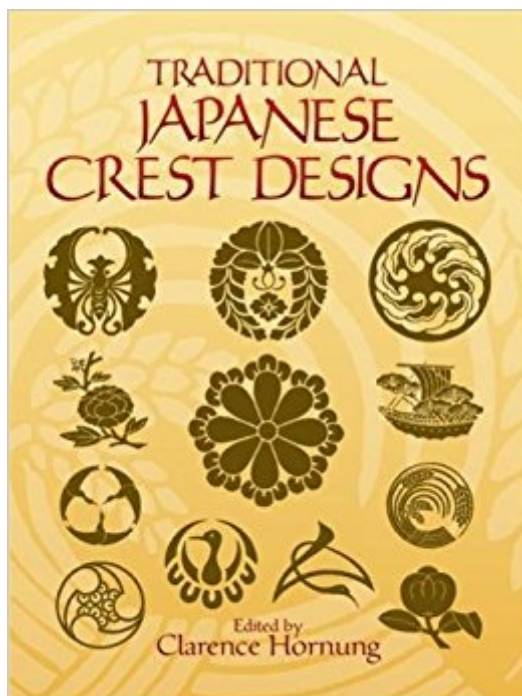


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# Traditional Japanese Crest Designs (Dover Pictorial Archive)



## Synopsis

Family crests (mon) have been a Japanese tradition since the eleventh century, when they decorated the costumes and carriages of courtiers. Later, they were used to identify warriors on the battlefield, as heraldic decorations on formal costumes, and as ornament on the kimonos of the common people. Small, compact, and graceful, with a strong sense of style, crest designs are ideal for spot illustrations, as logos, or for any graphic purpose requiring the classic simplicity, purity, and strength of Japanese design. This volume presents a total of 540 permission-free motifs, carefully selected for graphic impact and usefulness from several thousand crests known to exist. Featured are a wide variety of stylized designs depicting plants, animals, natural phenomena, geometric shapes, and manufactured objects. Among the subjects included in this selection are such traditional Japanese motifs as bamboo, crane, lightning, cherry blossom, peony, plum blossom, wave, rice, circle, and hollyhock. Immensely useful, this volume of permission-free designs is not only an invaluable source of graphic material for artists, designers, and craftspeople, but a fascinating picture book of Japanese culture.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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common people. Small, compact, and graceful, with a strong sense of style, crest designs are ideal for spot illustrations, as logos, or for any graphic purpose requiring the classic simplicity, purity, and strength of Japanese design. This volume presents a total of 540 permission-free motifs, carefully selected for graphic impact and usefulness from several thousand crests known to exist. Featured are a wide variety of stylized designs depicting plants, animals, natural phenomena, geometric shapes, and manufactured objects. Among the subjects included in this selection are such traditional Japanese motifs as bamboo, crane, lightning, cherry blossom, peony, plum blossom, wave, rice, circle, and hollyhock. Immensely useful, this volume of permission-free designs is not only an invaluable source of graphic material for artists, designers, and craftspeople, but a fascinating picture book of Japanese culture. Original Dover (1986) publication.

This book is designs only, with little text. Each page is grouped by a theme. The only information given is what that theme is. There are several types of flowers, birds, and geometric designs. I was surprised by the very detailed boat designs. I've seen other books with more designs, but often they are just more minor variations on the same themes. I think this gives a good selection.

I know it doesn't have all the Mons, but my family crest is not in it. although it isn't in it, a nice resource of Mons.

No names, just images.

45 pages with about 12 crests per page make this book a useful reference tool for designers and others. Each page takes a subject such as mountains, plum blossom or ivy and demonstrates the variety of crests that have been made for each theme. The book lacks any information about the significance of each of the themes which was its biggest failing. Otherwise it will probably have an interesting life as part of my book collection and become a useful resource.

A nice but short selection. Well laid out by types. I have bought other books with 5 times more designs.

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