The coming Lunar Year of the Snake, in particular, a water snake, begins on February 10, and culminates in the Lantern Festival on February 24th, 2013. Those born in the “snake year” are said to be intelligent, graceful, and cunning. The Lunar New Year is celebrated in various ways, often with parades and parties. Firecrackers are traditionally used to scare off evil spirits and to welcome this time of renewed hope for the future. Lucky foods are eaten—dumplings, tangyuan for example. Festive lanterns, colored red for luck, are common decorations at Lunar New Year celebrations.