

MAREILE FLITSCH

Body—Posture—Tool  
Anthropological Reflections on the Depiction  
of Body–Artefact Relationships  
in Chinese Folk Art

For some years now, there has been popular literature on the Chinese book market, which can be described as *Zhengzai xiaoshi de*: literature about “becoming insignificant”.<sup>1</sup> The subject of these mostly illustrated volumes is the disappearance of hitherto familiar elements of everyday life in modern China: objects, customs and traditions, games, arts, trades, textiles, foods, residential buildings, and characteristic idioms of local speech or dialect.



Fig. 1: *A look into the mirror*. HYm IX-25.

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<sup>1</sup> Books whose titles begin with *Zhengzai xiaoshi de*, are published since the beginning of 2000 in the *Gugu Shidai tuwen xilie* 古古时代图文系列 [Illustrated texts of an epoch series] by the Gugu Publishing House in Shanghai; cf. also Mareile Flitsch, “Zeigt her eure Füße ...”. *Das neue China* 1 (2003): 29. A further book series has the title *Jijiang shiqu de shenghuo* 即将逝去的生活 (Vanishing everyday life) and is currently published by the Chinese Tourism Publishing House (*Zhongguo liuyou chubanshe*).