

# Veterinary Acupuncture History Evidence-Based Approach

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THAT'S ODD... MY NECK SUDDENLY FEELS BETTER...



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EARLY ACUPUNCTURE

off the mark

# What Have You Heard?

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Practiced for  
thousands of years

Used by 20%  
of the world's  
population

Must use specific  
points along  
specific lines

Refined through  
history

An Important  
Tradition of  
Chinese Medicine

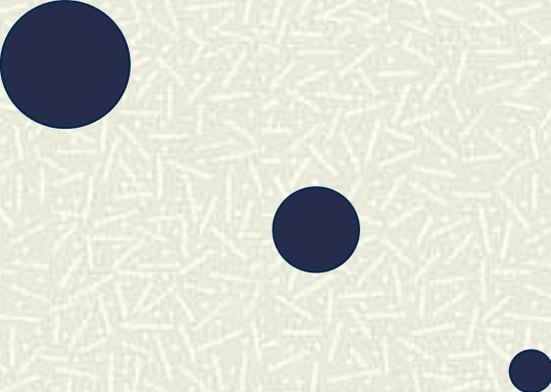
**EVERYTHING  
YOU'VE HEARD  
IS FALSE**

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*How's that?*



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# ACUPUNCTURE: History

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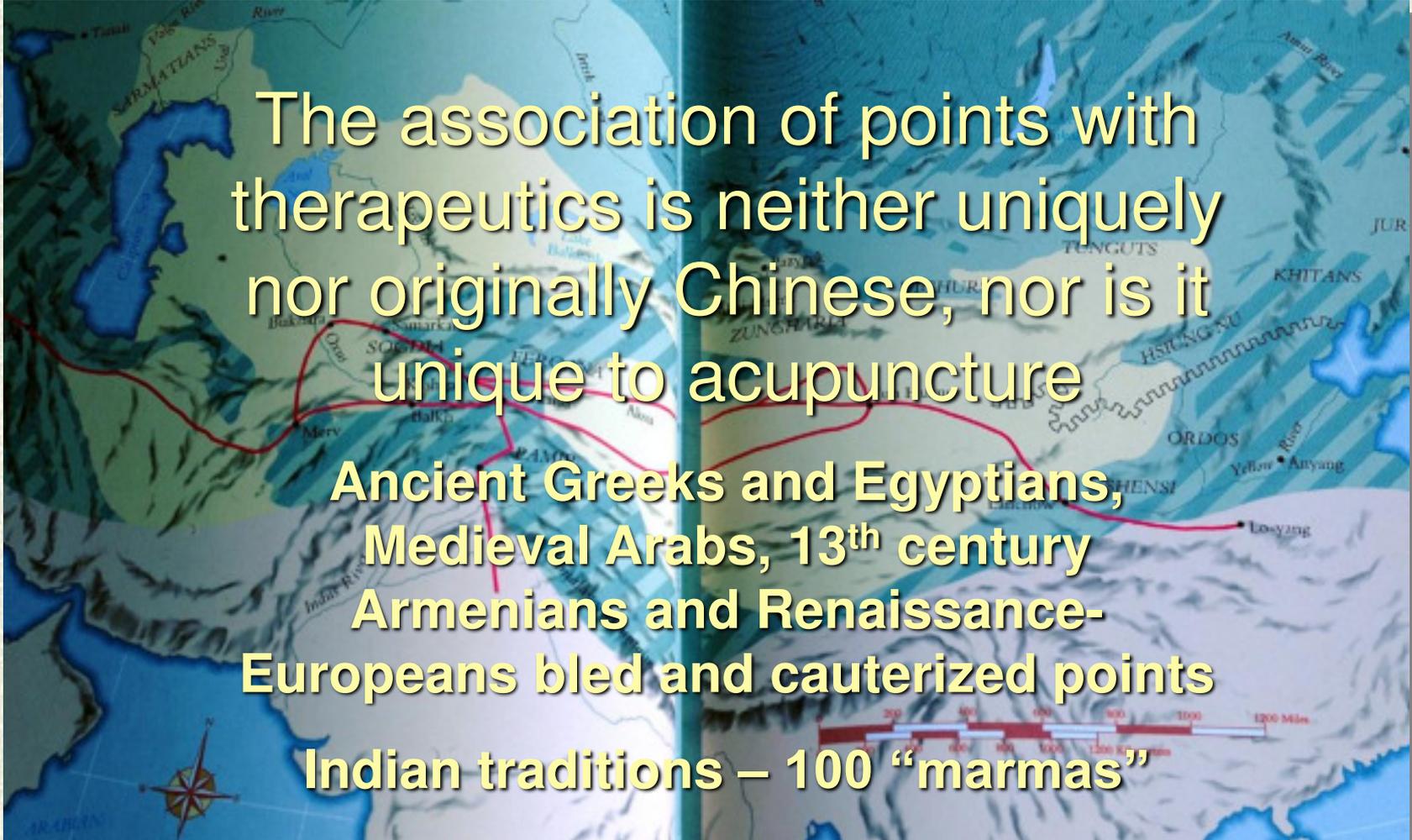
## WHAT IS ACUPUNCTURE?

1. Treats points
2. Points occur along channels
3. Involves fine needles
4. Manipulates “qi” – associated theory

As such, acupuncture has NEVER been part of the historical practice of Chinese veterinary medicine

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# ACUPUNCTURE: Points



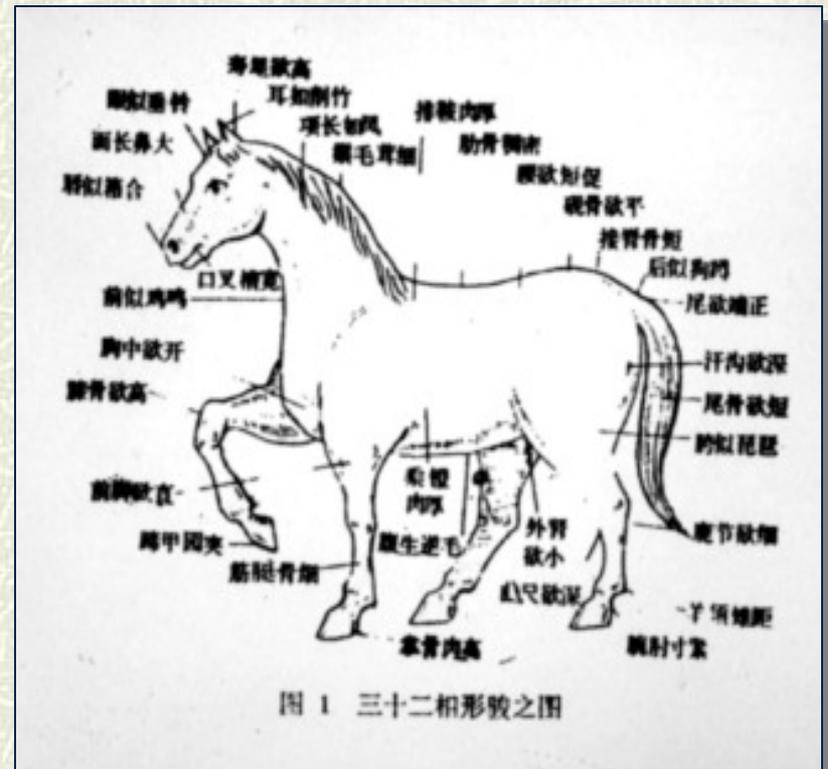
The association of points with therapeutics is neither uniquely nor originally Chinese, nor is it unique to acupuncture

Ancient Greeks and Egyptians,  
Medieval Arabs, 13<sup>th</sup> century  
Armenians and Renaissance-  
Europeans bled and cauterized points

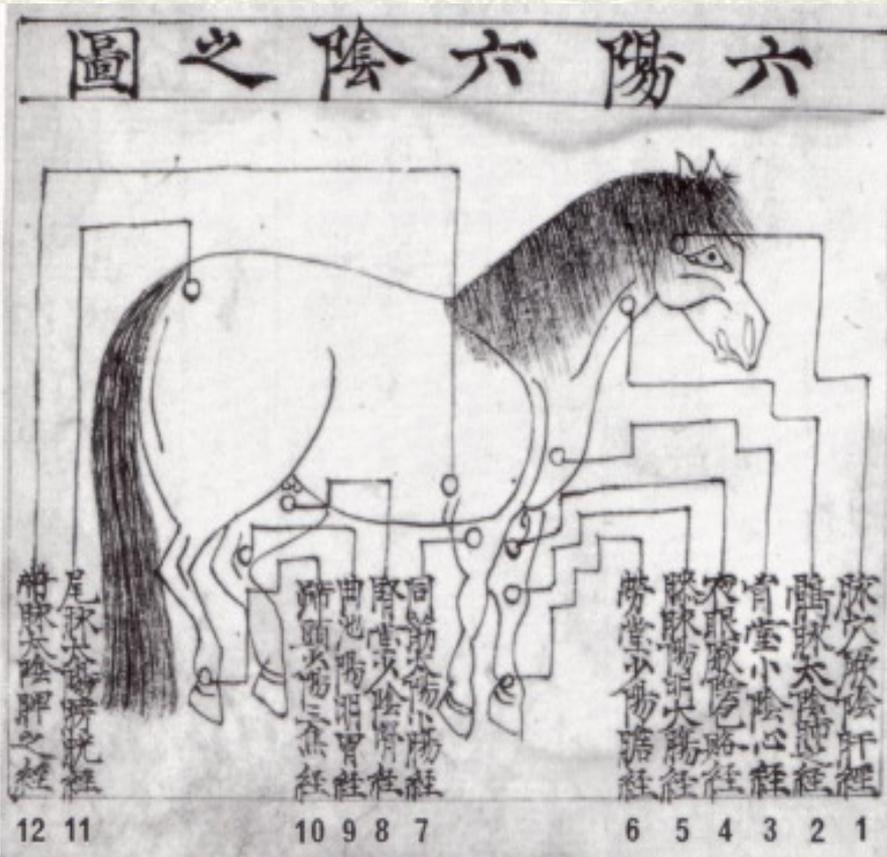
Indian traditions – 100 “marmas”

# ACUPUNCTURE: Points

- 其 A “point” is not the same thing as an “acupuncture point”
- 其 “Points” from historical Chinese drawings are not acupuncture points
  - Bleeding
  - Cauterization
  - Divination and physiognomy



# ACUPUNCTURE: Points



✦ In humans, acupuncture points were *never* in precise locations

✦ The earliest human texts contain no point charts

# ACUPUNCTURE: Points



# Points in Chinese veterinary drawings have been misidentified as acupuncture points

■ Fecal removal for colic at points

# ACUPUNCTURE: Points

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# Even Chinese art has been misinterpreted as acupuncture!

Arrowhead acupuncture?

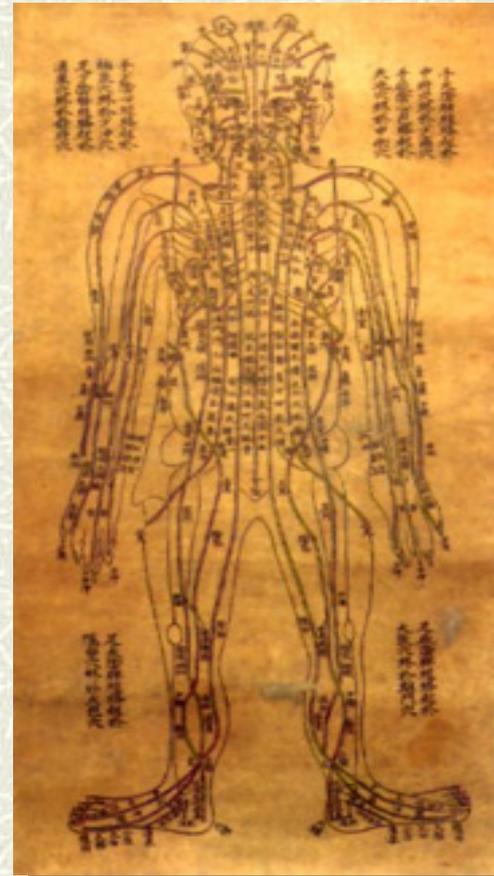




# ACUPUNCTURE: Channels

## “MERIDIANS”

- ✦ “*Meridian*” taken from geography, coined in France, 1939
- ✦ Channels through which “qi” flows
- ✦ Original Chinese “channel” references (*mai*) are to blood vessels



# ACUPUNCTURE: Channels

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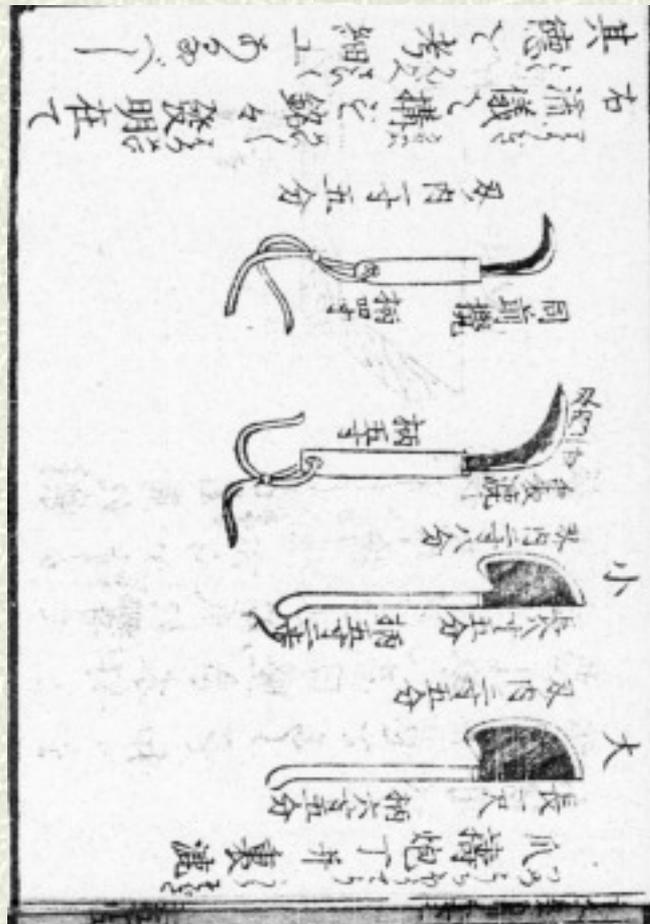
- # Early Chinese texts describe 11 *mai*, containing blood and "Qi"
  - # By late first century BC, 12 vessels described, that follow different courses than the original 11
  - # By 18th century, "original" conduits lost
  - # Western Han tomb figurine, recovered in 1993, depicted 9 channels
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# ACUPUNCTURE: Needles

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- # The common assumption is that the thin acupuncture needles used today are what was used in “needling” (*zhen*) in Chinese texts.
  - # This assumption is untrue
    - Fine needles were not used
      - Historical “needles” were larger, thicker and of cruder manufacture
      - Pounded in with hammers
    - Veterinary texts do not describe acupuncture
      - “Needles” were used for surgery, bleeding and other forms of treatment
-

# ACUPUNCTURE: Needles



# “NEEDLING”  
(*Zhen*) isn’t the  
same as  
acupuncture

- Bleeding
- Cauterization
- Surgery

17<sup>th</sup> century Japanese text,  
veterinary “needles”

# ACUPUNCTURE: Needles

✦ By the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, very little had changed!

Klide and Kung's  
Veterinary  
Acupuncture,  
University of  
Pennsylvania Press,  
1977.

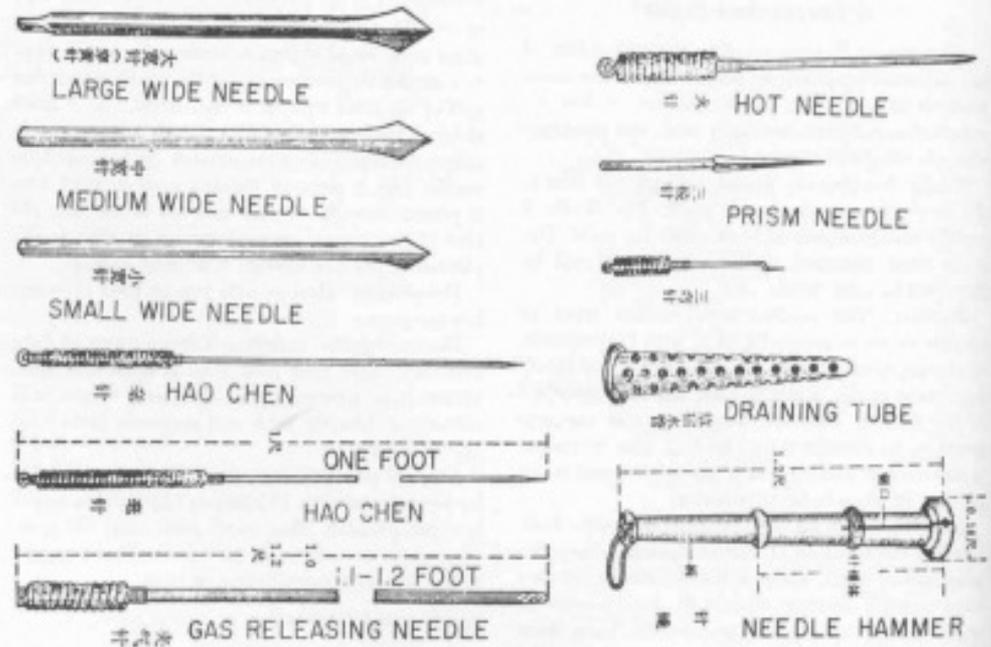


FIGURE 2-1. Drawings of commonly used Chinese veterinary needles.

# A TRUE HISTORY

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How did  
veterinary  
acupuncture get  
to be what it is  
today?

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# HUMAN ACUPUNCTURE DEVELOPMENT - China

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- # Bleeding
- # Large needles, no specific points
- # Theoretical developments
  - 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century development of the Imperial Courts
  - Practitioners did not necessarily know, nor follow, court theory
- # Fine needles (19<sup>th</sup> century)
- # Re-development and assimilation of western influences (20<sup>th</sup> century)

**Acupuncture was always a minor tradition**

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# EARLY VETERINARY WORKS

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## # *Qiminyaoshu*

- Earliest known veterinary text
- 6<sup>th</sup> century
- No acupuncture

# Veterinary references appear in other texts, such as the 11<sup>th</sup> century *Simu anjiji*, but do not reference acupuncture and cannot be reliably dated

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# 2005: 4<sup>th</sup> Historical Wave of Western Interest

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**Late 16<sup>th</sup>  
century -  
Europe**

**Early 17<sup>th</sup>  
Century -  
Europe**

**Early 19<sup>th</sup>  
century –  
Europe and  
America**

**Early 1940s –  
France**



**After each wave,  
acupuncture was abandoned**

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# Late 17<sup>th</sup> and Early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

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## ■ First reported European Contacts

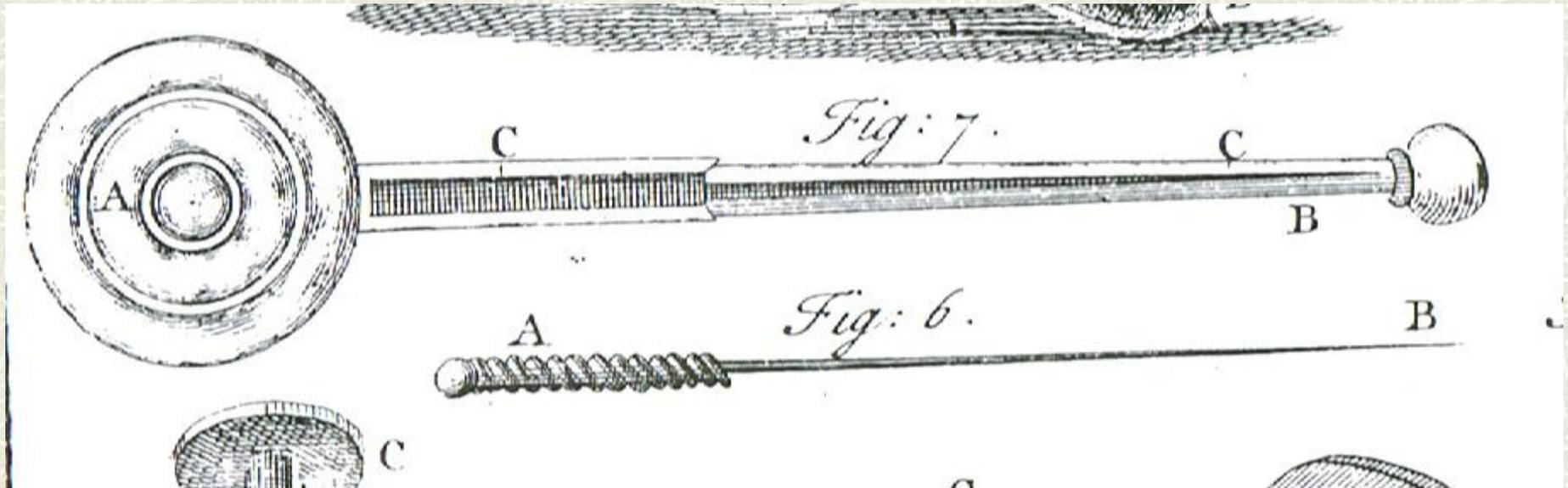
- Willem Ten Rhijne, 1683
- Englebert Kaempfer, 1712

## ■ LORENZ HEISTER

- *Chiurgie, 1719*
  - *The Needling of the Chinese and the Japanese*
  - “One wonders how such clever nations can esteem these remedies so highly”
-

# ACUPUNCTURATION - NEEDLE AND HAMMER

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From Heister, *Chiurgurie*, 1719

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# Late 17<sup>th</sup> and Early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries

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## # NOT MODERN ACUPUNCTURE

- No specific points
  - No mention of “qi” – Ten Rhijne treated “winds”
  - Large needles
    - “The needle must be long, sharp and round. It must have a spiral-grooved handle and be made of gold.” Ten Rhijne
    - Needles sometimes implanted deep – into skull or “womb”
    - Left in place for 30 respirations -
  - **Explanations [of Ten Rhijne] “not widely different from those of our own era” - *N Amer Med Surg J*, 1826**
  - **“Japanese and Chinese alike follow Hippocratic teaching” – *Ten Rhijne***
-

# 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century China – Veterinary Medicine

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## # Yuan Heng Liaoma Ji, 1609

- Bleeding
- Cauterization
- Plants and Minerals
- **NO ACUPUNCTURE**

## # I-hsüeh Yüan Liu Lun, 1759

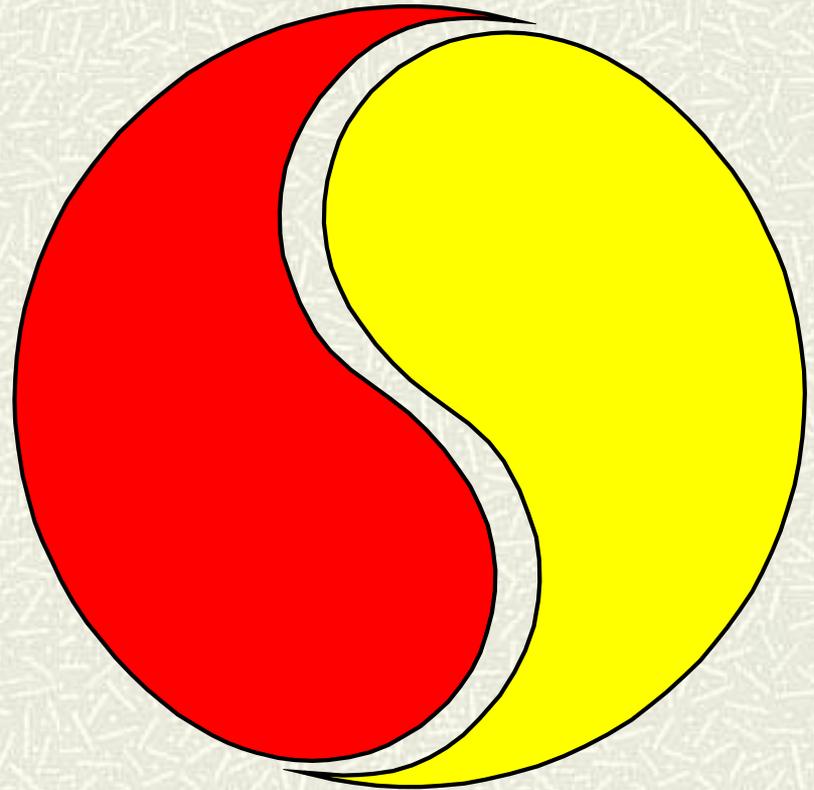
- Drugs & prescriptions
- Ancient traditions “lost”
- **NO ACUPUNCTURE**



# 19<sup>th</sup> Century - West

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- ‡ Churchill, JM, A treatise on acupuncture, England, **1822**
- ‡ Acupuncture introduced into American medicine
- ‡ Bache, Philadelphia, **1825**, reported varying successes in prisoners
- ‡ Tavernier, “*Elements of Operative Surgery*,” **1829**
- ‡ Berlioz and Cloquet, France, **1820s**
- ‡ Dunglison, **1843**, drained fluid with “acupuncture”



# 19<sup>th</sup> Century - West

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- # By the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, acupuncture was barely mentioned in western texts
  - # Gross, **1859**, *A System of Surgery*
    - *“Its advantages have been much overrated, and the practice...has fallen into disrepute”*
-

# Asian Attempts to Ban Acupuncture

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**Examination by Chinese  
Imperial Medical Academy Eliminated**

**First rejection  
China, 1822**

**China  
rejected,  
1890s**

**Revived by  
Mao, 1950s**

**1822**

**1890**

**1911**

**1920**

**1950**

**Prohibited  
in Japan  
1876**

**Last rejection,  
China, 1929**

# VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century

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### # “ACUPUNCTURATION”

- Investigated in Europe, primarily France
- neither points nor meridians described
- failed to revive drowned kittens – US, 1826

### # *The Veterinarian*, 1828

- the “sudden and magical relief which the human being has sometimes experienced has not been seen in the horse”
  - animals suffered “extreme torture” from needle insertion
-

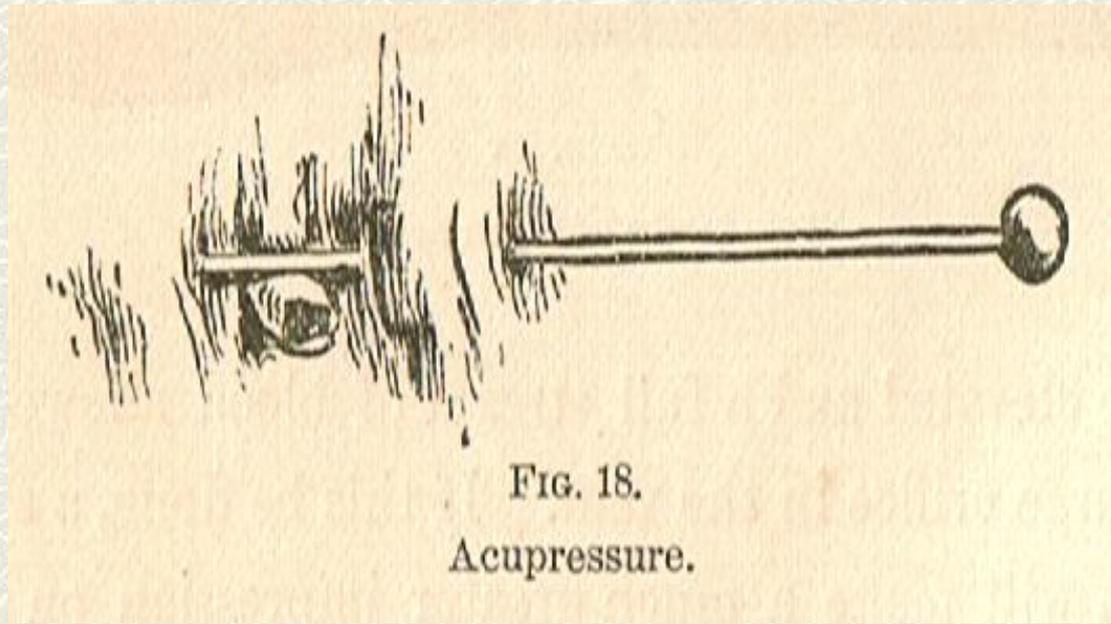
# VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century

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### # ACUPRESSURE

– A method for stopping bleeding



- Kirby, FO.  
*Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in Disease and Injuries of the Horse.*  
William Wood,  
1888.
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# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Developments

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# By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, acupuncture in both the west and east was an **insignificant** practice



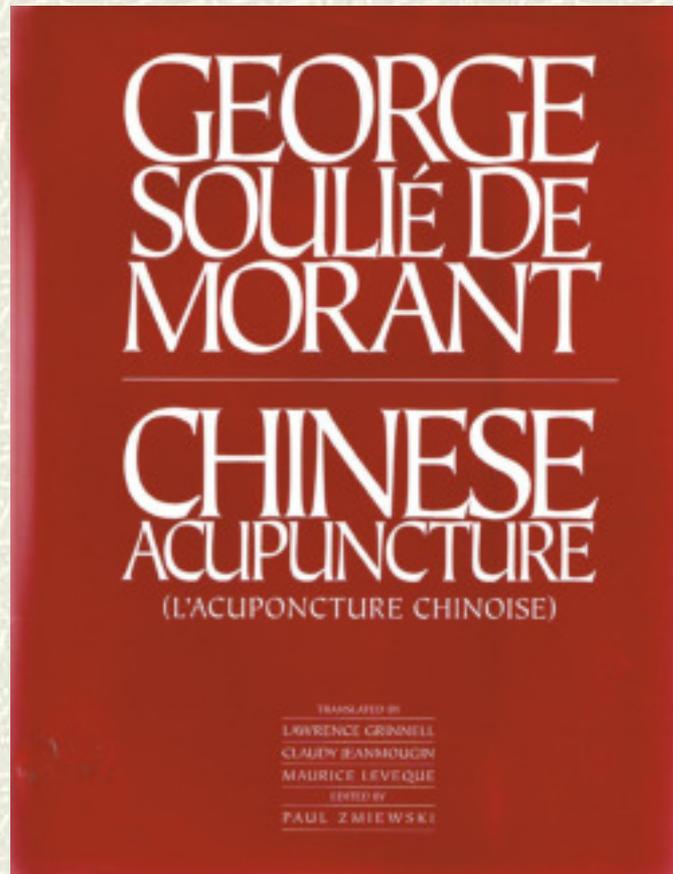
# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Developments – The Rebirth of Acupuncture

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- # Three main reasons for the re-emergence of acupuncture
    - Georges Soulié de Morant, 1939
    - Cultural Revolution, China, 1949
    - “Alternative” medicine movement of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century
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# Soulié de Morant

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- ✦ **French COUNSUL for Shanghai**
  - ✦ **Spent almost 20 years in China**
  - ✦ **Intended to study medicine – fascinated by acupuncture**
  - ✦ **Published “L’Acuponcture [sic] Chinoise,” 1939 - 1941**
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# Soulié de Morant – The Founder of Modern Western Acupuncture

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- # First to equate “qi” with “energy”
- # First to coin the term “meridian”
- # First to establish precise points
  - “Chinese...sources give brief and imprecise locations for acupuncture point locations...”
- # Created “entirely new” drawings of points and channels for people
- # Acknowledged “many kinds” of acupuncture (simple puncture, formulaic, theoretical)

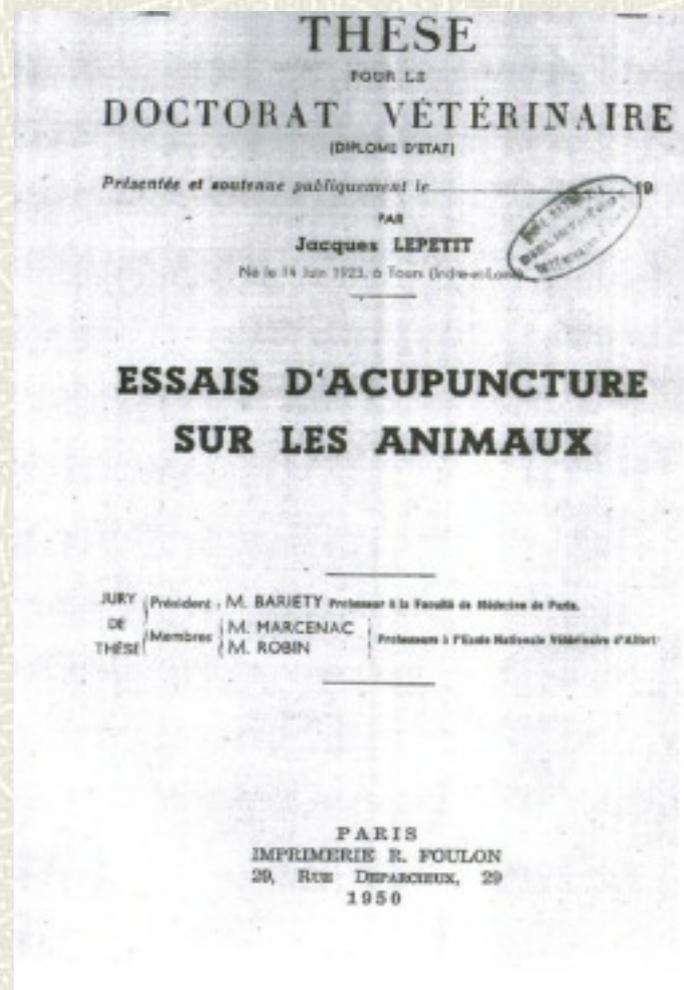
“This work exists neither in China nor Japan, but has been meticulously extracted...”

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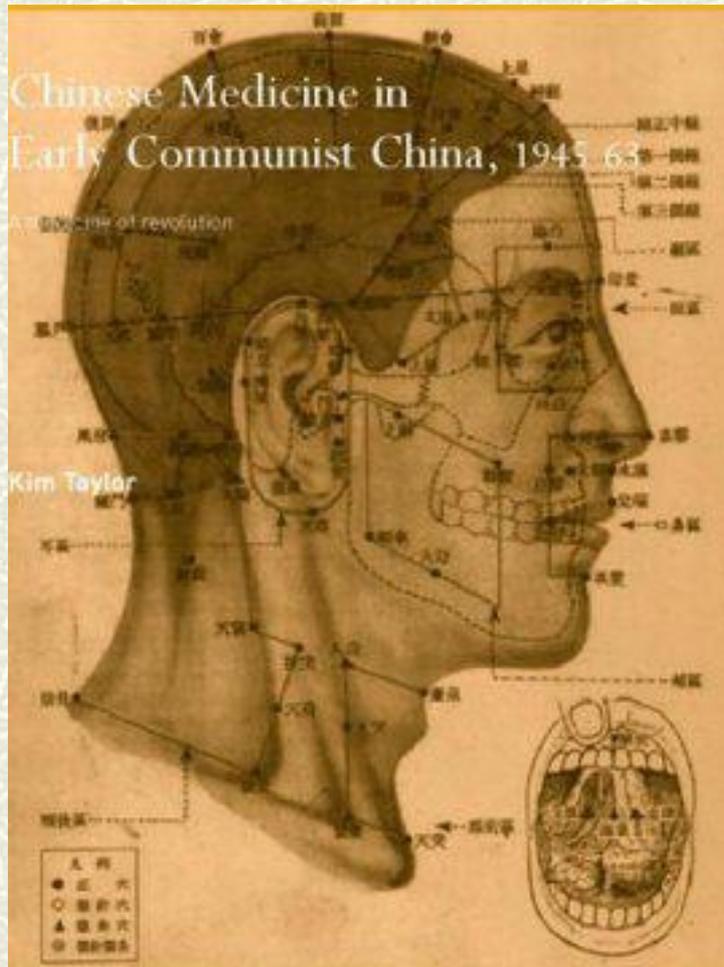
# 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS

EARLIEST evidence for current veterinary practice from 1950, in France, giving tribute to Soulié de Morant

- No mention of specific points
- No mention of precise channels

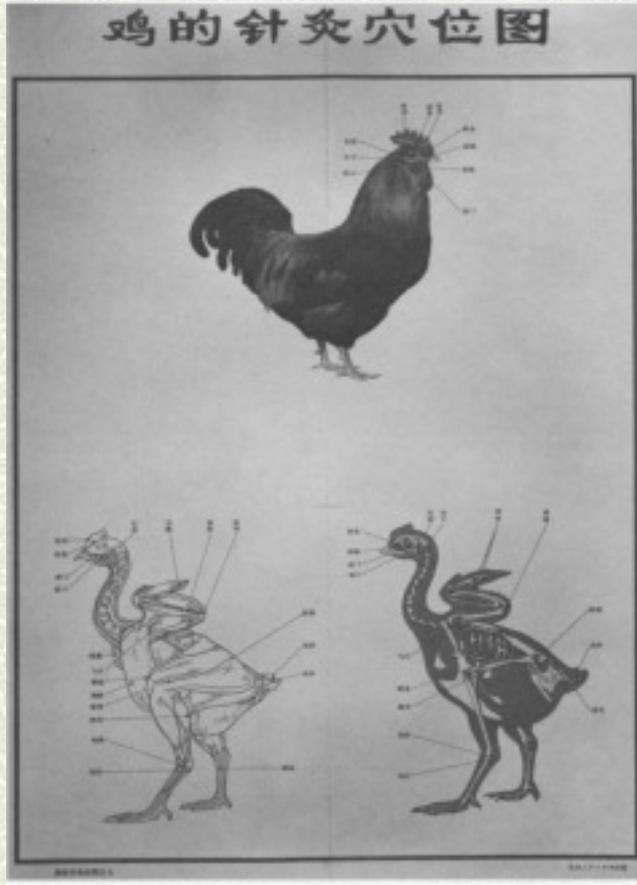


# 20<sup>th</sup> Century – Political Developments



- ✦ Acupuncture, and other traditional forms of medicine were revived in 1949, on Mao's orders.
- ✦ Theory and practice were developed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century
  - Taylor, Chinese Medicine in Early Communist China, 1945 – 63, 2005
- ✦ Nixon's visit in 1972 revived acupuncture in the west

# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Veterinary Acupuncture Innovations: Points



- # Modern veterinary acupuncture points are not originally acupuncture or even Chinese!
  - Historical point charts and modern published acupuncture charts may fail to agree on a single point of association
- # Points are “transposed” from human to animal anatomy in the late 1960s or early 1970s

**VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE POINTS ARE A MODERN INVENTION**

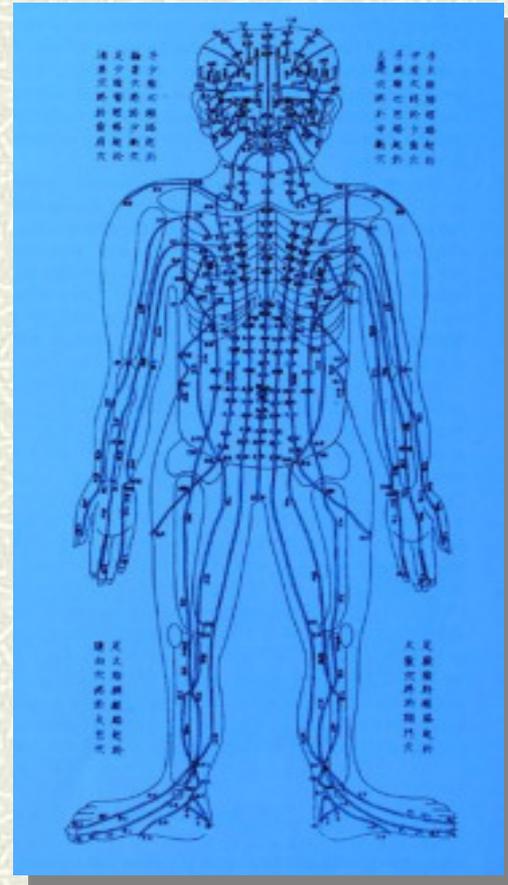
# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Vet Acupuncture

## Innovations: Channels

**Animal  
Meridians  
invented in the  
1970's**

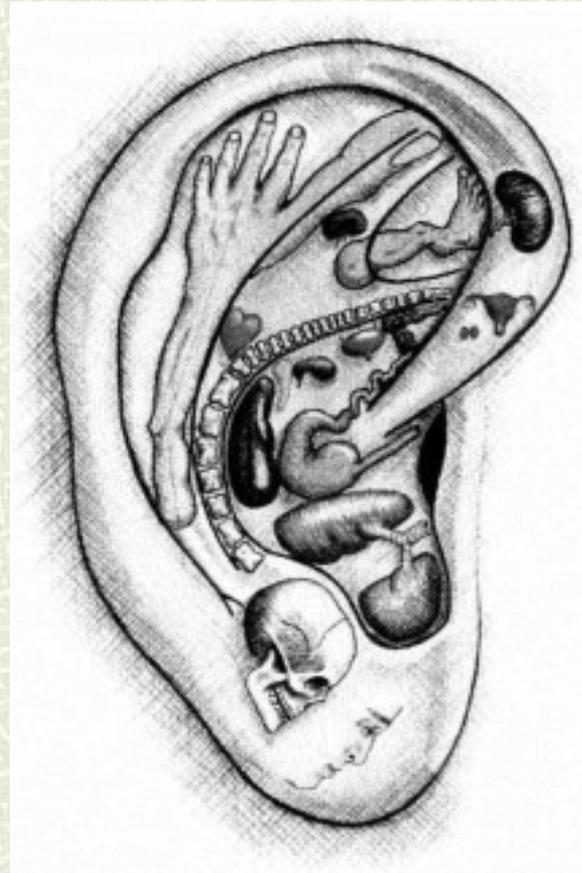
**Transposition  
from human  
charts**

**TRADITIONAL BLEEDING  
POINTS DON'T LIE ON  
MODERN CHANNELS**



# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Vet Acupuncture Innovations: Ear Acupuncture

- “Traditional Chinese therapy”  
invented by French  
physician, Dr. P.M.F.  
Nogier during the 1950s
- Based on his “sudden  
intuition” that the antihelix  
of the ear is equated with  
the human vertebral  
column “in the inverse  
direction.”



# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Vet Acupuncture Innovations: Ear Acupuncture

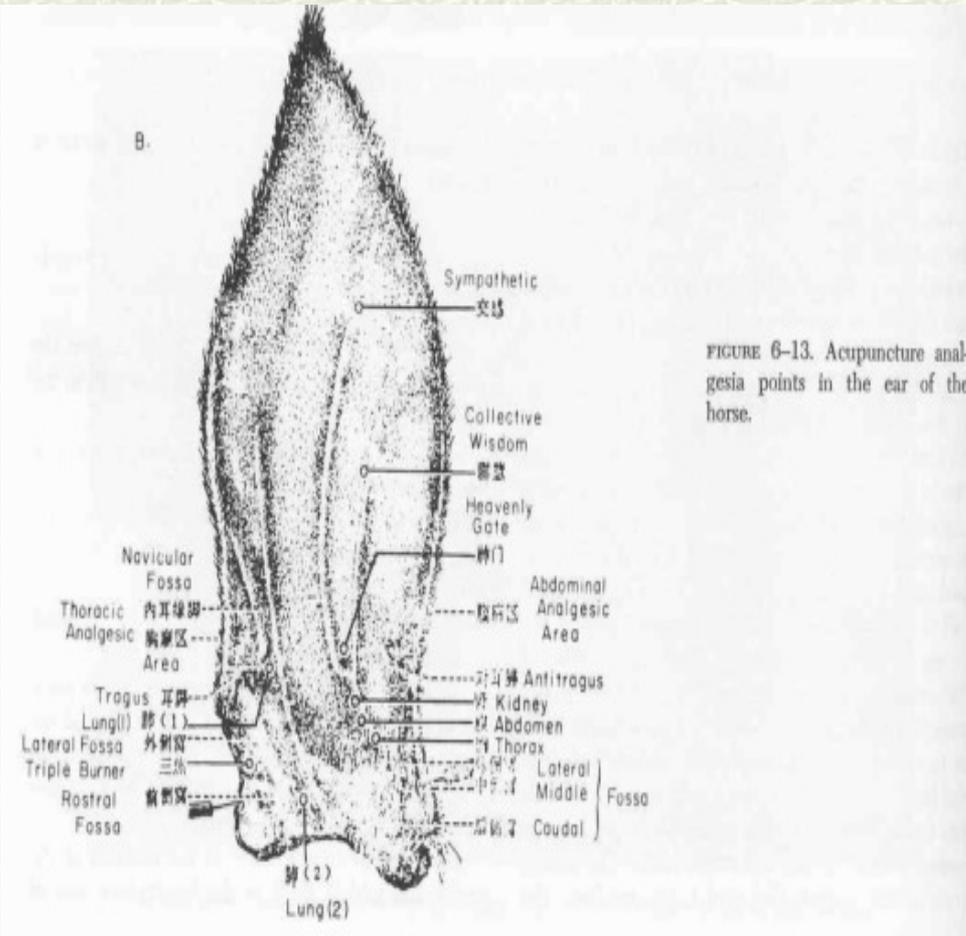


FIGURE 6-13. Acupuncture analgesia points in the ear of the horse.

# “ACUPUNCTURE ANALGESIA POINTS” IN THE EAR OF THE HORSE

# VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE – A MODERN INVENTION

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- # New! Precise points
  - # New! Fine needles
  - # New! Animal “meridians”
  - # New! Theory
  - # New! Misinterpretation of historical record  
to support modern practice
-

*Thanks  
for  
Listening!*

