

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?

Practiced for
thousands of years

Used by 20%
of the world's
population

Must use specific
points along
specific lines

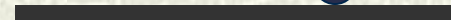
Refined through
history

An Important
Tradition of
Chinese Medicine

**EVERYTHING
YOU'VE HEARD
IS FALSE**



How's that?




ACUPUNCTURE: History

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

ACUPUNCTURE: Points



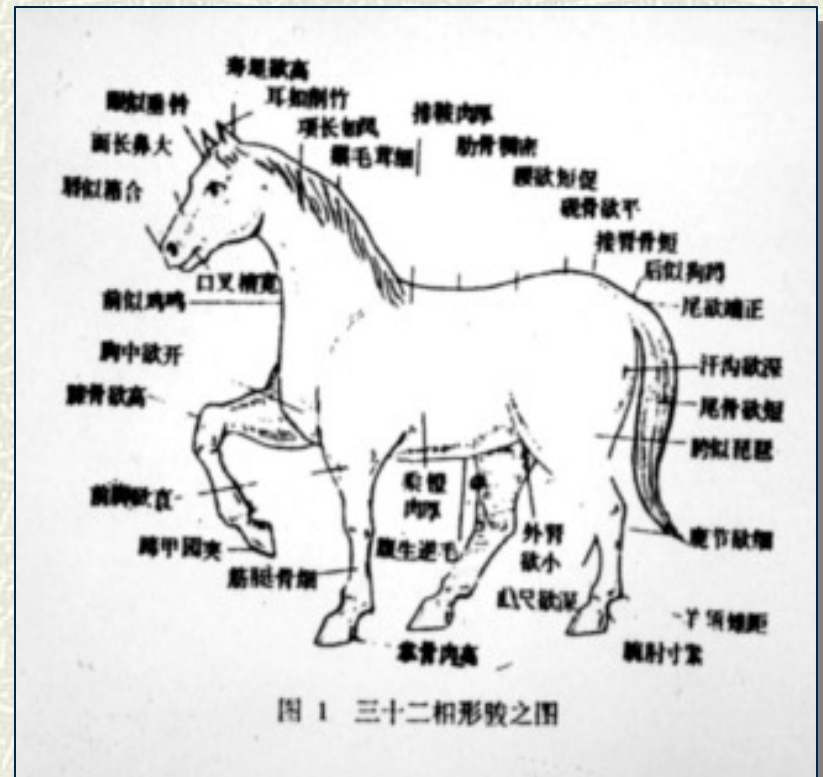
The association of points with therapeutics is neither uniquely nor originally Chinese, nor is it unique to acupuncture

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

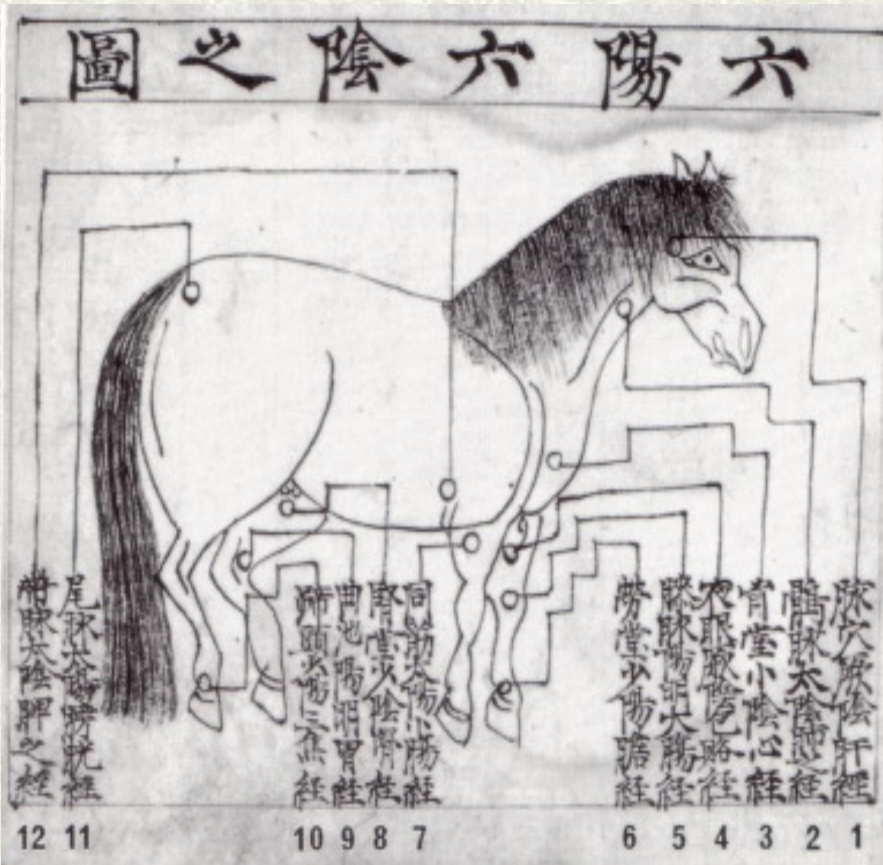
Indian traditions – 100 “marmas”

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

Even Chinese art has been misinterpreted as acupuncture!

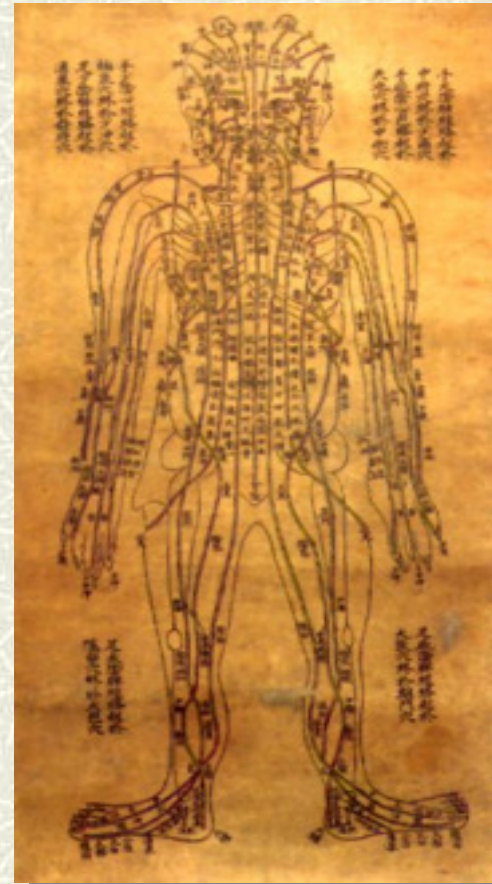
Arrowhead acupuncture?



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

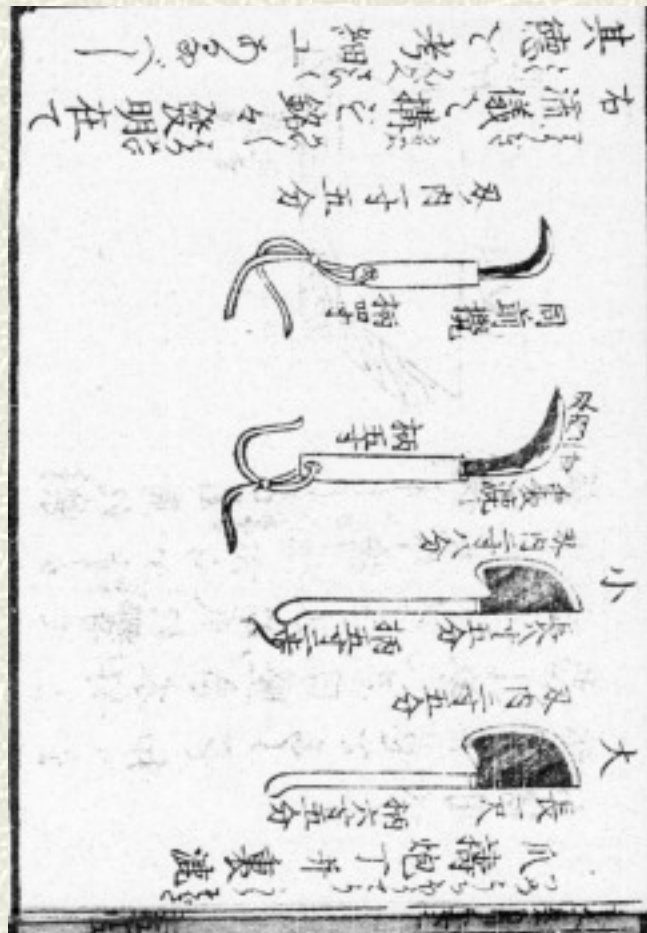


- # Early Chinese texts describe 11 *mai*, containing blood and "Qi"
 - # By late first century BC, 12 vessels described, that follow different courses than the original 11
 - # By 18th century, "original" conduits lost
 - # Western Han tomb figurine, recovered in 1993, depicted 9 channels
-

ACUPUNCTURE: Needles

- # 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

17th century Japanese text,
veterinary “needles”

ACUPUNCTURE: Needles

By the late 20th century, very little had changed!

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

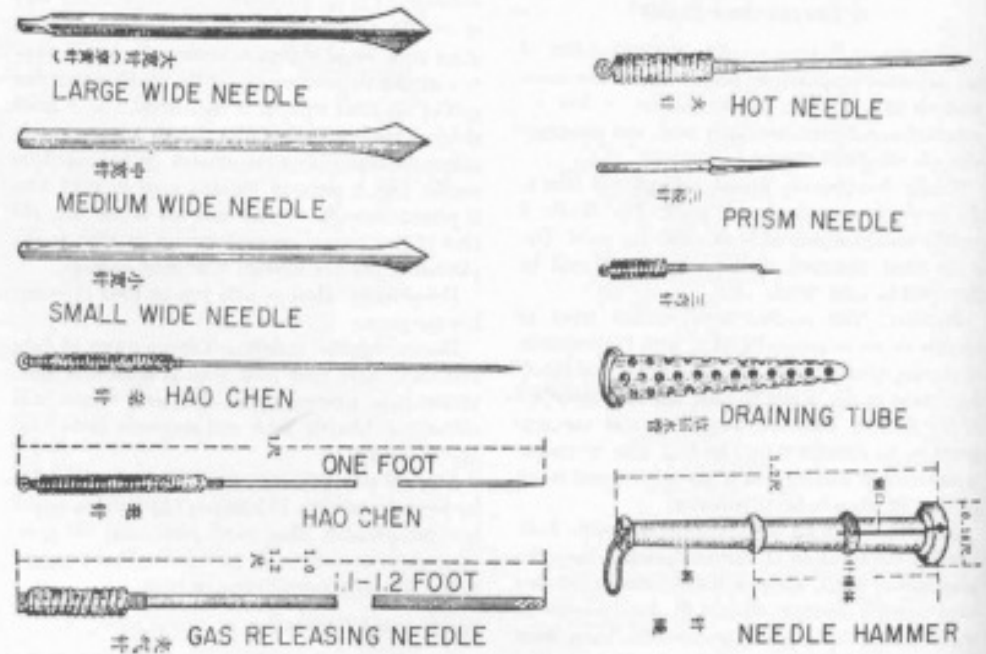


FIGURE 2-1. Drawings of commonly used Chinese veterinary needles.

A TRUE HISTORY



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

HUMAN ACUPUNCTURE DEVELOPMENT - China

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

Acupuncture was always a minor tradition

EARLY VETERINARY WORKS

Qiminyaoshu

- Earliest known veterinary text
- 6th century
- No acupuncture

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

2005: 4th Historical Wave of Western Interest

**Late 16th
century -
Europe**

**Early 17th
Century -
Europe**

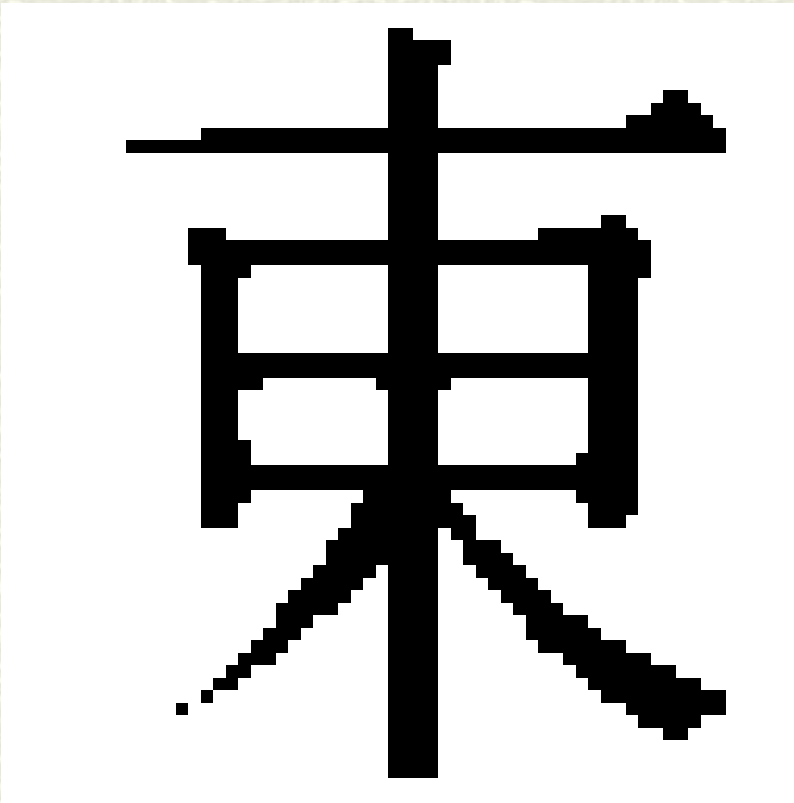
**Early 19th
century –
Europe and
America**

**Early 1940s –
France**



**After each wave,
acupuncture was abandoned**

Late 17th and Early 18th centuries



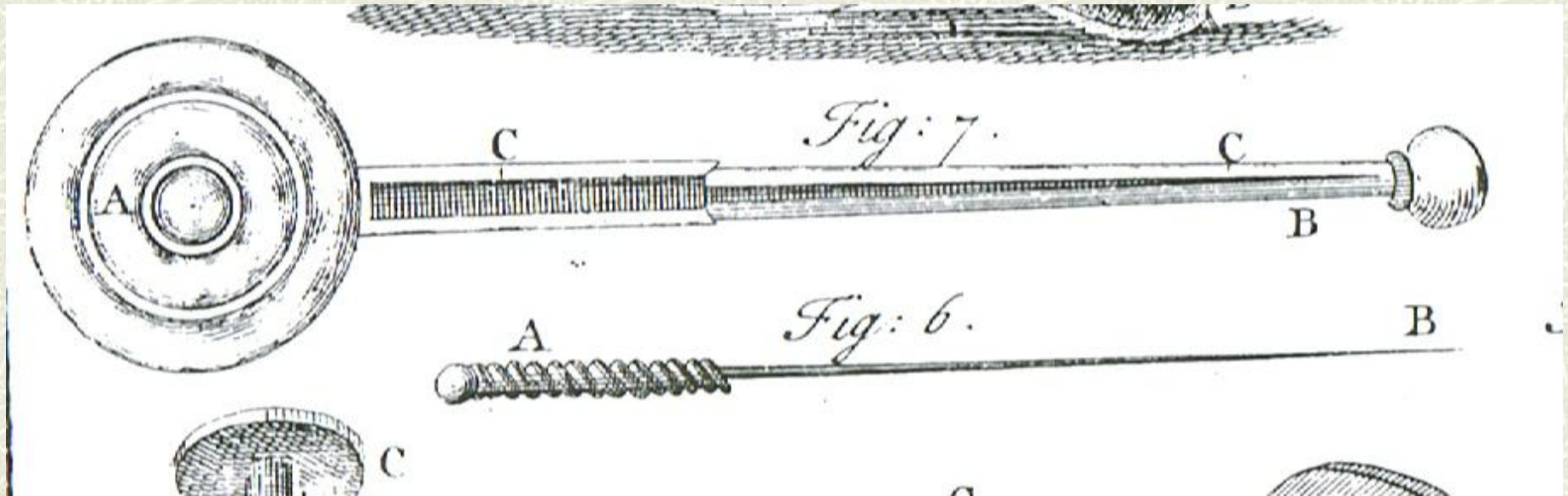
■ First reported European Contacts

- 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



From Heister, *Chiurgurie*, 1719

Late 17th and Early 18th centuries

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***
-

17th and 18th Century China – Veterinary Medicine

Yuan Heng Liaoma Ji, 1609

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

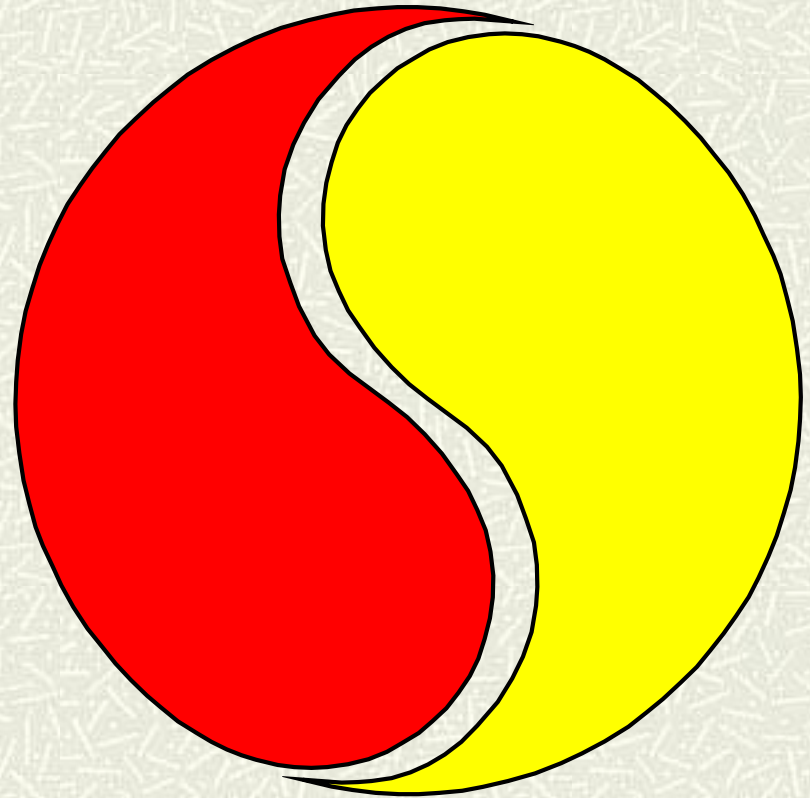
I-hsüeh Yüan Liu Lun, 1759

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



19th Century - West

- # Churchill, JM, A treatise on acupuncturation, 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”



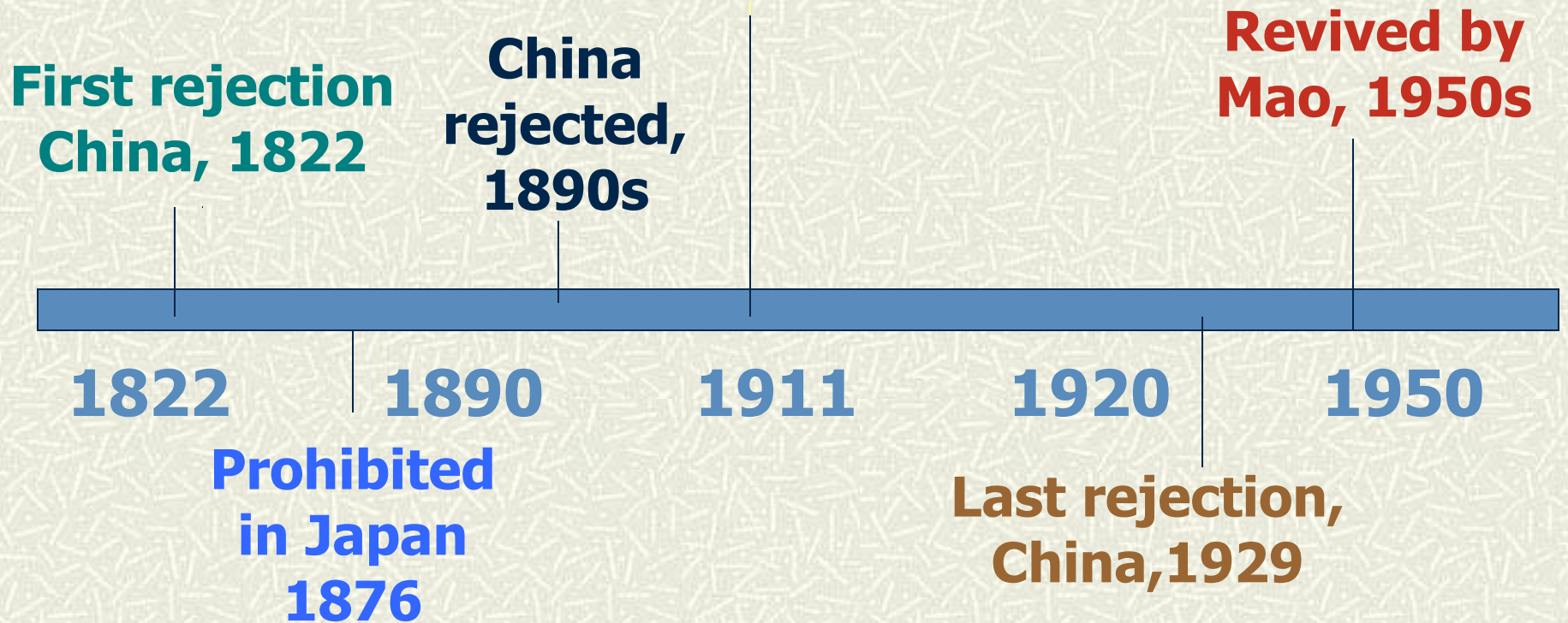
19th Century - West



- # By the mid-19th 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

**Examination by Chinese
Imperial Medical Academy Eliminated**



VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE

19th Century

“ACUPUNCTURATION”

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

The Veterinarian, 1828

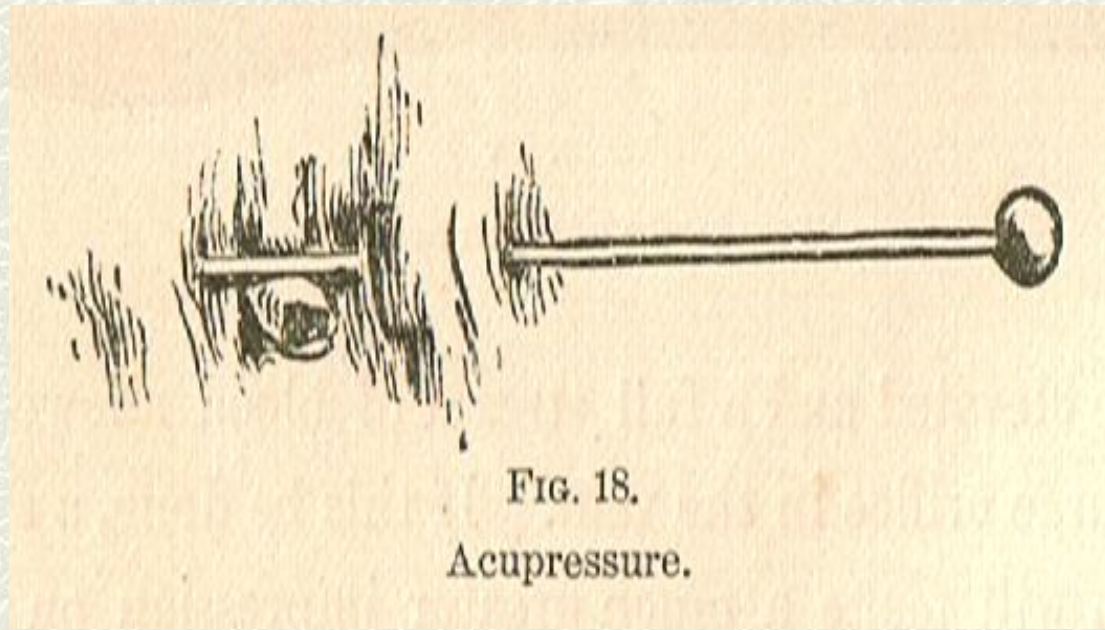
- the “sudden and magical relief which the human being has sometimes experienced has not been seen in the horse”
 - animals suffered “extreme torture” from needle insertion
-

VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE

19th Century

ACUPRESSURE

– A method for stopping bleeding



- Kirby, FO.
Veterinary Medicine and Surgery in Disease and Injuries of the Horse.
William Wood,
1888.
-

20th Century Developments

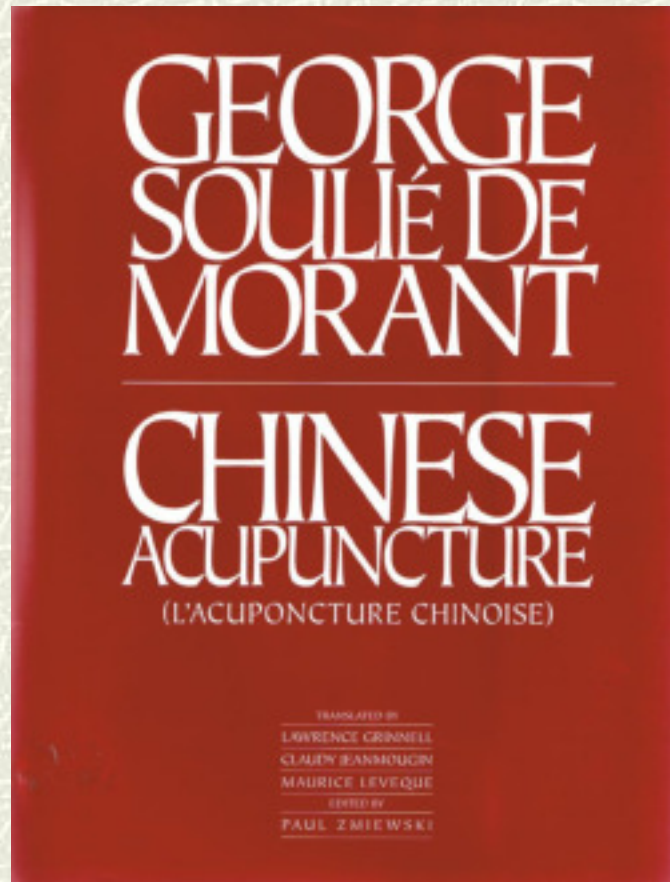
By the early 20th century, acupuncture in both the west and east was an **insignificant** practice



20th Century Developments – The Rebirth of Acupuncture

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

Soulié de Morant



- ✦ **French COUNSUL for Shanghai**
 - ✦ **Spent almost 20 years in China**
 - ✦ **Intended to study medicine – fascinated by acupuncture**
 - ✦ **Published “L’Acuponcture [sic] Chinoise,” 1939 - 1941**
-

Soulié de Morant – The Founder of Modern Western Acupuncture

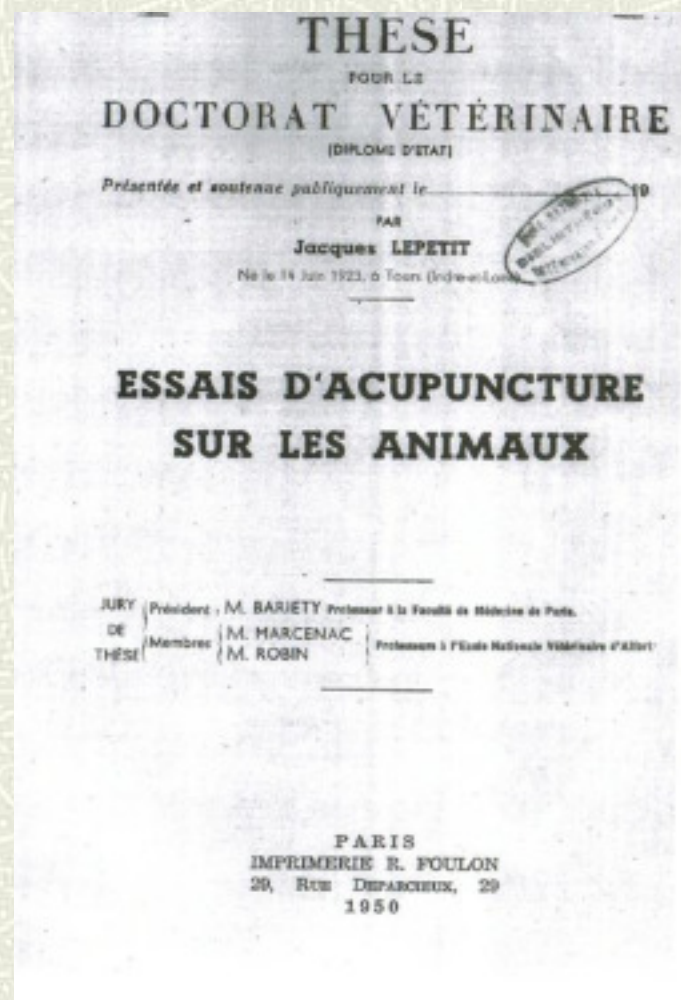
- ✦ First to equate “qi” with “energy”
- ✦ First to coin the term “meridian”
- ✦ First to establish precise points
 - “Chinese...sources give brief and imprecise locations for acupuncture point locations...”
- ✦ Created “entirely new” drawings of points and channels for people
- ✦ Acknowledged “many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

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

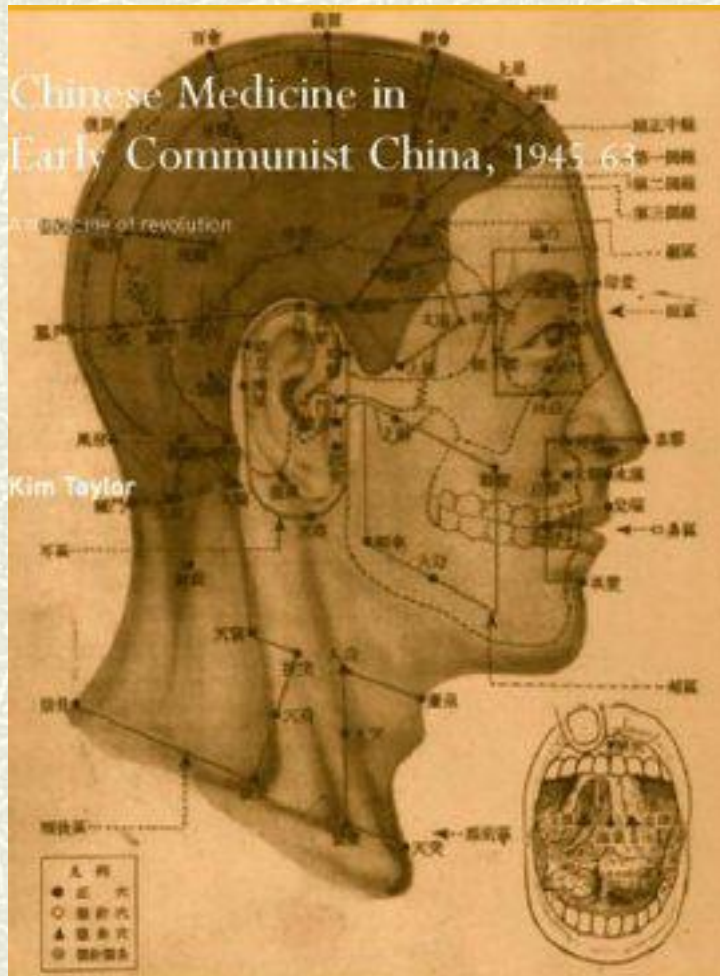
20th CENTURY DEVELOPMENTS

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



20th 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-20th century
 - Taylor, Chinese Medicine in Early Communist China, 1945 – 63, 2005
- ✦ Nixon's visit in 1972 revived acupuncture in the west

20th Century Veterinary Acupuncture Innovations: Points

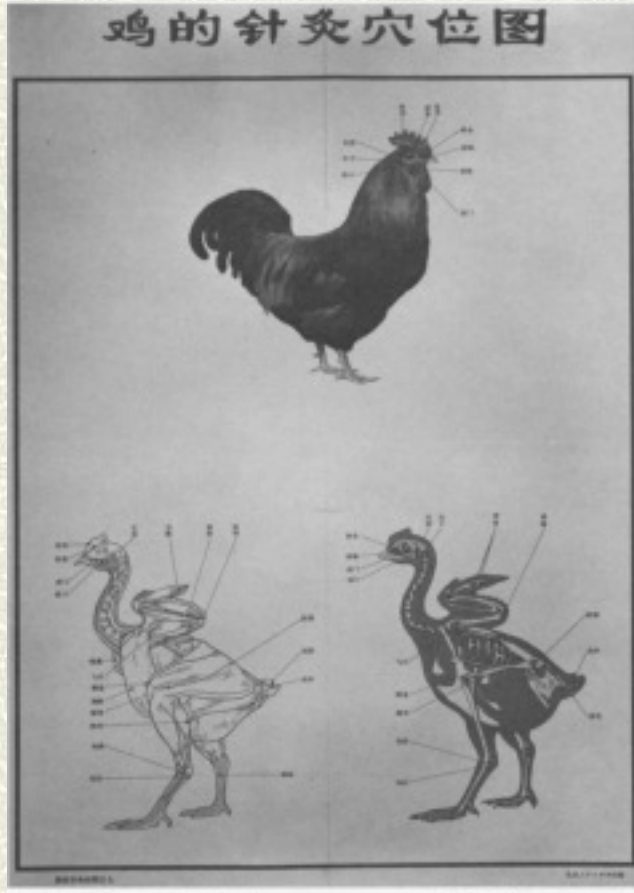


FIGURE 3-7. Modern Chinese veterinary acupuncture chart for chickens.

- # 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

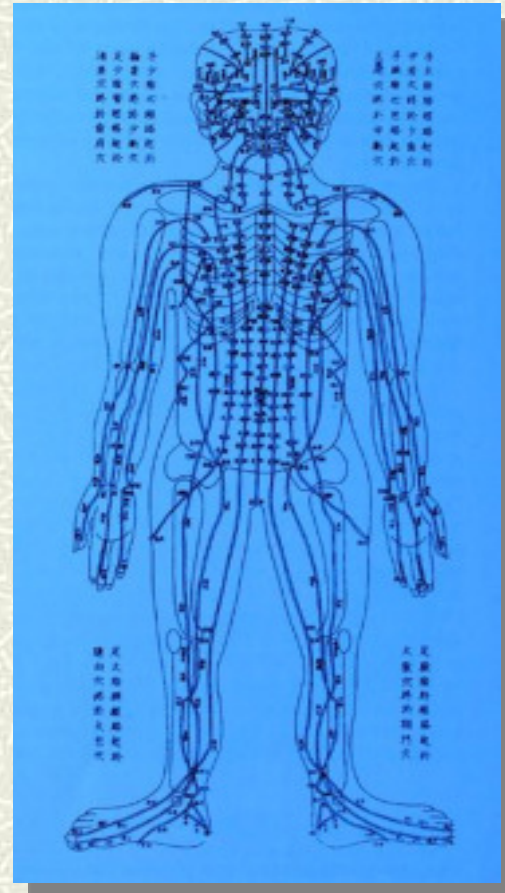
20th Century Vet Acupuncture

Innovations: Channels

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

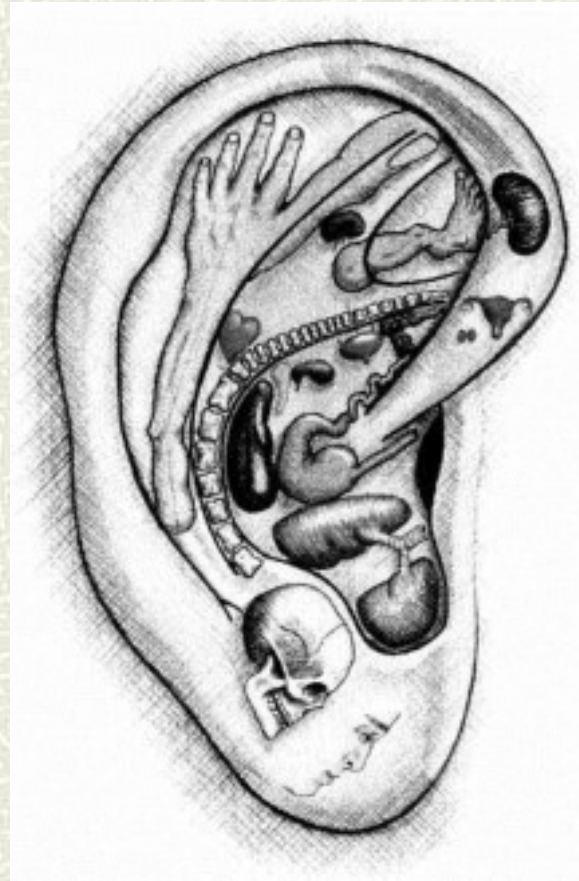
**Transposition
from human
charts**

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



20th 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.”



20th Century Vet Acupuncture Innovations: Ear Acupuncture

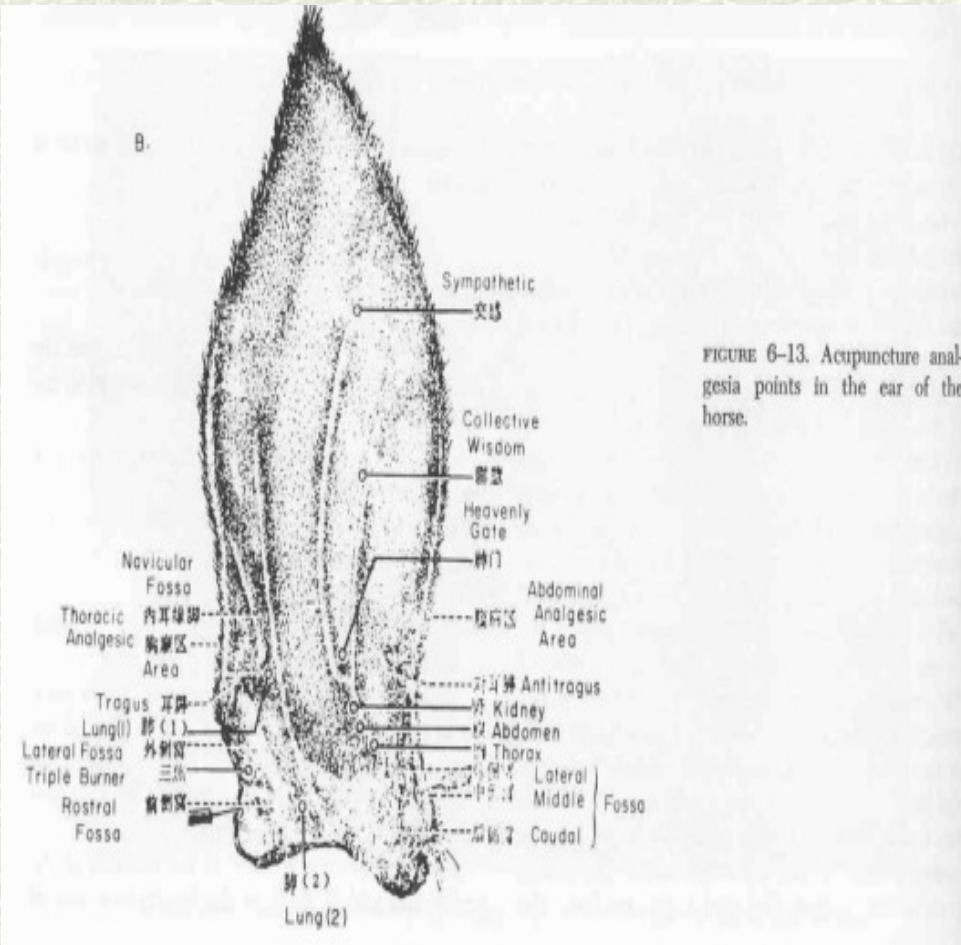


FIGURE 6-13. Acupuncture analgesia points in the ear of the horse.

“ACUPUNCTURE ANALGESIA POINTS” IN THE EAR OF THE HORSE

VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE – A MODERN INVENTION

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

*Thanks
for
Listening!*

