

# FOUR-STRINGED MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The wooden body is shaped like a half pear, and is covered with snake-skin. It is directly connected with the arm, which is provided with four strings. The end of the arm is covered with a plaque of ivory. The instrument is called *hu-po*, and is said to be used in the Palace. It is first mentioned in the Annals of the Mongol Dynasty, and the Mongols may have introduced it into China. They, on their part, might have received it from another nation, perhaps from Iran.

## PEKING, CHINA

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