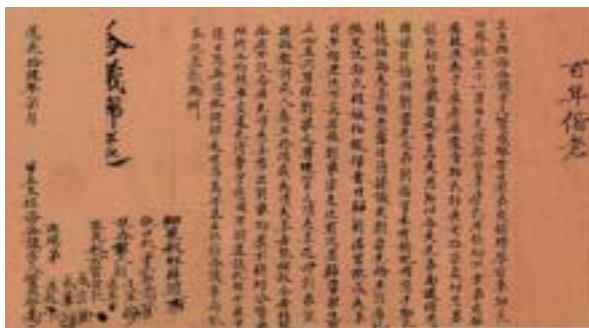


to one's birth home. Agreements covering the sale of persons include the sale of girls as slaves, the adoption of daughters, the sale of a son for adoption by another family, and even the sale of a wife for betrothal money. Other documents include notifications seeking runaway adopted daughters, and documents for the relinquishment of inheritance rights to prevent conflicts resulting from the marriage of a servant later registered as an adopted daughter.



Agreement specifying terms for the marriage of a daughter (signed in 1891)



A marriage agreement signed in 1835

These types of folk agreements differ from general land contracts in their simplicity and because most were written on red or yellow cloth or paper, as opposed to the plain white paper used almost exclusively for land contracts.

These private exchange agreements serve as a record of daily life, society and customs in Taiwan in earlier times seen from the vantage of the common people, painting a portrait of the patriarchal society of those times. As such, they provide an important resource for the study of early society in Taiwan.

The exhibition was held from July 4, 2006 to February 28, 2007 at the National Central Library's Rare Books Room.

■ Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair Comes to Taichung

On May 31, 2006, the Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau hosted the Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair and inaugurated an e-book activity. The fair, hosted by Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea on a rotational basis, brought together poets of the three countries for poetry book exchanges. The event featured the manuscripts of 78 poets along with the signature, photograph and introduction of the author. The event was coordinated with the "Creating a World of Reading in Taichung: 24-hour Reading in Taichung" invitation for e-book contributions—one of the events organized for the 2006 City Reading series of activities. The public enthusiastically participated in the event, contributing works of poetry and painting for display in digital format and offering a new

reading experience. During the opening ceremony for the e-book event, Taichung Mayor Huang Kuo-jung was joined by poets from Japan and Korea in breaking an ice sculpture in the shape of a book, symbolizing the breaking of traditional concepts about reading. The poetry book display during the Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair also toured National Taichung First Senior High School, National Chung Hsing University, National Taichung Library, and Tunghai University. A symposium on modern poetry was also held in conjunction with the display at the hosting campuses.

The First East Asian Poetry Book Fair was held in Seoul, Korea. Now in its ninth year, the event is a major occasion in Taiwan's literary circles. (Chinese text adapted from The Epoch Times 2006/6/01)



The opening ceremony of the Ninth East Asian Poetry Book Fair and e-book activity (Photo provided by Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau)

CCS News and Activities

■ CCS Seminars

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) invited Finnish doctoral candidate Jyrki Kallio of the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Helsinki, to present a lecture on *Guwen Guanzhi*, the early Qing anthology of Chinese prose, on June 7, 2006. Held in conjunction with an academic symposium hosted by the NCL, the lecture was presided by Prof. Fang Yu of the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University.

Mr. Kallio offered an in-depth analysis of the context in which *Guwen Guanzhi* was produced and compared it with other anthologies published at that time. He also speculated on the intention and thinking of the authors based on their exclusions of certain works from the Jin, Liao, Yuan and Qing periods.

Mr. Kallio has also published a Finnish translation of *Guwen Guanzhi*. (Chinese text by Kao Te-er)



Mr. Jyrki Kallio (second from left, front row) and symposium participants (Photo by Caesar Tsai)