

Five public seminars were organized during the exhibition period. There were also various prize activities as well as online games, age-specific learning activities and knowledge tests. The activities were aimed at promoting awareness of the beauty of Taiwan, introducing the public to reading resources, increasing understanding of the historic figures, historic sites and ecology of townships throughout Taiwan, and cultivating interest in lifelong learning. (Chinese text by Chien Chia-hsing)

■ NCL Hosts Special Exhibition on History of Books

The NCL hosted a special exhibition presenting the history and beauty of books on October 31, 2006. The exhibit, entitled "The History of Books," focused on ancient books in the NCL collection, including rare books from the Song, Yuan and Ming dynasties, classic works from the Southern and Northern Dynasties, Sui and Tang periods, manuscripts by famous authors, and bronze inscription rubbings. The exhibition also featured a number of modern titles, giving visitors a chance to learn more about the evolution of books over the ages.



Displays at the History of Books Exhibition



A Ming period five-color chromatograph edition of Liang dynasty author Liu Hsieh's *Wen-xin diao-long*, from the NCL collection.



A Ming edition of the *Jin-shi kun-chong cao-mu zhuang* with illustrations by Wen Chu. This color manuscript has been dated from 1617 to 1620

The exhibition offered the public a rare glimpse at literary treasures normally tucked away in climate and temperature controlled rooms at the NCL. Among the volumes was a Ming period five-color chromatograph edition of Liang dynasty author Liu Hsieh's *Wen-xin diao-long*. Printed in red, black, purple, blue and green, it is the only five-color volume in the NCL rare books collection. The main text was printed in block-type script and the critique section was printed with a more freehand style script, adding further to the beauty of the work.

Exhibits were arranged according to book type, material, printing, binding and layout, format, and future developments. Printing media in the first category included stone, pottery shards, animal bones, tortoise shells, bronze vessels, bamboo and wood, silk fabric, and paper. Printing methods represented ranged from hand inscriptions, manuscripts and wood block prints to movable type, chromatograph, lithographic and photoengraving printing. Among the binding and layout methods represented were historical bamboo slips strung together, scrolls, leaves, "Sutra fold" (accordion) binding, butterfly fold binding, double-leaved binding, and thread binding, as well as more modern paperback and hardback binding techniques.

The exhibition also featured materials chronicling major book developments, printing techniques and paper-making techniques, and book formats across the centuries, opening a window to the beauty and culture of books.

CCS News and Activities

■ *CCS Seminars*

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) held two seminars this summer, one on July 26 and the other on August 29, 2006. At the first seminar, CCS visiting scholar Uffe Bergeton presented a paper on "The Concepts of 'Pure' and 'Impure' in Confucianist Reclusive Thought." The seminar was hosted by Assistant Professor Wim de Reu of the Department of Philosophy, National Taiwan University. Mr. Bergeton, a doctoral candidate at the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture, University of Southern California, believes that while Daoist reclusives have a prominent place in Chinese history, reclusive thought among Confucianists also played an important role. Confucianists and Daoists both used the word "recluse," but its meaning varied widely between the two schools. To Daoists, seclusion was considered the preferred path in life, whereas Confucianists viewed it as a necessary though imperfect solution for maintaining one's virtue. The paper noted that in many languages around the world the words "pure" or "clean" and "impure" or "fouled" are metaphors for "good" and "bad," respectively. In pre-Chin times, Confucianists generally sought official positions to promote the so-called "grand way." Yet when the government was too corrupt, one was expected to resign from official duties and live as a recluse to prevent soiling their purity. Ideas of "purity" also varied among Confucianists. For Confucius and Mengzi, the concept and act of purity involved a degree of religious significance, whereas Xunzi emphasized the practical considerations of society in his interpretation of "purity."

The second seminar featured two keynote speakers: Professor Lai Chi-Kong of the School of History, Philosophy, Religion and Classics at the University of Queensland in Australia; and Professor Peter J. Carroll of the Department of History at