

■ *Exhibition of Publications Banned during the Period of Martial Law*

As long as there have been books there has been book banning, even though it has never been an effective tool for creating and maintaining order. Taiwan enacted martial law in 1949 and passed the Publication Law in June 1958. These measures, along with the "Newspaper, Magazine and Book Control Act during the Period for Suppression of the Communist Rebellion" underpinned the government's strict suppression of dissent and freedom of speech for nearly 40 years. Many years have passed since Taiwan lifted martial law and abrogated the Publishing Law.

To mark the 20th anniversary of the end of martial law this year, the NCL is holding" an "Exhibition of Publications Banned during the Period of Martial Law." The exhibition serves as a retrospective of a bygone era and a window to further understanding the progress of democracy in Taiwan.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was held at 2:00 on July 14, 2007, in the International Conference Room on the third floor of the NCL. The ceremony will begin with a performance of banned songs by the National Experimental Chorus, such as "Mending the Broken Net" and "When Will the Gentlemen Return," musically recalling the political climate in Taiwan in earlier times.

The touring exhibition was held from July 14 to



President Chen Shui-bian (second from left), Vice President Hsiu-lien Annette Lu (far left) visit the exhibition (Photo by Yen Wen-ing)

October 31, 2007, at the following six venues:

North Taiwan: National Central Library (7/14~7/31); Hsinchu Social Education Center (8/10~8/2)

Central Taiwan: National Museum of Natural Science (8/28~9/9);

South Taiwan: National Tainan Social Education Center (9/14~9/26); National Science and Technology Museum (10/2~10/14)

East Taiwan: National Taitung Social Education Center (10/19~10/31)



Exhibition poster



Banned books and magazines

The exhibition will focus on books and magazines banned during the period of martial law. The displays are arranged into five sections on the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and books forged by the Chinese communists, with nearly 200 publications in all. An exhibition catalog will also be available for visitors. (Chinese text by Chien Chia-hsing)

CCS News and Activities

■ Academic Symposiums at the Center for Chinese Studies

The Center for Chinese Studies hosted two academic symposiums on June 6 and August 1, respectively inviting Dr. David McCraw of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures of University of Hawaii at Manoa and Dr. Shu-hui Wu of the History Department of Mississippi State University to be speakers.

Dr. McCraw was the speaker for the June 6 symposium, lecturing on "Zhuangzi Rhymes and Its Textual Strata." Dr. Dah-an Ho of the Institute of Linguistics of the Academia Sinica was invited to act as host for this symposium. In his paper, Dr. McCraw applied the Multidimensional Scaling method and analyzed that *Zhuangzi* is in actuality quite distant from "Chu rhymes" literatures such as *Laozi*, *Guanzi's* *Neiye*, and *Chuci*. The notion of "Chu rhymes" is not a very useful tool for understanding literatures from the Warring States Period. In fact, *Zhuangzi* is more closely related to the *Spring and Autumn Annals*. The *Spring and Autumn Annals* is a collective literary work from the late Chin and early Han periods; it is a representation of knowledge from scholars of different parts of northern China. As such, it is very likely that *Zhuangzi* is also a collective literary work of scholars from the north.