



*The Exhibition of French Rare Books and Books on France
(Photo by Pinery S. Wu)*

Exhibition of First Issue Periodicals in Taiwan (1945-1987)

The years between the end of World War II in 1945 and the lifting of martial law in 1987 represented an important period in the history of Taiwan, especially in the areas of politics, economics, literature, leisure and the development of local consciousness.

Periodicals are usually the first channels by which news and R&D achievements are announced. They also are important media for reporting on contemporary culture, society, technology and other events. Because they are issued regularly, they are able to reflect current events and the political and economic developments in a timely manner. As a result, they present a vivid portrait of Taiwan during this critical period, as well as provide a compass for the country's future.

The NCL held the "In the Forefront of Change: Periodical First Issues (1945-1987)" exhibition from October 6 to November 10, 2007, to broaden public

awareness of the changes, history and content of Taiwanese periodicals published between 1945 and 1987. More than 200 first edition periodicals were on display, including magazines on humanities and thought, political commentary, local documents, and culture and arts.



*Minister of Education Tu Cheng-sheng (second from left) and Minister of the Government Information Office Hsieh Chih-wei (far left) presented speeches at the opening ceremony of the exhibition. Minister of Education supervisor Mr. Wang Wen-lu (far right), Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan) president Huang Hung-chu (second from right) and NCL Director General Huang Kuan-chung (center) also attended the opening ceremony.
(Photo by Jhang, Bo-huei)*



Exhibition entrance (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

In addition to displaying print editions, the exhibition included online resources enabling visitors to browse the full content of the periodicals as well as view related videos and lecture content. (Chinese text by Lin Shu-fen)



*Displays at the On the Forefront of Change Exhibition
(Photo by Pinery S. Wu)*

Exhibition on Rare Book Reproductions

During the Ming and Qing periods, many Yuan and Song dynasty books were reproduced by hand to preserve these increasingly rare works. Today, improvements in printing technology have enabled preservation of these works through photocopying. In addition, a movement to restore ancient ways during the Jiaqing reign period (1522~1566), led to multiple block-print reproductions of Song and Yuan editions.

The National Central Library (NCL) has a large collection of rare books, including Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing period rare books and general string-bound volumes. Song and Yuan volumes comprise the greater part of the rare book collection. There is also a large number of Ming collected works as well as hand-written and block-print reproductions, most of

them quite old and rare. They are also valued by scholars for the refinement of their reproduction technique and their detail annotations. The NCL carefully preserves these works and also makes them available to scholars for research and republication to enable broader access to these materials and promote Chinese culture.



*(Song) Dong-du shi-lu (Digest of Events at the Eastern Capital), Wang Chen, Shaoxi reign period (1190~1194).
Meishan Chengshe Renzhai edition.*



*(Song) Dong-du shi-lu (Digest of Events at the Eastern Capital), Wang Chen, block-print reproduction of the
Meishan Chengshe Renzhai edition.*