

Exhibitions

■ *Exhibition Records Taiwan's 400-year Currency History*

The "Century Taiwan, World Trading Center—World Currencies of Taiwan" Spring Exhibition was held at the Cultural Affairs Bureau of the Taoyuan County Government on January 30 to February 24, 2008.

Planned by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the exhibition displayed ancient coins, rare books, old bonds and other precious historic relics accumulated over the years by collector Mr. Chien Yi-hsiung. The display presented a portrait of Taiwan's development over the centuries, back to the island's emergence as a major Asian and world trading center in the 17th century. The coins and other antiquities on display covered the various major periods of Taiwan's development, including the periods of rule under the Dutch colonial government, Cheng Cheng-kung's administration, the Cing government, Taiwan Republic, Japanese occupation period, and period after Taiwan's liberation. Currencies from over 20 countries are represented, including coins from the Netherlands, Spain, Austria, the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Japan, and Mexico. The exhibit also offers an eye-opening look at how the shapes and designs of local and foreign coins have evolved over time.

■ *Kinmen Book Fair Serves Up a Cultural Banquet*

The Cultural Affairs Bureau of Kinmen County and Industrial Development Foundation

jointly organized the 2008 Wujhou Cultural Banquet Book Fair from February 2 to 17, 2008, at Jincheng Junior High School. Over 50,000 books were on display for local civilians and soldiers to enjoy a literary Lunar New Year holiday.

The book fair was divided into a theme area and good book area. The former highlighted high-quality publications from the Government Information Office (GIO), winners of the GIO's Golden Tripod Award, various culture and art books published by the Council for Cultural Affairs, and publications of the Cultural Affairs Bureau of Kinmen County. The good book area displayed a variety of excellent books published over the past two years, including children's books and books on preschool, children's and home education, as well as publications by various government cultural agencies.

CCS News and Activities

■ *International Conference on the Cultural Interpretations of Mobility*

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS), College of Liberal Arts at National Taiwan University, College of Liberal Arts at National Chung Hsing University, and Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy at Academia Sinica convened the International Conference on the Cultural Interpretations of Mobility at the National Central Library (NCL) on March 26 to 28, 2008. The conference was joined by Prof. Peter K. Bol and Prof. Wai-ye Li of the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University; Prof. Robert P. Weller of the Department of Anthropology at Boston University;

Prof. Stephen H. West of Arizona State University; Prof. Emma Teng of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. David Holm of the Confucius Institute at the University of Melbourne; Prof. Kozo Kawai of Tokyo University; Prof. Tatsuhiro Seno of Chuo University; Prof. Rong Xinjiang of the Department of History at Peking University; and Taiwan area scholars. A total of 26 papers on traditional Chinese society were delivered at the conference, including studies in the fields of literature, history, anthropology and religion on such subjects as immigration, colonialism, exile, banishment, travel, exploration, religious journey's, merchants, garrisoned troops, and diplomatic missions.

Conference website: <http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/ccs/conference2007/welcome.htm>.



Poster for the International Conference on the Cultural Interpretations of Mobility

■ CCS Seminars

Two visiting scholars presented lectures during two academic seminars held by the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) on November 21 and December 17, 2007. Dr. Halvor Eifring of Norway presented the first lecture on the psychological composition of the *Dream of the Red Chamber*;



(Front row from left to right: Prof. Wang San-ching, Prof. Halvor Eifring, Prof. Kang Lai-hsin, and Prof. Kao Kui-hui)

and US Doctoral candidate Chang Le-hsiang presented an analysis of the Qing system of awarding official appointments based on donations to the government.

The lecture by Dr. Eifring, a professor of the Department of East European and Oriental Studies at the University of Oslo, was presided by Prof. Kang Lai-hsin of the Department of Chinese Literature, National Central University. Prof. Eifring's talk focused on the psychological factors and conflicts present in the structure of the *Dream of the Red Chamber*. He found that the novel has an extremely tight structure with mutually reflective relationships weaving the characters and events together. This type of structural relationship often presents deeper psychological elements than the specific content of the novel itself. There are many autobiographical elements in the *Dream of the Red Chamber*. Early resources indicate that the characters of the novel are fictitious and do not directly represent actual people. It is therefore likely, Dr. Eifring concludes, that the success of the *Dream of the Red Chamber* in penetrating into the psychological realm is a product of the greater room allowed by the fictional context of the story, enabling the author to deeply explore his own psychological reactions and inner contradictions.