



*Speakers representing various memory programs (from left to right): Dr. Patrick Mok of the Centre of Asian Studies at the University of Hong Kong; Ms. Sung Mei-chen and Director Lin Chiao-min of the NCL; Dr. Ku Kam-ming of the University of Hong Kong; Deputy Director-general Han Pu and Local Document Department Director Wang Wei of the Capital Library of China*

Representing the NCL, Director Lin Chiao-min and Ms. Sung Mei-chen of the Reader Services Division attended the meeting and presented a report on "Sharing Experience on Collection Digitization and Taiwan Memory Development." Also during the two-day meeting, the Capital Library in Beijing shared its experience in developing the "Beijing Memory" system, and the Hong Kong Centre of Asian Studies and University of Hong Kong Library jointly briefed the meeting about the "Hong Kong Memory" system. The host country Macao also introduced the formative concepts of the "Macao Memory" system now under planning. (Chinese text by Sung Mei-chen)

#### ■ **MOE Donates Books to French University**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) presented 500 Chinese-language books and multimedia educational resources published in Taiwan to Univeristé Jean Moulin Lyon 3 in France on March 6, 2008. The donated resources will support Chinese language and Taiwanese studies courses at

the French university. Taiwan's representative in France, the president and vice president of Univeristé Jean Moulin Lyon 3, and the director of the Chinese section of the university's language and literature library attended the donation ceremony, which was held at the language and literature library. During the ceremony, Taiwan's representative in France Michel Ching-Long Lu presented a Taiwan atlas to the university.

Taiwan and Univeristé Jean Moulin Lyon 3 share close academic exchange and cooperation ties. This year, 40 students from the university attended a four-week language course at National Tsing Hua University (NTHU). The university also plans to make exchange visits with the NCL to assist with the cataloging of Chinese and French books. Moreover, on March 16 this year, seven scholars from the university attended symposiums on Taiwanese literature at National Taiwan University, NTHU, and National Chengchi University.

#### ■ **NATWA Donates Books to Promote English Reading Ability**

The North American Taiwanese Women's Association (NATWA) held a book donation ceremony on March 19, 2008, at the Affiliated Senior High School of National Chi-Nan University. The donated books were collected during the association's annual "Sending Books Home" activity and presented to over 20 Puli Village elementary and secondary schools, represented by their respective principals at the ceremony. The English-language books are aimed at improving the English skills of young students in Taiwan.

The chairperson of the donation committee at NATWA noted that the association has held the

book donation activity since 2001. Many of the donated volumes are books that have been retired from US library collections, but are still suitable for continued use.

### ■ *Chinese Rare Book Catalog Donated to the NCL*

Swedish rare book collector and bookseller Bjorn Lowendahl donated a copy of his extensive catalog of western publications on Chinese rare books to the National Central Library (NCL), providing an important new resource for Chinese studies. "*Sino-Western Relations, Conceptions of China, Cultural influences and the Development of Sinology, Disclosed in Western Printed Books 1477-1877: The Catalogue of the Lowendahl-von der Burg Collection*," records over 1,300 volumes published between 1477 and 1877. Mr. Lowendahl edited and published the book (available from Elephant Press) with his friend and fellow collector Mr. Christer von der Burg. The works include titles in English, French, German, Spanish, Italian, and Latin and cover a broad range of



Front cover of "Sino-Western Relations, Conceptions of China, Cultural influences and the Development of Sinology, Disclosed in Western Printed Books 1477-1877: The Catalogue of the Lowendahl-von der Burg Collection"

subject matters, from religion and history to social customs, science and geography. Also included are several US titles and western language works published in India, Southeast Asia, Macao, Hong Kong, Shanghai and other parts of Asia between the late 18th century and early 19th century. The catalog is divided into two volumes, the first covering the period from 1477 to 1776 and the second recording publications dating from 1776 to 1877.

Among the most important works in the catalog are those by missionaries, especially Jesuits such as Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), Alvaro Semedo (1585-1658), Michal Boyn (1612-1659), Martino Martini (1614-1661), Johann Adam Schall von Bell (1592-1666), Gabriel de Magalhaes (1610-1677), Prospero Intorcetta (1625-1696), Domingo Fernandez Navarrete (1618-1686), Adrien Greslon (1618-1696), Francois Noel (1651-1729), Joachim Bouvet (1656-1730), and Louis le Comte (1655-1728), whose works are nearly all recorded. Also included are different language editions of certain works and a fair number of books related to Sino-Western scientific exchange, such as those by Ferdinand Verbiest (1644-1709) on European astronomy and by Antoine Thomas (1644-1709) on mathematics. Numerous works on China written by 19th century Sinologists, diplomat, travelers and merchants are included as well. The catalog opens a window to European perspectives of China, the influence of Chinese culture on Europe and the history of the development of Sinology in Europe.

Bjorn Lowendahl was born in 1941. An early student of mathematics, he later turned his interests to music, history, and painting. In 1965, he opened his first antique bookstore and has since been an avid collector of books related to China over the intervening decades.