

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.

This catalog was donated to the NCL by through the wife of Swedish Sinologist Goran Malmqvist Ms. Chen Wenfen. (Chinese text by Tu Li-chung)

■ *Hong Kong Sun Yat-sen Library Donates Books to Chi Nan University*

The Hong Kong Sun Yat-sen Library of Hong Kong's Chinese Cultural Association donated original text books to National Chi Nan University (NCNU) at a ceremony held on April 17, 2008. The gift was presented by Chinese Association for Relief and Ensuing Services (CARES) President Ko Yu-chin. In gratitude, NCNU President Chang Jin-fu presented an appreciation plaque to Sun Yat-sen Library. In October 2007, Sun Yat-sen Library agreed to donate 15,000 rare western books to NCNU, mainly volumes in the fields of social sciences, literature, history and geography. The donated works will significantly augment the library collection at NCNU, which was established in 1995. Mr. Ko said that NCNU was an ideal place for the humanities and social science books donated by the Chinese Culture Association and that he hopes the university faculty and students will make full use of them. (Military News ROC, April, 18, 2008)

■ *Chinese Dietary Culture Library*

Since opening in 1989, the Chinese Dietary Culture Library of the Foundation of Chinese Dietary Culture has been the only library in the world dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Chinese food culture.

This petite library, located on Jianguo North Road in Taipei City, has accumulated a collection of over 20,000 publications on Chinese and international dietary culture. These resources



Chinese Dietary Culture Library Reading Room

include books, periodicals, audio-visual materials, pamphlets, newspaper clippings, thesis collections, periodicals thesis papers, menus and other materials related to food in Taiwan, Japan, China and other countries. Subjects covered by the collection range from food studies, historical allusions to food, essays, medicinal food, food therapy, nutrition, cooking ingredients, recipes, cooking utensils, local cuisine, eating customs, serving vessels, tea, alcohol and more. In recent years, the library has also been collecting menus from Chinese restaurants in Europe and the United States.

Library staff members scoured old book shops and antique stores in Japan, China, Korea, and Vietnam to find books to build the library collection. Several lost works related to food were discovered in the process, including several rare Yuan, Ming and Cing volumes and Japanese titles dating back to the 18th century and Meiji period (1868~1912).

The library collection is open to the public for free in-library reading only. There is also a reference and information counter with staff to assist readers.

■ *Defense Ministry Opens Psy-War Library*

The Ministry of National Defense recently converted an information center into a Psychological Warfare Library stocked with a large