

Venue: University of California, Berkeley

■ ***Seventh (2008) Cross-strait Symposium on Children's Libraries and Elementary and Secondary School Libraries***

Organizer: Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Changchun Municipal Youth and Children's Library

Date: August 24 to 27, 2008

Venue: Changchun Municipal Youth and Children's Library

Exhibitions

■ ***Brevity and Eternity: A Touring Photographic Exhibition of Prominent Taiwan Authors (Born before 1928) and 25th Anniversary of Wen-Hsun Magazine***

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of Taiwan literary magazine Wen-Hsun Magazine Publishing Co and the NCL jointly organized an anniversary party and "Brevity and Eternity: A Touring Photographic Exhibition of Prominent Taiwan Authors (Born before 1928)" at the NCL on the morning of July 1, 2008. Nearly 300 people from Taiwan's artistic and cultural circles joined the event along with featured writers and their families. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the exhibition opening was attended by Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) Minister Huang Pi-twan, Taipei City Department of Cultural Affairs Director General Lee Yong-ping, NCL Acting Director-general Sung Chien-cheng, former CCA minister Lin Cheng-chi, Taiwan Literature Development Foundation Chairman Wang Jung-wen, writer Chung Ting-wen, and Yang Chien, son of the late writer Yang Kui.

Launched in July 1983, *Wen-Hsun* has served Taiwan's cultural, art and writing communities for 25 years and created a strong foundation for Taiwanese literary history. The magazine has undertaken the task of compiling a comprehensive record of information and historical resources on contemporary culture and art in Taiwan. In honor of

the writers that have contributed many outstanding essays, the magazine and NCL held the "Brevity and Eternity" exhibition at the NCL from July 2 to 31. The exhibition will also be held at the Taipei County Government building from September 12 to 30 and at the National Museum of Taiwan Literature in southern Taiwan from August 12 to 31. The exhibition will present photographs, biographies and writings of 233 literary figures.

In conjunction with the exhibition, the NCL and Jiousiangju Bookstore organized a series of seminars where people interested in Taiwanese literature could meet and exchange views with authors and also witness the literary achievements made by Taiwan over the years.

On the opening day, best-selling novelist Ms. Hua Yan (born Yan Ting-yun) toured the exhibition and donated manuscripts to the NCL. Ms. Hua's grandfather Yan Fu played a major role in introducing western thought to China in the late 19th century. Ms. Hua had donated manuscripts and photographs to the NCL for an exhibition held by the library in 1985 on Taiwanese modern literary history. Over the ensuing years, she also donated over 20 original novel manuscripts and eight volumes of revised drafts and clipping. The NCL bound these volumes for display in the Special Collection Division stack. In April this year, Ms.



Poster for "Brevity and Eternity: A Touring Photographic Exhibition of Prominent Taiwan Authors (Born before 1928)"



CCA Minister Huang Pi-twan (third from the right) tours the "Brevity and Eternity" exhibition (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)



During the exhibition, Ms. Hua Yan (third from the left) views manuscripts she donated to the NCL, accompanied by NCL Acting Director-general Sung Chien-cheng (far left). (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Hua donated to the NCL more than one thousand rare photographs of her family going back four generations. The photos were displayed along with the donated volumes at the exhibition. (Chinese text by Cheng Te-han),

■ ***Zhong-Shu-Xuan-Lan—— Looking at the Rare Books Collection purchased by the NCL from the Work Reports of the Document Preservation League***

The rare books and documents collections of the National Central Library (NCL) mainly comprise of volumes from the Song, Yuan and Ming periods. They are precious and were rather difficult to acquire. Among them are those acquired during the war resistance against Japan in 1940 and 1941. They

were secretly sought and bought from the accumulated treasures of various collectors in war-torn Shanghai. These were the largest in scope and the most meaningful acquisitions. It is considered a significant event in rare books acquisition.

In order to prevent important books and documents from falling into foreign hands, the Document Preservation League was established with the support of the Ministry of Education and the management of Sino-British Keng Funds Board of Directors. It was led by the former NCL Director General, Chiang Fu-tsung and several learned people from Shanghai and Hong Kong. They conducted an exhaustive search and purchased secretly. In a period of barely two years, they took the risk of searching and purchasing 4,864 sets comprising more than 48,000 volumes of rare books and manuscripts. These rare books were partly hidden in Shanghai, partly transported to Chung Qing and a part of it remained in Hong Kong. After the eruption of the Pacific War in 1941, part of the collection from Hong Kong fell into the hands of the Japanese army and were sent to Tokyo. It was not until the victory over Japan when our representative group in Japan seriously verified the existence of these precious collection and were finally returned to our Library. They successively followed the various displacements and reached the National Central Library in Taiwan.

The present exhibition (from 23rd June 2008) especially chooses the previous work reports of the Documents Preservation League to show its diligence in searching and purchasing rare books and documents. At the same time, representative rare books and documents mentioned in the report will also be exhibited as a means of reference. Most of these rare documents come from the libraries of important private collectors of the time such as the family Liu, Deng, Shen, Qu, Wang, Zhang and others. Moreover, due to a serious fear of the rare documents being damaged in the process of transporting them during the chaos caused by war, some documents with historical values were selected and compiled into an initial collection called "Xuan-