

series of historic Taiwan postcards from the Japanese occupation period. *Maritime Transport in the Japanese Period* presents a collection of over 200 postcards in the NCL collection related to the maritime industry in Taiwan during Japan's occupation of Taiwan (1895~1945), as well as related information on ports and shipping at that time. Edited by NCL staff, the book introduces ports and the development of shipping lines, with separate sections focusing on trade ports, port lighthouses and other navigation facilities, and the development of trade and transportation networks from traditional to modern times. Readers can follow the shifting center of Taiwan's maritime industry from Anping (Tainan) and Danshui (Taipei County) to Keelung and Kaohsiung, as well as further understand the development of Taiwan's ports, shipping and maritime industry in modern times.

■ *Yuan Period Black and Red Ink Reproduction the Diamond Sutra*



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Books distill the wisdom of humanity through the ages, and rare books are one of the defining elements of the National Central Library (NCL). The library has over 12,000 manuscripts and block print books, totaling nearly 130,000 volumes.

The block printed works number nearly 8,000, including 201 works from the Song period, 5 from the Jin period, 230 from the Yuan period, over 6,000 from the Ming period, and one copy of the Jiaxing Tripitaka. The remainder is made up of movable type texts and rare block prints that were taken to Korea, Japan and Vietnam during the Qing period.

The Diamond Sutra is the 577th division of the Mahā-prajñāpāramitā Sutra. There are 6 major translations, the most accepted of which is the work of Master Kumārajīva.

The Wanli period of the Ming dynasty (1573~1620) was a prolific time for the production of color process printing. The NCL's edition of the Diamond Sutra is a dichromatic (black and red) print that proves its provenance and makes it a rare resource for the study of the history of printing in China. Some scholars believe that this volume was printed with separate pressings for each color, similar to later day color process printing. Looking at the original work with naked eye, it is apparent that separate printing processes were used, a technique that is somewhat cruder than later color printing methods and represents an inevitable stage in the development of printing technology.

In order to promote its rare book collection, the NCL has published a reproduction edition of the Diamond Sutra, making this rare work available through exchanges with major libraries around the world.

LIS Seminars

■ *The Conference on the e-publishing of academic resource and application between Taiwan and mainland China*

Host Organizations: Library Association of the Republic of China (Taiwan), Interlibrary cooperation Association, National Taiwan Normal University Library, and China Knowledge Resource Integrated Database (CNKI)

Meeting Time: 14 June

Meeting Location: National Taiwan Normal University