

Wang Kuan-ying Memorial Library Opens

The Taipei Municipal Library opened the recently renovated the Wang Kuan-ying (王貫英) Memorial Library on December 20, a year after the death of Mr. Wang, who was known for his love of books and learning. He lived a frugal life and used what extra income he earned from street recycling to buy and donate books. The library, located at the Kuting Branch, displays literary works collected by Wang and also features a park in his memory. The opening ceremony was attended by Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九), Vice Minister of Education Wu Ching-chi (吳清基), and Chairman Lin Cheng-chih (林澄枝) of the Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA), Executive Yuan.

After Wang's death on December 15, 1989, the CCA and Taipei city government formed a committee to plan the establishment of the memorial library. The council and Ministry of Education allocated nearly NT\$3 million for the project, realizing Wang's hope of establishing a library.

A section of the first floor of the Kuting Branch has been converted into a memorial room displaying 2,040 books and periodicals on history and philosophy collected by Wang. The works are available to the public for reading but they may not be checked out.

According to the library, Wang's personal library comprised over 10,000 volumes, though only the more representative and well-preserved editions will be preserved at the memorial library. About 2,000 of his works will be circulated in exchange activities and about 500 volumes will be kept at other country and city libraries.

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