

Exhibitions

■ *Exhibition of the History of Wood-block Printing in Taiwan*

On March 21, the NCL kicked off a special exhibition of rare books published in southern Taiwan during the Ching dynasty. The exhibition traces the more than century-long history of wood-block printing in Taiwan, from the nascent Ta-t'ong-li, dating back to 1646. The return of Confucian and Han Chinese influence in wood-block printed books becomes evident after the liberation of Taiwan from the Dutch by Cheng Cheng-kung in 1661. This was also a period when wood-block printing techniques in China were advancing. The first publishing house, Sung Yun Hsuan, was established in 1821, beginning a period of popularization of publications. The publisher thrived for over a hundred years until it



Cover of the exhibition guide (Photo by the National Central Library)

fell victim to the flames of war in 1945, bringing to an end Taiwan's wood-block printing industry.

The exhibition includes several rare works collected by Yang Yung-chih, an associate researcher at the Taiwan Culture Center of the Taiwan Development Institute. They include works by publishers Sung Yun Hsuan, Te hua Tang, Tung Pi Chai, Chou Chien Kang, Tian Tan, and Hua Shan Tang, such as the Amitabha Sutra and Annotated Diamond Sutra. These works open a window to over century of document and information styles for researchers and the general public alike. They also provide an invaluable record of the development of Taiwanese culture and the history of wood-block printing, folk customs, and religion. (Chinese text excerpted from the exhibition guide.)

■ *Constitutional Archives Exhibition*

A constitution provides a country's legal foundation and a basis for the protection of the people's rights. The drafting and revisions of a constitution, moreover, provide an important testament to the history of democratic countries. The Constitution of the Republic of China (ROC) came into force on December 25, 1947. In 1948, the Constitution was appended with the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of Communist Rebellion reflecting the needs of the civil war with the Chinese communists. The provisions were later revised and finally abrogated. Over the years, the Constitution itself has undergone six amendments.

In order to broaden public awareness of the

development of the ROC Constitution and the importance of archival records, the Cabinet-level Research, Development and Evaluation Commission sponsored the Constitutional Archives Exhibition in Taipei from May 20 to June 1, 2005. The exhibition was organized by the commission's National Archives Administration (NAA).

Over a hundred documents related to the Constitution were displayed in six sections entitled, "Prologue: The Story of the Constitution in Archives", "Birth of the ROC Constitution", "Drafting and Amendment of the Temporary Provisions Effective During the Period of Communist Rebellion", "Constitutional Amendments", "Constitutional Interpretations", and "Development and Reform of Constitutional Government". The exhibition presented the Constitutional archives along with color reproductions. An online multimedia exhibition guide with recorded voice introductions to the exhibits was also available for public use.

A total of three exhibitions were held, one each in northern, central and southern Taiwan. President Chen Shui-bian delivered a speech at the opening ceremony and toured the exhibition on May 19. The exhibition attracted a strong turnout, including numerous groups, students and teachers.

The southern Taiwan exhibition is scheduled to be held in July at the Kaohsiung Museum of History, and the central Taiwan show will be held in September at the Wen Ying Hall of the Taichung City Cultural Affairs Bureau. For more information please visit the NAA website at: <http://www.archives.gov.tw>.



*President Chen Shui-bian speaks at the May 19 opening ceremony of the Constitutional Archives Exhibition
(Photo by the National Archives Administration)*

■ ***Kinmen and Penghu Hold Joint Exhibition on Family Genealogies***

From July 22 to 24, 2005, the cultural bureaus of Kinmen and Penghu counties hosted a joint genealogical exhibition organized by the Kinmen County Genealogical Culture and Research Society and Penghu County Folk Culture Society. The exhibit aimed to encourage preservation of the traditional clan culture of the two island counties, support the development of the counties as centers for genealogical research, and develop cultural resources to support economic growth. The exhibition displayed over 100 genealogies and other related documents on more than 40 families for public browsing. The Bureau of Culture, Penghu County also provided access to the genealogies in its collection during the exhibit. The Kinmen County Genealogical Culture and Research Society had staff on hand to help county residents revise their genealogies and track down relations. In order to promote genealogical culture exchanges between the two island counties, a