

Exhibitions

■ *Taiwan Archaic Documents Exhibition at the National Central Library*

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary of its name change, the National Central Library presented an exhibition on archaic land documents of Taiwan, opening a window to the society and culture of Taiwan in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The life and customs of traditional rural society in Taiwan are quite different from our modern time. Two or three hundred years ago, Fujianese and Hakka immigrants from the coastal regions of mainland China came to tame the wilderness of Taiwan and establish homes. At that time, land purchases and monetary loans were backed by written agreements signed by both parties to the transaction. These agreements, handed down to the present day, provide a wealth of historical information.



Overview of the Taiwan Archaic Documents Exhibition

The NCL will display some selection from the 2,400 archaic documents in the library collection. The display will encompass various types of official documents, from a six-party development agreement dating back to 1732 to a private contract established in

during the Japanese occupation period. The documents include official letters, instructions, survey slips, and receipt of tax payment, as well as various types of folk agreement, such as transfer agreement, development agreement, lending agreements, pledge agreement, allotment agreement, additional payment agreement, marriage, adoption, commerce and other kinds of agreements. These ancient written agreements enable us to understand the early development of Taiwan and its social and economic history.

In addition to contracts signed between Han Chinese parties, the exhibition presents precious documents involving plains aborigines of central and north of Taiwan. The NCL also published an illustrated catalogue of the exhibition.



Property Right Contract

A contract signed by Wu Bo-shih and others to prove their individual property rights in the Erping Mountain region of Huwei (Danshuei Township, Taipei County); 12th year of the Tungchih period (1873); 49 x 49 cm



Survey Slip

A land survey slip given to the landlord Liu Chun-fu in Cedongshangbao Damaopu Village (Dongshih Township, Taichung County) ; 14th year of the Kuanghsu period (1888); with seal; 32x26 cm



Development Agreement

A six-party development agreement established in Anli, Wunioulun, jioushe Villages (Taichung County) in the 10th year of the Yongcheng period (1732); 25 x 67 cm

■ *Images of Taiwan: Exhibition of Selected Taiwan Documents in the NCL Collection*

In celebration of its 73rd birthday and the 10th anniversary of the re-christening of its Chinese name, the NCL kicked off a special exhibition of selected Taiwan documents in the library collection on April 21 this year. The "Images of Taiwan" exhibition was held in the main lobby of the library's

second floor reading room. Works on display included a unique selection of books, illustrations, photographs, historical documents, news clips and government publications. Also on show were Japanese era postcards, volumes from the years 1945 to 1949, Japanese era school yearbooks, local government bulletins, and online resources, including "Taiwan Memory," "Taiwan Info," "Window on Taiwan," and "Taiwan Research Portal." Due to space limitations, only representative works were selected for display. The exhibition can also be viewed online at <http://memory.ncl.edu.tw/>.



The "Images of Taiwan" exhibition.

