

century, a time when the island was becoming an increasingly important part of the Chinese domain. In 德a_-hai shih-ch_lu', the author, an official sent to Taiwan, provides a detailed account of the economic and material resources of Taiwan, depicting images of daily life in those early times and also showing the importance placed by the Ching court on Taiwan.

Nothing feeds the spirit and mind like reading and travel. This special exhibition lets you retrace the footsteps of travelers from the Tang to Ching dynasties, on their journeys to the heart and frontiers of China, revealing the beauty and richness of old Cathay.

Council for Cultural Affairs Holds Book Exhibition

The Council for Cultural Affairs (CCA) has become something of a medium-sized publisher in its own right. Over the last four years, it has turned out 300 to 400 books, many of which were on display at a March book exhibition held by the council at the Huashan Creative and Cultural Industry Center. Council Chairwoman Chen Yu-chiou remarked that, the publication of works on contemporary society and culture in Taiwan not only allows the people of Taiwan to immediately see their cultural image, but also enable the people of other countries to understand Taiwan today."

According to the CCL, the books on display present the beauty, literature and history, community culture, cultural assets, and arts of Taiwan. About 40 of the works on history and literature cover Ming and Ching dynasty materials and will also be made available online in digital form for easier public access. Other works include local historical materials, three sets of award-winning poetry and prose works in translation; and proceedings of the Chu Hsi-ning Seminar. There is also a rich collection of works on cultural assets, including 17 volumes on local culture and 10 volumes on cultural enterprises, historical buildings, and study hand-

books. There are also 12 novels introducing children to national cultural assets, such as *Grandpa Lin Builds a House*, and *Traditional Chinese Musical Instruments*. In the art category there are five books on early drama in Taiwan by senior dramatists at the Taiwan Theater Museum, as well as 20 volumes on early Taiwanese musicians.

Chairwoman Chen noted that the books bring the beauty of Taiwanese culture to the world stage.

Even Tots can Get a Library Card at the Taichung County Cultural Center Library

After several months of renovation, the Taichung County Cultural Center Library reopened this March with a brand new look. The library also introduced a new policy that allows even swaddling babes to apply for a library card, making it the first library in Taiwan to lend books to kids of all ages. A toddler by the name of Lin Li-yan was the first child to apply for a card under the new policy.

The cultural center said that the remodeled library greets visitors with a new feeling, more reading space, sofas and a comfortable coffeehouse-like environment. Moreover, the library has a new AV area and will close the old AV room. Groups wishing to use the AV section need to make advance reservations. The children's area has also been expanded to include a small stage and high quality tables and chairs, proving a reading space with more choices.

Public Libraries for a New Age

Library representatives from across Taiwan took part in a March 4 videoconference inauguration of 301 public libraries updated as part of the Council for Cultural Affairs' (CCA) NT\$1.5 billion "New Age Public Libraries" program. Representatives of public libraries in Jhuangwei Township (Ilan County), Yingge (Taipei County), Gukeng (Yunlin County), and Hunei (Kaohsiung County) joined