

quarter of 2004, *Journey to the West*, is a classic novel suitable for readers of all ages.

As part of the activity promotion, Paper Windmill Theater performed a scene from the *Journey to the West* replete with the main characters the Monkey King, Pigsy, and Monk Sha. The performance attracted a large crowd of children and parents.

To encourage people to read *Journey to the West*, the TPL invited several well-known academics to speak at a symposium on March 7 at the TPL's main branch. Academia Sinica Vice President Ovid Tseng spoke on the topic "Journey to the West and Star Wars", and Mr. Tseng's wife, Professor Hung Lan of the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience at National Central University, and Yuan Ze University Professor Sun Chen all reflected on their experience reading *Journey to the West*.

The TPL said that its recommended reading for the summer (to be formally introduced on June 6) would be *Meditations on Beauty*, its fall selection (Sept. 9) is *X-files of the Mind*, and its winter selection (Dec. 12) is the *Biography of Lin Yu-tang*.

## Reviews

Century Old Images of Taiwanese Aborigines: Chieftains, Braves, and Traditional Handicrafts

### Book Preface by NCL Director Juang Fang-rong,

This publication consists of two 204-page volumes with a combined 400-plus postcards on aboriginal life in Taiwan during the Japan occupation period. The name of the tribes depicted, the date and place of the picture, and name of the photographer are included with each postcard. The postcards are also arranged

according to the different cultural aspects of the subject matter presented. The first volume focuses on the chieftains, braves, and traditional handicrafts and arts of the aboriginal communities; while the second volume is devoted to the aboriginal people's daily life, clothing/adornments, and family scenes. Rich in historical value, all of these postcards were selected from the NCL's collection and most were taken in the early part of the twentieth century by Japanese anthropologists.

This two-volume set was published in December 2003. In his forward for this publication, reprinted below, NCL Director Juang Fang-rong describes the library's efforts in compiling and preserving early documents and materials on Taiwan, as well as the importance of this book in that effort:

With the start of a new century, I often think about the position and role of the National Central Library in Taiwan today and the direction that we should follow in the years ahead. One of the results of our efforts was the launch of the "Taiwan Memory" and "Taiwan Overview" information databases at the 70th anniversary of the NCL, celebrated on April 20, 2003.

"Taiwan Memory" is a digital archive of historical materials that recount Taiwan's recent past. Among these resources are news programs dating back to the 1960s, old photographs from the past century, postcards from the Japanese occupation period, engraving rubbings from the Ching period, and much more. The database brings together all of these materials, including text, video, and sound resources, in digital form so that they can be made readily available to students and the general public over the Internet.

In addition to the online version of these materials, the NCL hopes to present important historical documents and resources in its collection, such as old postcards and rare books, in printed form for convenient access by the public and to serve as research references.

To this end, the NCL has been publishing in theme-based books selections from

its collection of more than 4,000 historic postcards.

While people today have little contact with postcards, they were greatly fashionable from the latter half of the nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. When they were first issued, postcards served as a simple substitute for letters, but they soon became a widely accepted medium of correspondence around the world. By the start of the last century, the collection value of postcards had outstripped their original correspondence function. The postcard craze of this time extended beyond Taiwan and Japan to Europe, America and the rest of the world.

The old postcards in the NCL collection are a product of this fad, and they have tremendous significance in the history of postcards.

The photographs on the postcards in the NCL collection come from many different sources, but most of them can be dated to between 1900 and 1940. These images record the political, economic, industrial, and cultural development of Taiwan, as well as the objects and cultural changes of the island and its people in the early part of the last century. Since most of these photographs were taken and printed by the Japanese, they serve as a record left behind by Taiwan's former colonists. But these images also constitute an invaluable part of the collective historical memory of the people of Taiwan.

### **Table of Contents (Vol. 1)**

#### **Chapter 1: Chieftains and Japanese Rule**

1. Tribal Chieftains . . . . . 14
2. Japanese Colonial Rule . . . . . 40
3. Aboriginal Delegation Visit to Japan . . 56

#### **Chapter 2: Warriors and Hunters**

1. Tribal Hunters . . . . . 68
2. Hunting and Fishing . . . . . 94
3. Headhunters and Skull Racks . . . . . 106

### Chapter 3: Transport, Architecture, and Handicrafts

1. Boats and Dugout Canoes. . . . .120
2. Traditional Transport Tools. . . . .134
3. Homes, Granaries, and Observation Platforms. . .146

### Table of Contents (Vol. 2)

#### Chapter 1: Daily Life

1. Agricultural Development . . . . . 14
2. Pounding Grain at Dawn. . . . . 26
3. Pottery Making and Water Conveyance . . . 44
4. Eating by Hand . . . . .54
5. Courtship and Music. . . . . 68
6. Drinking and Dance . . . . . 80

#### Chapter 2: Dress and Adornment

1. Weaving Women . . . . . 100
2. Daily Clothes . . . . .118
3. Ceremonial Dress and Status Symbols. .138
4. Facial Tattoos, Ear Piercing, and Tooth Pulling . . .164

#### Chapter 3: Family Portraits . . . . .176

### Overview of the NCL's Rare Books Collection in 2003

**By Hsieh Pei-jie, Special Collections Dept.**

#### ◆ Digital Archives

Digital archiving and document delivery is the wave of the future, even, as the NCL is showing, for tomes written in dynasties past. The rare books collection at the library now comprises some 12,000 books, rubbings and other documents,