

The database can accept bibliographic data from contributing organizations in CMARC, CNMARC and USMARC formats to facilitate information query and display, recording and preservation functions. The data exchange functions of the system eventually will be expanded to include the delivery of bibliographic information conforming to international metadata standards. In the future, the NCL hopes to develop the database into an international joint catalog of rare Chinese books for the use of worldwide organizations with Chinese-language books.

Witness to a Century of History:

Catalog of Works by and on Soong Mei-ling

Soong Mei-ling, better known as Madam Chiang Kai-shek, lived a life spanning more than three centuries. She was born at the close of the 19th century, during the end of the Ching dynasty, when an enervated China was subjugated by the world powers. In the 20th century, Soong followed her husband Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek through difficult times in China. She became the spokesperson for her country as well as one of the most prominent individuals of her time. In the early 21st century, she capped off a flamboyant and controversial life with the penning of her autobiography, before peacefully dying in her sleep on October 24, 2003, joining history and legend. Soong 宋美龄 death marked the end of an era and the elegance it came to represent. To facilitate research on Soong Mei-ling, we have compiled a catalog of writings and studies on this singular historical figure.

1 Sources

The resources included in this catalog consist mainly of titles in the National Central Library catalog and National Bibliographic Information Network (NBINet) database, with verifications of original documents and related resources where required. This material has been collated, classified and edited to produce

the final catalog.

2 Scope of Records

The scope of the catalog focuses on the writings of and studies on Soong Mei-ling. Most of these works were published in Taiwan, though mainland Chinese publications are also included. Books comprise the bulk of the resources; to a lesser extent paintings, calligraphy and audio-visual materials are represented as well. Individual articles are not listed.

The publications mentioned above include works on Soong Mei-ling herself and writings on Soong and her relations. Separate works discussing Soong Yao-ju, Chiang Kai-shek, Soong Ai-ling, Soong Tzu-wen, Chiang Ching-kuo, and other well-known relations of Soong Mei-ling are not included.

3 Content Structure

In addition to the foreword, description of editorial content, and classification chart, the catalog is divided into two units, one focusing on the writings, calligraphy and paintings of Soong Mei-ling and the other devoted to studies about her.

4 Description of Records

4.1 The records included in the catalog have been compiled in accordance with the Chinese Cataloging Rules and adopt a spaced format. Each entry lists the title, place of publication, publisher, year of publication, series annotation, ISBN, and general annotations.

4.2 The sections on writings by Soong Mei-ling and studies about her are largely the same. However, since the works in the former section are all by Soong, the name of the author has been omitted here. Editorial descriptions have also been placed in the annotation section to clarify secondary/primary sources and their relative importance.

4.3 All writings on Soong Mei-ling that are a single work or part of a book series are listed according to the title of the single work or subtitle of the relevant section.

4.4 For more convenient reference, separate entries are included when there is more than one publisher of the same publication.

5 Classification Method

The catalog is divided into the two major classifications of works by Soong and studies about her, with sub-classifications within these two head sections according to the nature of the works.

6 Layout

Within each classified section of the catalog, bibliographies are listed according to the original method adopted for the publication, progressing from general to specific subject matters. Publications for which such methods are not possible have been arranged according to title. Works by Soong herself are arranged chronologically by date of publication to present them clearly in historical context.

7 Classification Statistics

A total of 118 resources are included in this catalog, as follows:

1. 52 writings by Soong Mei-ling: 22 speech collections and selected works; 16 monographs; 5 collaborative works and joint publications; and nine paintings and calligraphic works.
2. 66 studies: 29 biographies; eight collections of paintings and photographs; two collections of portraits; 12 works on Soong's relations; five joint biographies of Soong and Chiang Kai-shek; seven works on the Soong family and three Soong sisters; and three works on the Chiang family widows, etc.

The catalog is included in the October 2003 edition on the NCL's New Books: Recent Publications in Taiwan, ROC. It can also be accessed online through the ISBN Center website at: <http://lib.ncl.edu.tw/isbn/index.htm>

(Chinese text by Chen You-min, NCL Cataloging Dept.)

Publications

NCL Publications 2003

1. *Chuan-kuo hsin-shu tzu-hsün yueh-k'an* (New Books: Recent Publications in Taiwan, ROC), Jan-Dec 2003 (12 Vols.); ISBN Center
2. *Kuo-chia t'u-shu-kuan kuan- hsün* (National Central Library News), 1st – 3rd quarters, 2003; Secretariat
3. *Kuo-chia t'u-shu-kuan kuan- k'un* (National Central Library Periodical), 1st & 2nd Ed., 2002, and 1st Ed., 2003; Research Department
4. *Chung-hua min-kuo t'ui-wan ti-ch'ü chu-pan chi-gou ming-lü* (Directory of Publishers in Taiwan, ROC) 2003 (2nd Ed.); ISBN Center
5. *T'ai-wan chu-pan tsan-k'ao kung-chu-shu shu-mu: Er- ling-ling-ling-nian chih er-ling-ling-er-nian* (Catalog of Reference Works Published in Taiwan: 2000-2002); ISBN Center
6. *Kuo-chia t'u-shu-kuan yuan-ju hsüeh-yuan hsüeh-hsi shou-tse* (NCL E-Learning Campus Study Handbook); Reader Services Department
7. *Tsu-hsun li-yung su-yang yu chiu-nian yi-kuan k'e-ch'eng: Chiu-yi nian-tu* (Information Utilization and Nine-year Education Curricula: 2002 Edition); Reader Services Department
8. *Ch'u-pan, yueh-tu yu t'u-shu-kuan: Kuo-chia t'u-shu-kuan ch'i-shih chou-nian kuan ching yan-t'ao-hui chan-lan chuan-chi* (Publishing, Reading and Libraries: Seminar Exhibition for the 70th Anniversary of the National Central