

## Exhibitions

### ■ *Exhibition on Bookbinding*

The "Dressing Up Books: Special Exhibition on Bookbinding" was held from July 16 to August 28, 2005, at the National Taichung Library (NTL), offering a glimpse at the history of eastern and western book binding and layout. The theme "books" on display presented a creative mixing of traditional techniques and modern materials.

Bookbinding is an age-old art in China, Japan, and the western world, involving highly refined techniques developed over the centuries. Such techniques vary considerably between the east and west due to differences in culture, script development, and the types of printing materials and tools used. Each of these bookbinding



*Thread-bound books with floral-print covers*



*Western style book bindings  
(Photos by National Taichung Library)*

traditions has a unique artistic value and application. The NTL exhibition opened a window to this fascinating artistic side of the world of books. (Chinese text by National Taichung Library)

### ■ *Kinmen Hosts Groundbreaking Cross-strait Book Fair*

Publishers from both sides of the Taiwan Strait came together to exhibit their books at the Kinmen Book Fair that kicked off on July 22 at Jincheng Middle School on the outlying island of Kinmen. The event was jointly sponsored by the Fujian Xinhua Group and Taiwan Book Publishers Association and organized by Fujian's Mintai Book Co. and Foreign Language Bookstore in conjunction with Taiwan's Kinmen County Education and Culture Foundation.

The first and biggest event of its kind to be hosted in Kinmen, the fair attracted a huge crowd of island bibliophiles. The event also served as a warm up for the First Cross-strait Book Exchange in Xiamen, mainland China at the end of July. Over 30,000 volumes were on display at the fair, including academic titles and books on culture, arts, history, social sciences, business management, science, technology and other topics. The display included over 10,000 mainland titles printed in simplified Chinese script and more than 3,000 Taiwan titles in traditional Chinese characters. Well-known mainland author Yang Dongping held a solo exhibition at the show, his first ever in Kinmen.

The president of Mintai Book Co. represented the mainland exhibitor delegation in presenting

donated books to Kinmen County Library, National Kinmen Institute of Technology and Jincheng Middle School. Kinmen County Commissioner Li Chu-feng said that the Kinmen Book Fair represented a new milestone in the development of cross-strait cultural exchanges and also an important historical and cultural event for Kinmen. He expressed his hope that books could become a medium for forging closer ties between the two sides of the strait.

## CCS News and Activities

### ■ *CCS Hosts Seminar on Ming Palace Architecture and Official Power*

Dr. Kim Hong-gil delivered a keynote paper on "Ming Palace Architecture and Official Power" at an August 31, 2005, seminar organized by the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) at the NCL. The event was hosted by Dr. Hsu Hung, a professor of history at Soochow University. Dr. Kim's paper explored how the officialdom guided the architectural engineering for the imperial palace in Beijing during the Ming period. The paper drew similarities between Ming officials and modern technocrats, noting that the former played a leading role in guiding craftsmen through the many construction processes. Several well-known scholars took part in lively discussions during the seminar.

A professor at Korea's Kangnung National University, Dr. Kim was in Taiwan to conduct research supported by a CCS grant. He is an authority and prolific writer on Ming and Qing history. (Chinese text by Te-Erh Kao)



*Professors Katayama Takeshi, Kim Hong-gil, Hsu Hung, Wang Jung-tsu, and Atsutoshi Hamajima (From left to right ) (Photo by Caesar Tsai)*

## Review

### ■ *NCL and Taitung University Roll Out Illustration Periodical*

Taitung University and the NCL jointly launched *Hui-ben Bang-bang-tang*, Taiwan's first professional quarterly on illustrated books. The quarterly is largely devoted to articles written by authors, painters, editors and scholars on the book illustration profession. The magazine also offers a forum for artists and scholars to publish their works; and it will feature translations and introductions to papers on illustration theory. The first edition includes a special article on narrative art in children's illustrated books by children's literature scholar Perry Nodelman.

