

林語堂

林語堂先生  
紀念圖書館導覽

GUIDE TO  
R. LIN YUTANG  
MEMORIAL  
LIBRARY

張欽鵬敬贈  
二〇〇〇年二月十三日 香港

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### **Pipe**

Dr. Lin took his pipe everywhere he went, and only put it down when he was going to sleep.



Once he said, while browsing through an old manuscript, he could tell from the smell of tobacco on which passages he worked hardest.

## A GUIDE TO DR. LIN YUTANG MEMORIAL LIBRARY



## FOREWORD

Dr. Lin Yutang considered himself a citizen of the world. He wrote many books, and travelled widely to promote cultural exchange between East and West. His contribution to the world was great, and he was deeply admired by peoples of different origins.

In 1965, at the age of seventy, Dr. Lin returned to Taiwan, and took up residence in Yangmin Mountain. He was personally involved in the design of his house. The splendid building combines the essence of Eastern and Western cultural traditions, and is enhanced by the beautiful surrounding landscape. Dr. Lin spent his last years living here, writing and contemplating.

When Dr. Lin passed away, Mrs. Lin donated his books, manuscripts and collected items to the government. The Executive Yuan gave authorization to the Taipei City Government to found a memorial library at the Lin residence. The project was undertaken by the Taipei Municipal Library with the idea of providing a place

where people could come and pay their respect to Dr. Lin, to browse among his books, and to conduct research. Since the library opened in May 1985, it has attracted numerous visitors from Taiwan and abroad. Many have come to pay special tribute to the late Doctor's literary accomplishments.

In Chinese history, the ancient sages frequently inspired their followers by their wisdom and special accomplishments. In this library, the manuscripts of Dr. Lin's books, many of them masterpieces, are preserved for the benefit of scholars and students. If some are guided or inspired by Dr. Lin's achievements, then the goal of the library will have been fulfilled.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to ask the staff of the Taipei Municipal Library to compile a commemorative volume to celebrate Dr. Lin Yutang's centennial. I expect this volume will be widely circulated among Dr. Lin's admirers.

Ta-chou Huang  
Mayor of Taipei  
National Day, 1994

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## A Brief Sketch of Dr. Lin Yutang's Life

My feet are planted in the cultures of  
East and West, I peruse the world's  
literature with one mind.

The above couplet which Dr. Lin wrote of himself illustrates the voracity of his appetite for reading, and his profound wish to form a cultural bridge between East and West. He was the author or translator of some eighty books which ranged in subject from history, philosophy, essays, fiction to linguistics. He wrote in both English and Chinese. He was the founder of three magazines in Shanghai, and the inventor of a Chinese typewriter, and the "Instant Index System" for Chinese characters, which is also a method of input for Chinese computers.

Dr. Lin was born in Lung-hsi County in Fukian Province on October 10, 1895. His father, the Pastor Lin Chih-cheng, was a devout Christian who was very much taken with the "new learning" from the West, and determined that his son should learn English, and receive a Western style education.

At the age of 13, Dr. Lin entered Hsin-yuen Middle School in Amoy. Upon graduation, he gained admittance to the well-known St. John's University in Shanghai, where the curriculum was taught in English. Dr. Lin majored in Linguistics, and after receiving his B.A. degree, joined the faculty of Tsinghua College in Peking, where he became a teacher of English. At the same time, he devoted himself to studying Chinese literature.

In 1919, he married Miss Liao Tsuifeng. The pair left for America soon after, where Lin entered Harvard University, and majored in Competitive Literature, and received his Master's Degree. The following year, he went to Germany to study in Jena University, and later earned his doctorate from Leipzig University, where his major was Linguistics.

Upon returning to China, Lin joined the faculty of National Peking University, and taught also at Peking Normal University and Women's Normal University. In 1926, he became briefly Dean of the College of Arts at Amoy University. Then he joined the Foreign Ministry of the Wuhan Nationalist Government as English Secretary, and had a part in the recovery of the British Concession in Hankow to the Chinese government. When the political situation in Wuhan became unstable, Lin left, and went to Shanghai, where he decided to make writing his career.

In the ensuing nine years, he wrote, and translated many books and articles into Chinese. His "Kaiming English Readers", a set of three volumes of textbooks, became widely used in junior high schools, and the column he wrote for the English-language magazine "The China Critic" which was published in Shanghai, won attention from readers at home and abroad. At the same time, Lin was Director of the Department of International Publications Exchange at Academia Sinica.

In 1932, Lin founded the Lunyu Fortnightly (The Analects). In it, Lin tried to promote humor in literature, and his own witty contributions soon won him the accolade "The Master of Humor." In 1934, he founded Jen Chien Shih (This Human World), a fortnightly which was devoted to the familiar essay, and in 1935, he founded Yu Chou Feng (Cosmic Wind), a general type magazine of non-fiction.

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1895 → 1976



In 1935, his "My Country and My People" was published in America, and secured for him the position of a leading interpreter of China to the West. The following year, Lin took his wife and their three daughters to America, where he continued to write a string of bestsellers, which include "The Importance of Living", "Moment in Peking", "A Leaf in the Storm", "The Vermilion Gate", "The Wisdom of Confucius", "The Wisdom of Lao-tze", "The Wisdom of China and India" and "The Gay Genius: The Life and Times of Su Tung-po". These works were translated into scores of other languages. Lin also lectured frequently, in an effort to bring about a better understanding of the Chinese people.

In 1948, Lin invented the Ming Kwai Chinese typewriter--he had dreamed of inventing a typewriter which a person could use without previous training since he was 23-years-old. However, with the civil war raging in China, the largest potential market was lost, and the typewriter never went into production. In 1949, he became Chief of the Arts and Literature Section of UNESCO. In 1954, he became Vice-Chancellor of the Nanyang University in Singapore, but resigned shortly after and again devoted himself to writing.

At the age of 70 in 1965, Lin was appointed Research Professor at Chinese University of Hong Kong, and began working on "The Lin Yutang Chinese-English Dictionary of Modern Usage". He came to Taipei to live and work on the Dictionary. He loved living in Taiwan, and described his house at Yang Ming Shan as follows:

There's a garden in my residence, and a house in the garden; A courtyard in the house, and a tree in the courtyard.

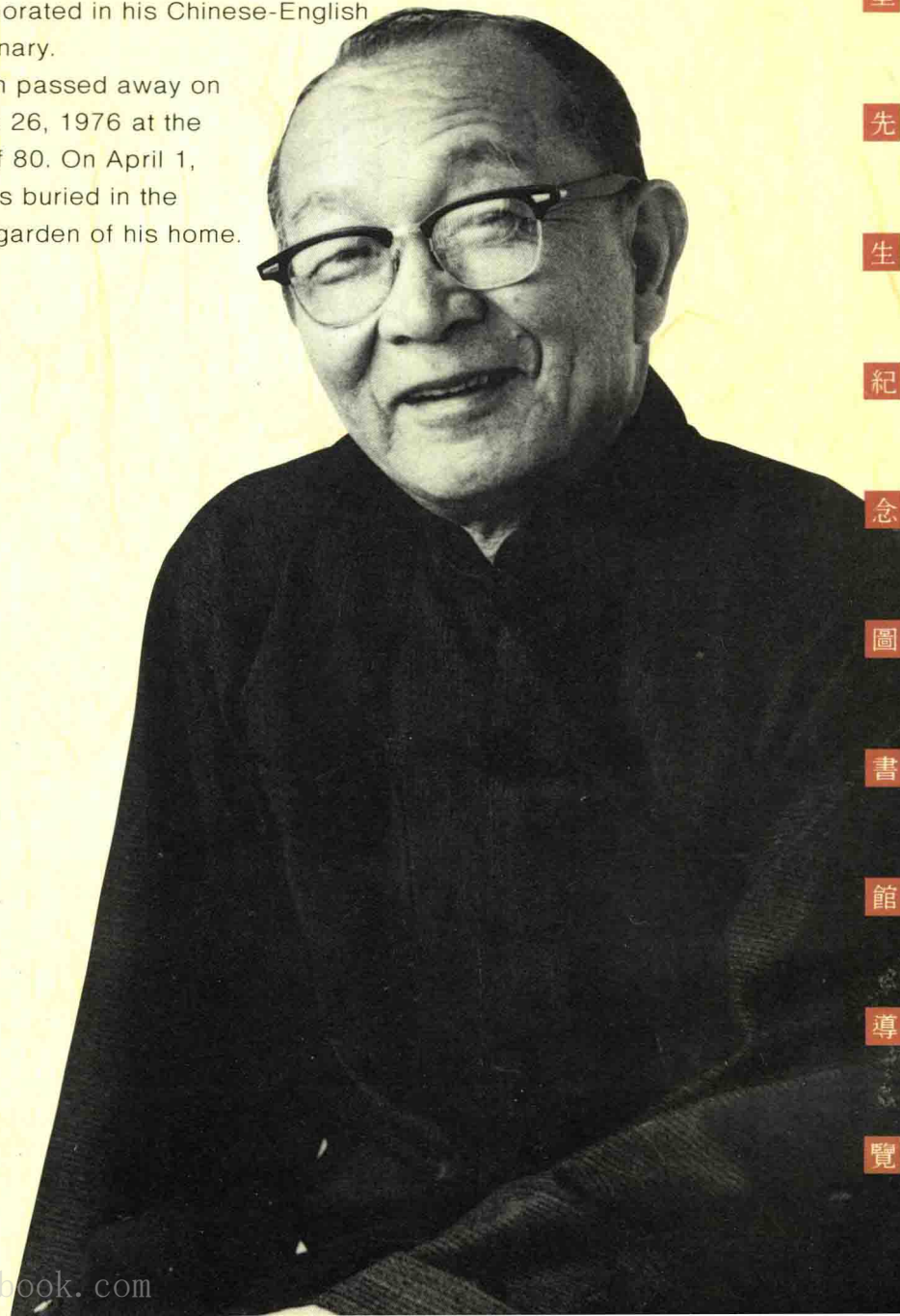
The sky is above the tree, and the moon is in the sky.

Oh, how happy am I!

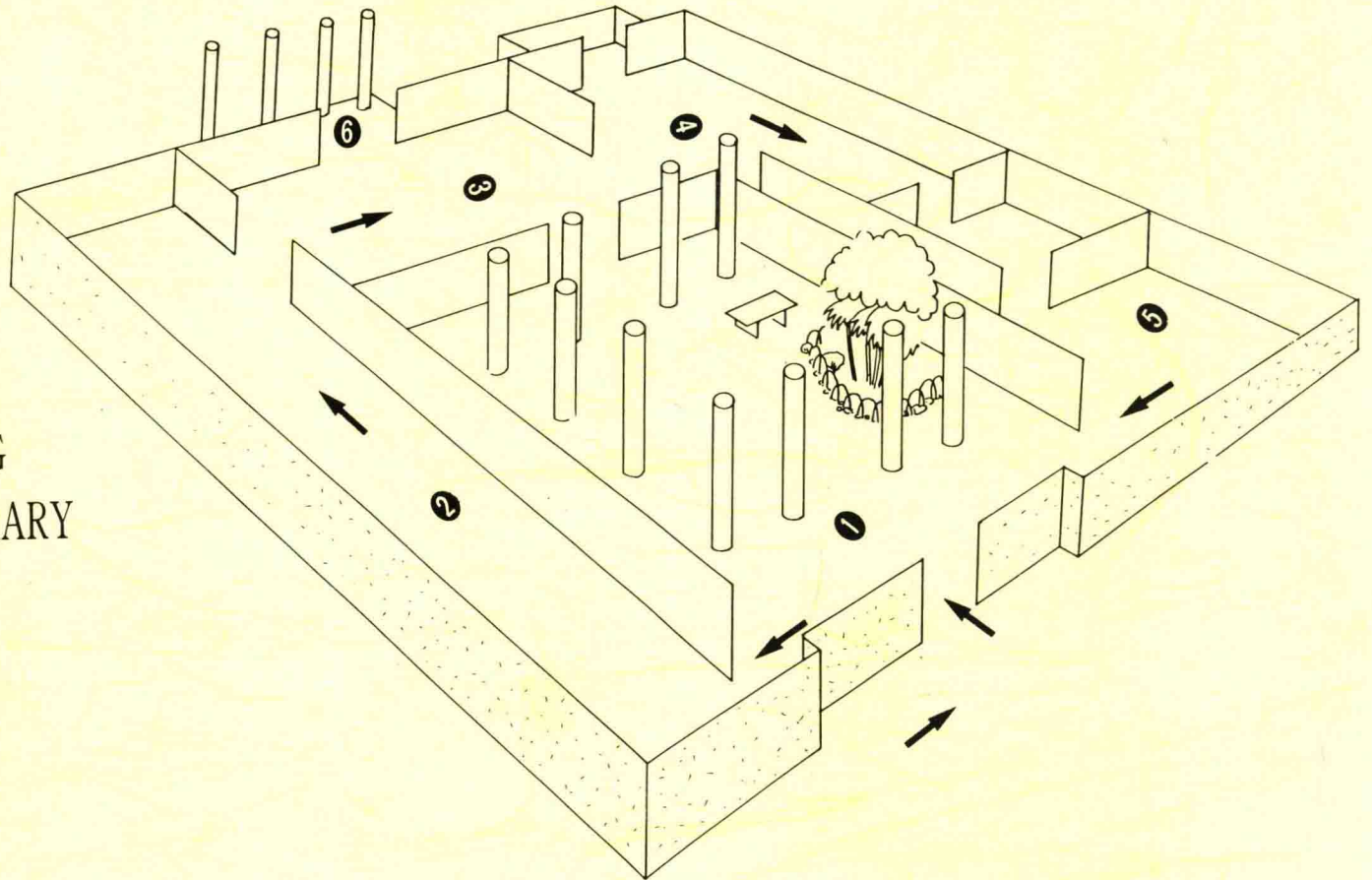
At his residence, the site of the Dr. Lin

Yutang Memorial Library today, he began writing a column for the Central News Agency called "Wu Suo Pu Tan" ("Anything That Comes to Mind"). He also acted as Chairman of the Chinese branch of the International P.E.N. Club. He also re-edited his "Kaiming English Readers" for English learners in Taiwan, as well as improved upon the system for the romanization of Chinese characters that he earlier invented, and incorporated in his Chinese-English Dictionary.

Dr. Lin passed away on March 26, 1976 at the age of 80. On April 1, he was buried in the back garden of his home.



## A Diagram of The Library



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### A Tour Route

(1) Central Courtyard → (2) Reference Library → (3) Living Room →  
(4) Exhibition Room → (5) Study → (6) Balcony



## Brief History

In Memory of Dr. Lin Yutang, the Master of Humor, for his contribution to academic study, the government of Taipei City built the first academic Library at his old residence. On display are the Master's books, writings, manuscripts and personal items which were donated by his wife, Madam Lin, Liao Tsui-feng. The Library was

named "Dr. Lin Yutang Memorial Library" under the Taipei Municipal Library on November 3, 1982, approved by the Executive Yuen, the cabinet of the central government of the Republic of China. It took two years to complete the Library, and was opened officially to public in May, 1985.



### The Exterior of the Library

The former residence of Dr. Lin Yutang, which he described as follows:

There's a garden in my residence,  
and a house in the garden;  
A courtyard in the house,  
and a tree in the courtyard.  
The sky is above the tree,  
and the moon is in the sky.  
Oh, how happy am I!



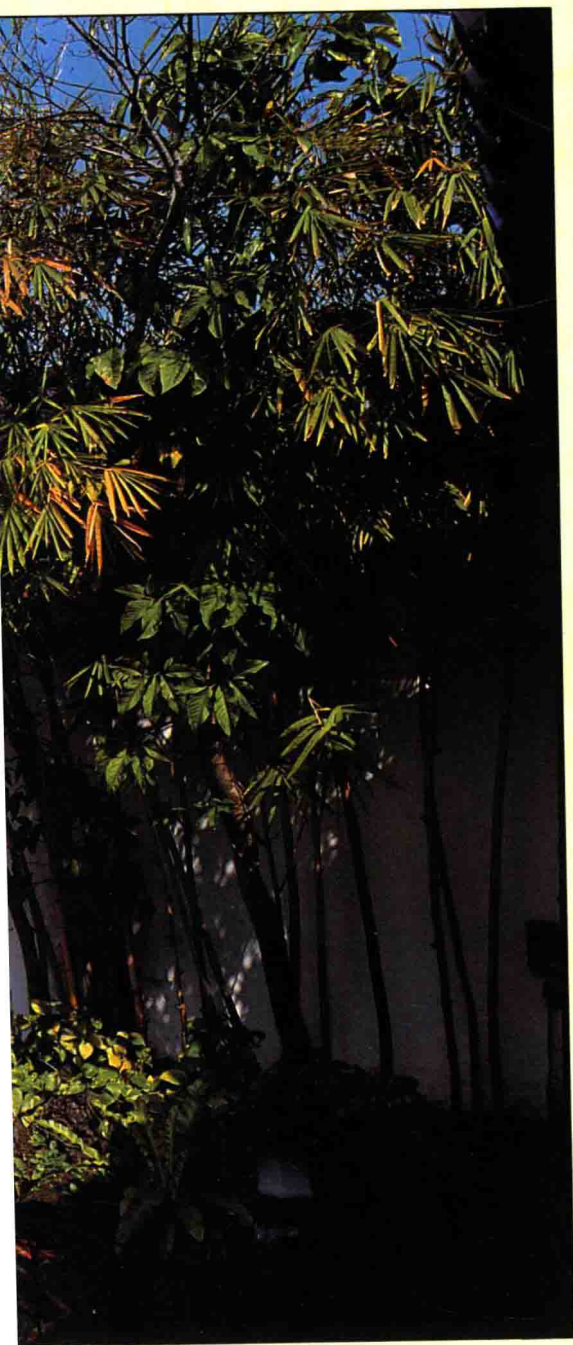
## The Central Courtyard

The traditional Chinese courtyard blends harmoniously with the western style verandah and pillars.

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### Fish Pond and Artificial Mountain

The bamboos, maple trees and ivy in the garden are characteristically Chinese. Dr. Lin liked to sit on the stone bench beside the pond, and "with a fishing pole in hand, contemplate the fish." Once he said, "Only when you can be at leisure when others are being busy, can you be busy when others are taking their leisure."

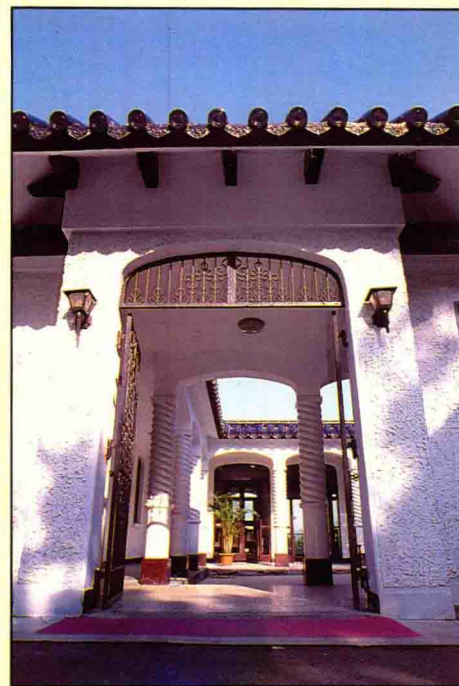




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The spiral pillars are in Spanish style.



The Western style main gate.



Unique to Taiwan is this roof made with blue glazed tiles.



The house has many Windows, each with rounded corners at the top.



## Reference Library

The kitchen and quest room stood here. The Reference Library holds Dr Lin's works and their foreign translations, reference material about Dr. Lin, and some two thousand valuable books. An open stack system is used for the works.



Dr. Lin and the famous Chinese painter Chang Da-chien.



On the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, Dr. and Mrs. Lin cut a wedding cake as friends look on. This took place in the living/ dining room.





## The Living/dining Room

The furniture and decorations here are kept in the same arrangement they were before.

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### Oil Painting

A portrait of Dr. Lin Yutang by his Belgium friend, Mr. Allard.

108cm × 88cm



Dr. Lin named his studio "Yu Pu Wei Tsai", or "Will Not Do Studio"--meaning there are things he would never stoop to do.



The dining room chairs were designed by Dr. Lin. The backs of the chairs are carved with the character for "phoenix", which is part of Mrs. Lin's first name. The couple enjoyed a very happy marriage.



### Orchids, in Watercolor

This painting was done by Mme. Chiang kai-shek, who made a gift of it to Dr. Lin. She once said of Dr. Lin that he was an example of a civilized human being.



## The Exhibition Room

This used to be Mrs. Lin's bedroom. Now it holds displays of Dr. Lin's books, manuscripts, calligraphy and paintings, as well as his drafts of the Chinese typewriter he invented.



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## The Ming Kwai Chinese Typewriter

"A man must be infatuated with something," Dr. Lin said. "I do-not trust a man who has no infatuation-s--his life must be utterly drill."

Dr. Lin's infatuation was with the idea of inventing an easy-to-use Chinese typewriter. In 1917 when he was twenty-three years old, he began to invent a system for classifying Chinese characters. 30 years later, the Ming Kwai Typewriter was introduced to the public in New York City.

The machine had 72 keys. To type a character, one pressed the keys corresponding to the top and bottom parts of a character, and those with similar tops and bottoms appeared on a screen in the center of the machine. The typist then pressed one of eight printing keys according to the position of the correct character on the screen. No larger than a standard typewriter, the Ming Kwai typed 7,000 whole characters and by combinations had a theoretical total of 90,000.

Although the typewriter was never produced, Dr. Lin's keyboard and character classification have been adopted as an input system for the Chinese computer by Mitac Corporation of Taiwan.



Seven years old, at Changchow, Fukien.



The jacket of "Moment in Peking," which is considered to be a classic in modern Chinese fiction.

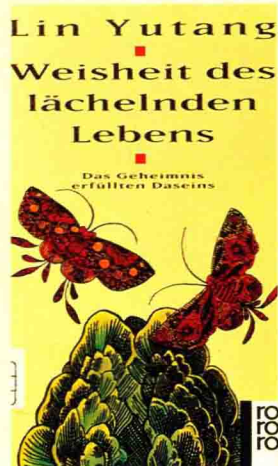


Watching his daughter, Tai-yi, type on the typewriter he invented.



A model of the keyboard of "Ming Kwai Typewriter".

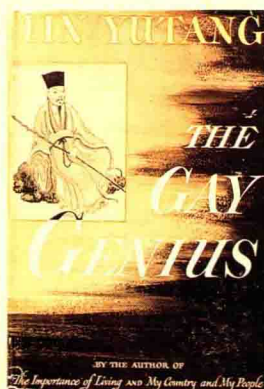
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## “The Importance of Living”

Non-fiction

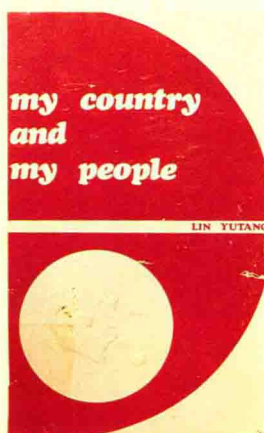
Published originally in English in 1937  
The book distills the Chinese philosophy of three thousand years, in the hope that it may help men and women who have not yet learned that the meaning of life lies just in living itself.  
This book has been translated into a score of languages.



## “The Gay Genius: the Life and Times of Su Tungpo”

Biography

Published originally in English in 1947.  
The distinguished scholar and statesman Su Tungpo of Sung dynasty is the subject of this biography. It is one of Dr. Lin's favorite works.



## “My Country and My People”

Non-fiction

Published originally in English in 1935.  
This book deals with the bases of Chinese life--the racial, psychological and mental traits of the people, and takes up specific aspects of life--woman's life, social and political life, literary life and artistic life.

## Publications

Dr. Lin was the author of some 80 books, which include essays, novels, biography, text-books, translated works and a Chinese-English dictionary.



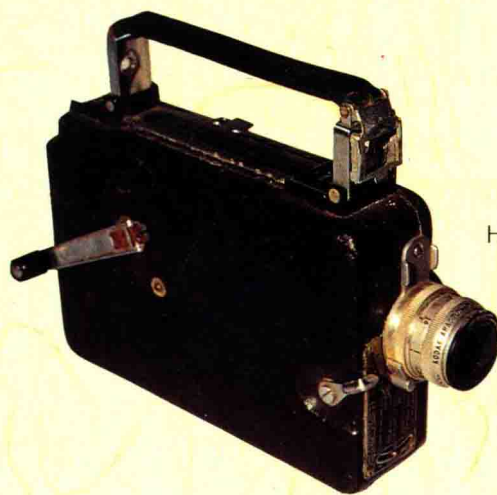
## “Lun Yu” (The Analects)

This fortnightly magazine was founded by Dr. Lin in 1932. It promoted humor in literature, and was an enormous success. It bore great influence on modern Chinese literature.





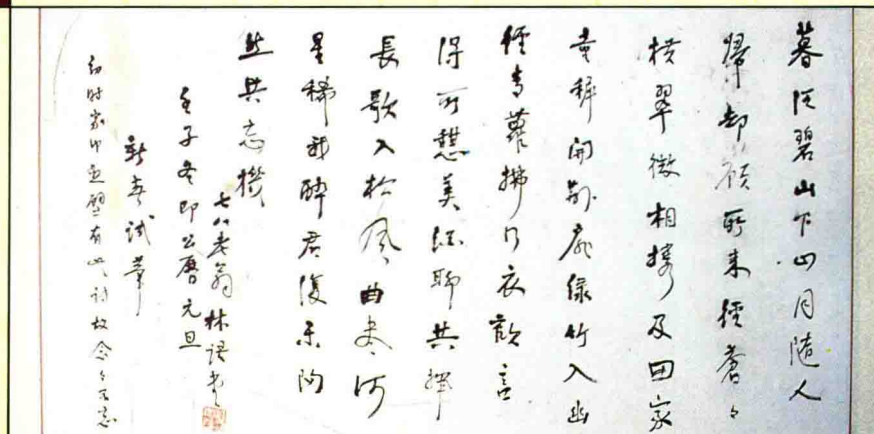
林語堂先生所得  
各大學榮譽博士服



His home movie camera

### Academic Gowns

In 1940, Elmira College of New York conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature on Dr. Lin. In 1942, Rutgers University in New Jersey conferred the same honorary degree, and in 1946, Beloit College in Wisconsin conferred upon Dr. Lin an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters.



### Chinese Calligraphy

84cm×47cm

At 78 years of age, when he completed his Chinese-English Dictionary, Dr. Lin copied this poem, "Down from the Mountain," by Tang dynasty poet Li Po.



His Chinese writing and painting brushes.