

台灣民俗活動 Taiwan Folk Activities

## 台灣民俗活動郵票專册(上輯)

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天燈、蜂炮、遶境、龍舟 是祝禱也是祈求 感念先民闢土開疆的艱辛 以及篳路藍縷的困厄 且伏首於天地的威赫 祖靈的庇蔭 祈求風調雨順,國泰民安

昔日的祈願 今日的民俗 我們的心已不再徬惶 暫卸仔肩虔誠祝禱 祖宗的香火與文化 將傳承後世,萬年千秋 Sky lanterns, fireworks, processions and dragon boat races—

These are earnest prayers,

Displays of gratitude for the hardships

Our forefathers endured to pioneer this land.

Let us bow in awe before the almighty gods

And give thanks for the blessing of our ancestors.

Let us pray for timely weather

And peace and prosperity for our nation and people.

Yesterday's prayers

Have become today's folk customs.

Though hearts no longer hold the same fears,

The pious ceremonies remain,

A legacy of our ancestors, one inheritance among many
Running through our culture like the blood in our veins

Generation after generation

For millennia to come.





雷射3D紀念卡 13D Commemorative Card

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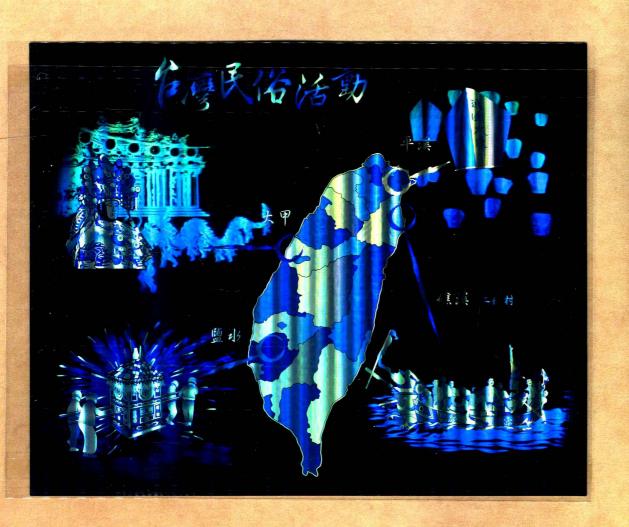
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# 總論

台灣的民俗活動包羅萬象,除了「春節」、「端午」與「中秋」三大傳統的慶典外,更有許多形形色色,富含地方特色的民俗活動,在歡樂的氣氛中依附著「祈福」、「消災」、「天人合一」與「團圓聚會」等主題,繽紛而熱鬧地輪番上演。早期先民以務農為生,平時專注於農事,鮮少休假,因此,民俗活動不僅僅有著節日慶典的意涵,更提供了人們農餘閒暇時的生活樂趣。

## 台灣民俗活動

農曆年初「元宵夜」,平溪的天燈冉冉升起,而鹽水的蜂炮也火光四射,台灣一整年的民俗活動就這樣熱鬧滾滾地揭開序幕了;農曆三月「媽祖誕辰」,台中縣大甲鎮瀾宮的媽祖領銜出巡,點燃了信眾對宗教的無限熱情;五月五慶端陽,街頭巷尾粽香處處,河上的龍舟競賽也高潮迭起…。民俗活動在台灣,已不僅僅是個紀念儀式,更是傳承百年延續不斷的文化精神與傳統,是台灣最豐富的文化遺產,值得大家一起來珍惜並且發揚光大。



## Introduction

#### Taiwan Folk Activities



臉上塗滿五顏六色的八家將 The painted faces of Pachiachiang.

There are many kinds of folk activities in Taiwan. Apart from the big three traditional festivals (the Chinese New Year, the Dragon Boat Festival and the Moon Festival), there are many other activities imbued with strongly local folk flavor. One by one, they take turns under the spotlight. Colorful and festive, these folk activities typically involve praying for good fortune, preventing calamities, uniting with nature, or family reunions. In olden times, when Taiwan was a predominately agricultural society, farm work was very demanding, and people had little time off. Folk activities, rather than merely being ceremonies, provided people with fun during the slack seasons.

On the night of Lantern Festival, which falls soon after the Chinese New Year, the night sky is graced by the slowly rising lanterns of Pinghsi and the fireworks of Yanshui. It's a festive start for the year's folk activities. To celebrate Matsu's birthday during the third lunar month, devotees from the Chenlankung Temple in Tachia Township, Taichung County take their Matsu idol south on a procession amid great displays of religious passion. The Dragon Boat Festival falls on the fifth day of the fifth lunar month, in mid summer. The smell of glutinous rice dumplings fills the streets, while on the rivers, dragon boat races come to one exciting climax after another. In Taiwan, folk activities are not just rituals to commemorate the past, they represent a living cultural inheritance that has been passed down for centuries. Taiwan's most precious cultural assets, they are worthy of being treasured and glorified.



信徒紛紛捻香敬拜,祈求生活順遂無虞 The devotees offer incense to Matsu, praying for a life free from calamity.



「陣頭」,有媽祖起轎的前導作用 Performance troupes lead the way for the palanquin of Matsu.



# Sky Lanterns

## Sending up Wishes to the Gods

On the night of the Lantern Festival, Pinghsi Rural Township of Taipei County is like a town that makes "wishes" fly to the sky. Sky lanterns, one after another, rise up slowly, carrying the wishes of visitors to reach the gods above.

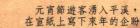
Located in a remote mountain area, Pinghsi and Shihfen of Taipei County were very isolated during the early years of Han Chinese settlement. Settlers in these parts were often raided, and sometimes even killed by bandits. After a raid, settlers who survived would release "sky lanterns" to let others know that they were well. This practice gradually transformed into a unique custom observed by locals on the night of the Lantern Festival. Sky lanterns are also called Kung Ming Lanterns. Kung Ming, a minister during the Epoch of the Three Kingdoms, supposedly used sky lanterns for military communications. On the other hand, some say that the lanterns are so named because they look like Kung Ming's hat.

Today, the meaning of sky lanterns has changed from sending good tidings to making wishes. Every year, after the Chinese New Year, tourists come in multitudes to Pinghsi, where they write down their wishes on the lanterns, hoping that these will reach the gods above, who will grant their wishes for the year ahead.



放天燈的標準動作:將燈罩的四個角拉開,灌入空氣後,再使天燈冉冉上升 To release a sky lantern, pull open the four corners of the lantern, pump in air and then release.

5 1



During the Lantern Festival, tourists swarm into Pinghsi and write down their wishes for the New Year on rice paper.



# 爭溪

# 飛瀑流泉

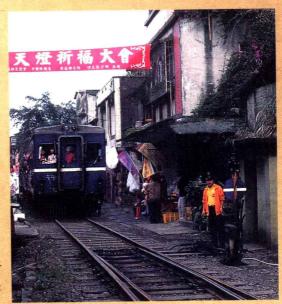
平溪鄉位於台北縣境內之東北區, 東與瑞芳、雙溪相鄰,南與坪林接壤, 北和基隆、汐止為界,西與石碇相連, 面積約七十一平方公里,基隆河上游 貫穿全境,其上游多急流險灘,但洶 洶的水勢行至平溪鄉時竟和緩下來, 因此又被稱之為「平溪仔」。

平溪鄉本為山區,境內山層巒巒, 而基隆河上游又流經其地,因此丘陵 縱谷之地形特別發達,造成許多大大 小小的瀑布,其中家喻戶曉的「十分 瀑布」還被比擬為「台灣的尼加拉瓜 大瀑布」。

又因受到地形的限制,對外連絡 交通不便,平溪街巷間仍保有傳統的 風味,老街、古橋,一片古意盎然, 鐵路、公路在交通連絡上佔有舉足輕 重的地位,原為運載煤礦的平溪線鐵 路,今日已發展為觀光支線,搭乘平 溪支線,隨著小火車一路搖搖擺擺, 沿途景緻彷彿進入時光隧道中,思古 幽情令人油然而生。



「天燈代售處」斗大的招牌,為平溪帶來了無限的商機 "Sky Lanterns for Sale." It's a business opportunity destined to last for many a year.



「平溪支線火車」在對外交通連絡上 佔有舉足輕重的地位

The Pinghsi branch line is an important link to the outside world.

## Pinghsi

Running Waterfalls and Gushing Springs





「十分瀑布」,景色壯闊 The great vista of the Shihfen Waterfall. 賞遊路線1

台北→北二高→深坑→106縣道→平溪 **當游路線2** 

搭宜蘭線的火車到瑞芳車站・轉搭平溪 支線火車即可抵達

By Car:

Take the Second Northern Freeway from Taipei, get off at Shenkeng, then take County Road #106 to Pinghsi.

By Train:

Take an Ilan-line train to Juifang, and then transfer to Pinghsi-bound train on the branch line.

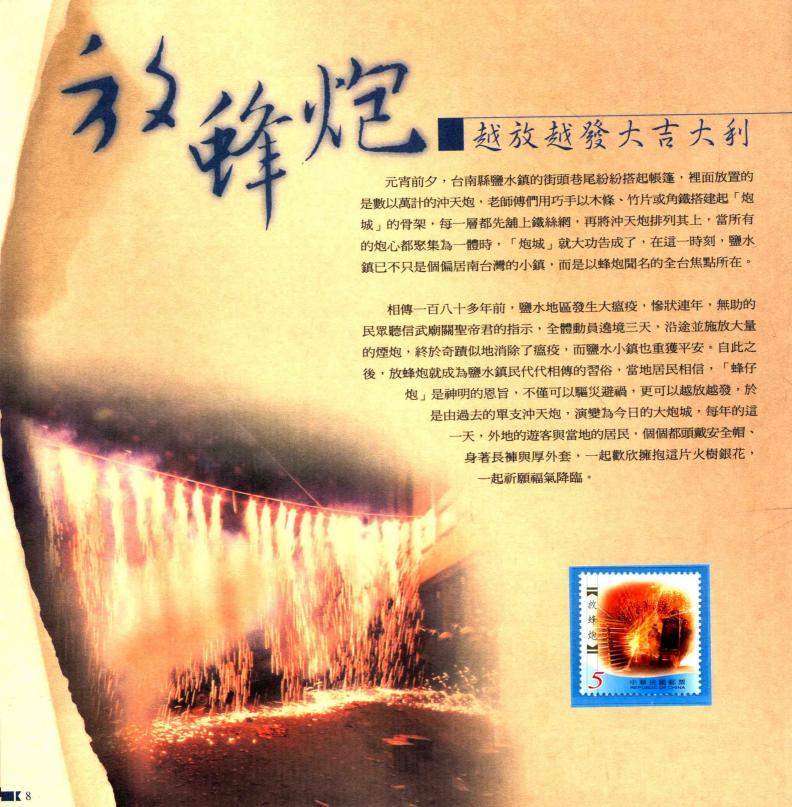
Pinghsi Rural Township is located in the northeastern part of Taipei County. To its east are Juifang and Shuanghsi, to its south is Pinglin, to its north are Keelung and Hsichih and to its west is Shihding. It has an area of about 71 square kilometers. The upper Keelung River runs through the whole township. At its very upper reaches it has many rapids, but it slows down at the actual town of Pinghsi. Hence, the river is also called "Pinghsi," like the town, which means the smooth river.

Nevertheless, Pinghsi Rural Township is largely a mountainous area. The upper reaches of Keelung River cut through it, and the differences in elevation result in numerous waterfalls. Among them, the famous Shihfen Waterfall, which is known as the "Niagara Falls of Taiwan," is largest.

Because Pinghsi is so isolated, its streets largely retain the look of the past. The old streets and bridges are full of ancient flavor. The Pinghsi line railroad service, built for transporting coal, is now a branch line for tourists. Rocking back and forth, the small trains of Pinghsi branch line seem to transport passengers back in time.

平溪的「靜安吊橋」 The "Chingan Suspension Bridge" of Pinghsi.





## Fireworks Display

### The Larger the Luckier

On the eve of the Lantern Festival, tents are set up in the streets of Yanshui Township, Tainan County in preparation for the following day's celebration. The tents hold the "cannon walls," shelves built by skillful masters out of wire and either wood, bamboo or metal and filled with tens of thousands of firecrackers. On the night of the Lantern Festival, when the fireworks are being set off, Yanshui is no longer a small town nestled in southern Taiwan, but the focus of the entire island.

Legend has it that some 180 years ago, Yanshui was stricken with a plague, and the townsfolk implored General Kuan Kung, a deity the locals revered, to help. Following his directions, all of Yanshui's citizens went on a procession around the town for three days. Along the way, they set off numerous firecrackers to expel the evil spirits that plagued the land. Miraculously, the plague ended and once again the town was safe and sound. Ever since, the townsfolk have believed that by setting off "swarms of firecrackers" they please Kuan Kung and help to prevent and dispel calamities. The more firecrackers are set off, they say, the more blessings will result. Therefore, from a single firecracker of the past, the ceremony now has evolved into setting off an entire "cannon wall." Every year, on the night of the Lantern Festival, tourists and local residents, wearing long pants, heavy jackets and helmets, enjoy the spectacular show and pray for their collective good fortune.



鹽水蜂炮的「炮台」,近年來越來越以體積取勝 The "cannon walls" of Yanshui become bigger by the year.



單看這面旗幟就能了解蜂炮驚人的威力 This flag shows how powerful the fireworks display is.



聲、光交會,緊張刺激的蜂炮嘉年華會 A mixture of lights and sounds, the fireworks display carnival is quite exciting.

# 鹽水

# 蜂炮懾人



相傳,關聖帝君曾指引鹽水鎮民脫離苦雞 It is said that Kuan Kung once led the residents of Yanshui out of misery.

鹽水鎮位居台南縣境內,東北與後壁鄉、新營市比鄰,西北與嘉義縣義竹鄉為界,南與下營鄉、學甲鎮接壤,面積約五十二平方公里,因地處八掌溪與急水溪之交,成為一個「倒風內海」,又因港口狀似新月,故又名「月津」。

鹽水,當年曾是個大貿易商港,並曾有台灣第四大城之美稱。後來,由於泥沙淤積日益嚴重,港口的熱鬧景象難復再見,日治時代,鐵路興建初期,日人計劃於鹽水設站,然而地方鄉紳以「活龍已死,地龍不來」婉拒好意,原計劃路線遂轉移於新營,昔日之熱鬧繁華也隨著鐵路而遷移他地。

不過,今日的鹽水依舊保有其他地方難以取代的歷史文化,例 如:八角樓仍然象徵著昔日糖業發展的高峰期;武廟是今日 鹽水蜂炮的總發源地,鹽水人相信歷史會在歲月的 洗鍊下發光,鹽水一定能再喚醒歷史的源頭。



神轎在火光漫天中出巡 The palanquin carries the idol on an inspection tour amid blasting fireworks.

## Yanshui

# The Deafening Explosions of Firecrackers

Yanshui Township is located in Tainan County. To its northeast are Houpi Rural Township and Hsinying City; to its northwest is Yichu Rural Township of Chiayi County; to its south are Hsiaying Rural Township and Hsuehchia Township. It is about 52 square kilometers in area. Nearby, there is a lagoon called the "Taofeng Inland Sea," where the Pachang and Chishui rivers meet. The town is also known as "Yuehchin", which means the moon ferry, because the harbor here is shaped like a crescent moon.

Yanshui used to be a big commercial port and was once the fourth biggest city in Taiwan. But as the harbor silted up, its heyday ended. During Japanese rule, the government planned to put a train station in Yanshui. But the local gentry refused, declaring, "The living sea dragon is dead, and the land dragon should not come." The line was rerouted to Hsinying, and the town's former prosperity went with it.

Nevertheless, Yanshui today still boasts a unique history and cultural significance. For example, the Octagon pagoda marks the peak of the sugar industry here, and the General Kuan Kung Temple is the source of Yanshui's famous fireworks displays, which still survive today. Yanshui residents believe that its history is not over, and that one day it will experience a renaissance.



#### By car from the north:

Get off the freeway at the Shuishang interchange, and then take Provincial Rt. #1 through Houpi and Hsinying to Yanshui.

#### By car from the south:

Get off the freeway at the Matou interchange, and then take Provincial Rt. #1 through Liuying and Hsinying to Yanshui.



精巧的環狀炮城 An intricate circular "cannon wall."



鹽水的八角樓 The Octagon pagoda of Yanshui.