

Brief History of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014

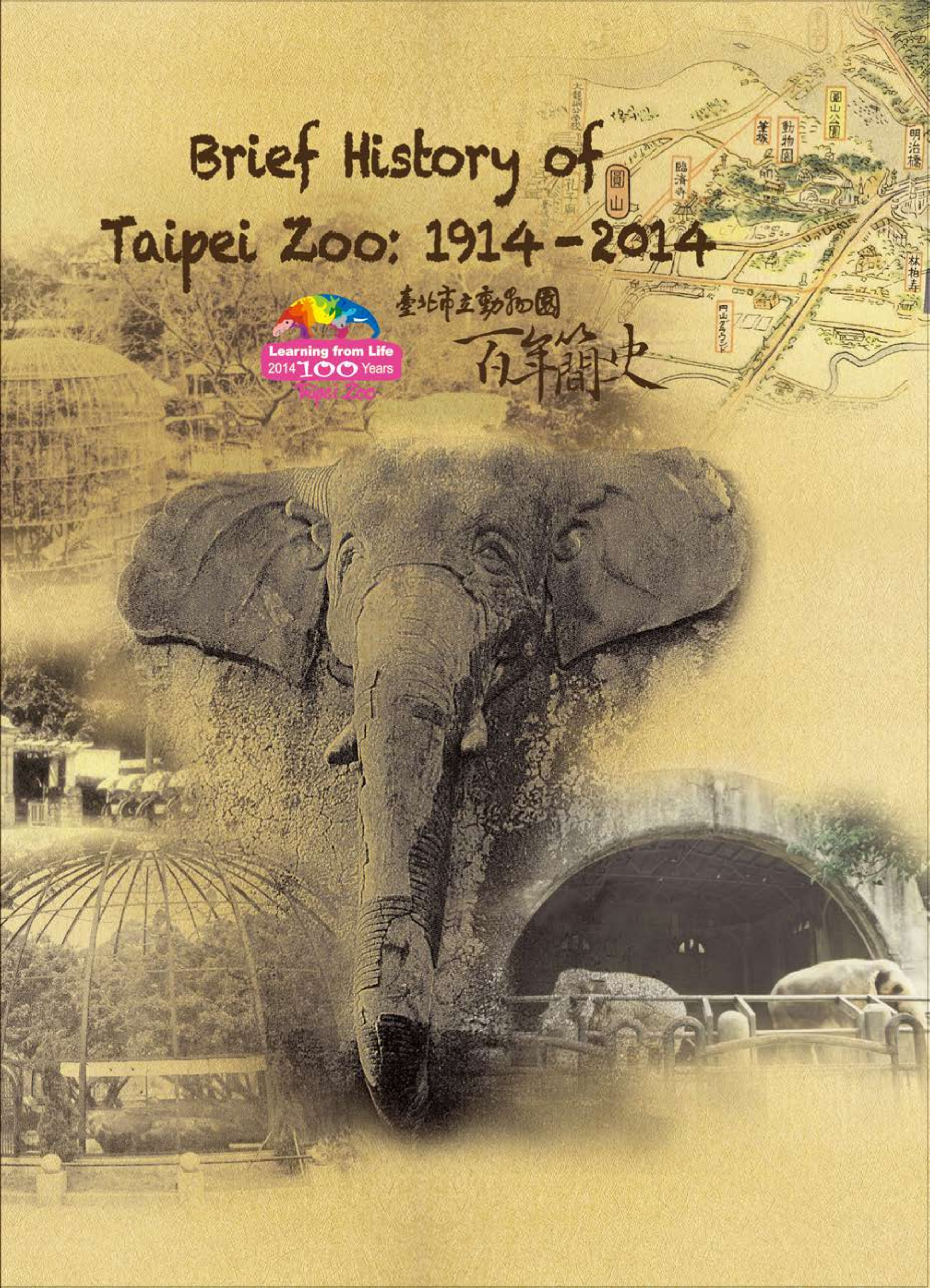


Learning from Life
2014 100 Years

Taipei Zoo

臺北市立動物園

百年簡史



Contents

Foreword 4

Taipei City Mayor 4

Commissioner of Department of Education, Taipei City Government 6

Chairman of Taiwan Historical Association 8

Taipei Zoo Director 10

Preface 12

Chapter 1 Yuanshan Zoo during the Japanese Period 1914-1945 14

From Privately-Run to Government-Run 16

First Large-Scale Zoo in Taiwan 21

Resting Sanctuary 29

The First Elephant and the First Star Animal 34

War and Zoo 38

Chapter 2 Yuanshan Zoo during Post-World War II 1945-1986 42

Reconstruction and Animal Performances 44

The Memorable Old Zoo 54

Going Towards Modernization 66

Farewell to Yuanshan 78

Chapter 3 Modernized Muzha Zoo 1986-2014 84

Moving Plan to Muzha 86

Brand New Modernized Zoo 94

Educational Development 110

Conservation and Research of Species 115

The Management and Medical Treatment of Animals 121

International Exchanges 126

Zoo Services and Recreation 130

Future Vision and Challenges 134

Summary: The Changes of Taipei Zoo in a Century 135

Appendix I Former Directors of Zoo and Major Staff System 152

Appendix II Number of Animals Reared Over the Years 160

Appendix III Number of Visitors and Ticket Price Over the Years 164

Appendix IV Taipei Zoo Chronology of Events 168

Copyright Page 216

Foreword

Chairman of Taiwan Historical Association

In 2012, to celebrate having been opened for a hundred years in 2014, Taipei Zoo outsourced the collation and codification of the history of the zoo, where a doctoral student, Sheng-kai Hsu, directed by me, is in charge of the task of putting together the park history and compiling the data, where in the end 400 pages, more than 100,000 words of *A Century of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014* (Chinese) was completed. Later, for the convenience of the zoo to facilitate international exchanges, the hundred-year history was further rewritten into this brief history book, and published in English translation. Furthermore, the historical documents about the zoo were collected and compiled into more than 30 volumes of park history information compilation and catalogs. These are kept within the zoo.

With the milestone of having gone through a century, the Zoo published the zoo history, on one hand, to celebrate the centennial birthday, and, on the other hand, to provide a reading material for the public to understand the history of the Zoo, which is highly educational. From Yuanshan to Muzha, experiencing the Japanese rule, the early postwar hardship, the turning point in the 1970s, to the large, modern zoo today, the history of Taipei Zoo is not just a history of the zoo itself, just like what is said in the "Preface" of this book, it sidelights the development of the society in Taiwan for the past century, describes the interaction between the zoo and the society, and also records the evolution of the relationship between humans and animals. The text of this book strives to be plain, along with appropriate pictures to facilitate reading, for the convenience of inquiry of the various sectors. It is rich with content, and is well worth reading.

The nature of this book is the history of an institution, and the direction is modernization, which is how Taipei Zoo went from a local pre-modern zoo and walked towards a world-class modern zoo. The author pointed out: set up during the Japanese Period, the historical significance of Yuanshan Zoo today is in its "Opening." Many regulations and designs of a modern zoo, including its internal organizational regulations, visitor-path plan, and visitor management practices already appeared during this period. After the end of World War II, the government of the Republic of China took over Taiwan. Because of the war, the Zoo lost many precious animals, and while the lack of funding for renovation, Animal Performances became the dawn of rebuilding the zoo bringing more than 3,000,000 annual visitors. However, looking at a modernized zoo today, which must contain the four major functions, namely recreation, education, research, and conservation, whether it was the Yuanshan Zoo during the period of Japanese rule or before

the 1970s, it could only be said as a pre-modern zoo. When Taipei City Government decided to move Yuanshan Zoo to the present Muzha site in 1974, Taipei Zoo entered an "important turning point of modernization," and in the 12 years until the official relocation of the Zoo in 1986, the four major functions that symbolize modernization started to sprout and became development goals. In the ten years after the relocation of the Zoo, there was an absorption and growth period. Because of the lack of various experiences in modernization, the Zoo gradually adjusted to be on track through learning, and so as to expand the footsteps of modernization, the speed of internationalization was accelerated. Starting from 1997, after Muzha Zoo has been opened for more than ten years, the Zoo stepped into the "modernized developmental stage," the connotation of conservation and education deepened, the new exhibition areas were completed in succession, and star animals were introduced, it had become the familiar Muzha Zoo that we know today.

In recent years, under the efforts of arts and cultural creators, some Taiwanese historical stories have been adapted into novels, comics, and have even leapt onto major television and silver screens. Have we ever thought to use the "zoo" as the background story, and perhaps it could become the theme for the next historical novel, comic, or movie? No matter how it is presented, before the history of the Zoo is organized, this might have only been an imagination, because we don't know what has happened in the past in the zoo. Today, after this zoo historical book has come out, it seems that the appearance of these works can be expected. For the arts and cultural creators, there are also more historical basis and source of imagination. This is why this foreword is written.



Chin-tang Tsai

Chairman of Taiwan Historical Association

Foreword

Taipei Zoo Director

Looking back at the century-old history of the Zoo, it collected and displayed many rare animals; and even experienced the baptism of World War II, the dark period where the ferocious animals within the zoo were slaughtered. Although limited by the distress of the environment after the war, under the efforts and toiling of the predecessors, and then gradually introducing a variety of animals to be showcased, breaking through the bottleneck of breeding and management techniques, which enriched the displays, Yuanshan Zoo was created to become a fountain of happy memories for many adults and children. In the 1970s, given the developmental limitations of the old Yuanshan site, there was the proposal of relocating the Zoo. After nearly 10 years of hard work, finally, in 1986, many records of first were experienced, and the Zoo was relocated to the present site. Continuing the efforts of each director and colleagues, the zoo was operated to become a paradise for animals, and also laid a solid foundation for the zoo to become the most important conservation, education, and research base in Taiwan. And through the participation of international organizations and the holding of international conferences, Taipei Zoo was even pushed onto the international conservation exchange and cooperation platform.

Over the course of development in the past century, from the initial collection and display, like a stamp collection, Taipei Zoo has transitioned to a display using conservation research and educational promotion combined with the focal protected species, which highlights the value and importance of the conservation of species for the Zoo. I was fortunate enough in August of 1999 to take position at the Zoo's Veterinary Office the second day that the koala first arrived in Taiwan. From the animal daily routine medical work, the basic database of the localization of various types of species was gradually promoted and accumulated, building up digital image recording, animal training, and medical research cooperation. Being engaged in medical and research work of wildlife rescue opened up a work process that was full of surprises, challenges, and sense of accomplishment. Since having taken over as director in September of 2011, the level of involvement and contact have become wider, the realization of the difficult situation of worldwide wildlife have become deeper, I deeply felt how important the mission shouldered by the Zoo on the works of promoting conservation, research, education, and visitor educational service is and how there is no turning back.

Along the way, the corrections and expectations from conservation experts at home and abroad, scholars, and organizations, enterprises, and individuals concerned about animal welfare, along with those from the same industry have all been the driving force spurring the Zoo to improve and progress. In addition, the partners that have participated in the service during various stages, all the colleagues and volunteers, regardless whether they're in administrative, support, or professional group or room, have written the history of the Zoo at their post, step by step. At the 100-year mark of the Zoo, in the role as the incumbent director, my heart is filled with gratitude facing the concern, expectations, and honing.

For a person, a century is a threshold of time that is difficult to cross. For Taipei Zoo, not only is being built for a century a place and time, but a turning point for reviewing the past and looking into the future. At the moment the Zoo is heading towards the new century, standing on the conservation base managed by all the people and colleagues for this past century, I deeply hope the colleagues and myself, we can work together, take strides, stand firm in Taiwan and walk towards the international stage. The cooperation of focal species conservation in the region was promoted; getting together and reaching consensus with enthusiasts, promoting professional education and sharing of experience, and deepening the cooperation between the partners, the global conservation program was jointly promoted. In response to the changes in global environment, animal displays were developed that complied with natural ecology and education; promoting the combination of internal conservation and external conservation of wildlife, enhancing the effectiveness of animal welfare and environmental conservation, demonstrated with more diverse approaches, a service experience that was deeply filled with meaning and conservation significance was provided for various types of visitors; diverse digital network tools were introduced, crossing the barriers of time and space, influence levels were expanded.

Lastly, I hope the partners that are working hard for the Zoo all can find the position in the growing history of the Zoo. The changes and progresses of the Zoo from this past 100 years are all recorded in this book of century-old history book. Through the book, we hope to take everyone to review the past bit by bit while also passing it on. I also hope that under the efforts of everyone, we can together achieve a future that is filled with warmth and harmony for the new era of Taipei Zoo.

Chin, S.C.

Jason Shih-chien Chin

Taipei Zoo Director

Preface

In 1914, during the period of Japanese rule, Japanese private individuals established a privately-run "Yuanshan Zoo" at today's Yuanshan, opening the centennial history of "Taipei Zoo." In 1915, Yuanshan Zoo was acquired by the Japanese government, becoming a government-run zoo, and officially operated starting in 1916.

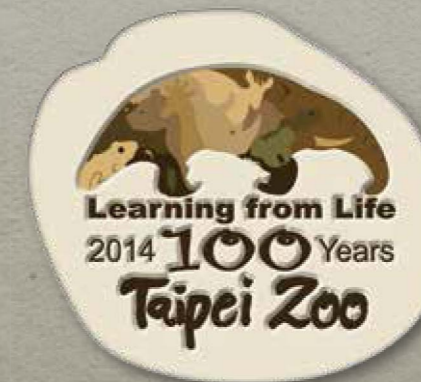
How should the start of the Zoo history be identified? There have always been many types of opinions; however, at the 328th faculty meeting in 2012 at Taipei Zoo, the start of the Zoo was set at 1914, the reason being that although at the time it was a grassroots privately-run zoo, the name "Yuanshan Zoo" has already started being widely used in newspapers, magazines, and among the people, just like an old store. Even until today, it is still a name that we are familiar with and one that is difficult to replace, and the space and facilities prepared and established during the privately-run period have already been enabled and inherited, so when it was government-run, the foundation was established on the foundation of when it was privately-run. Therefore, Taipei Zoo set the 1914 privately-run period of the Yuanshan Zoo as the start of the Zoo history.

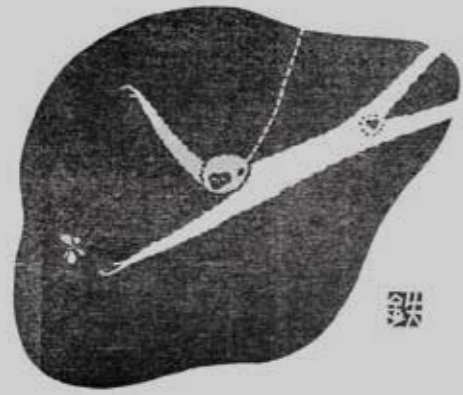
During the end of World War II, in the rumbling sound of the air raid, the Zoo was occupied by the Japanese military, and following the transfer of sovereignty in 1945, and the door that was closed because of the war was reopened the following year. Under the entertainment direction of "Animal Performances," the post-war Yuanshan Zoo presented a brand new look. In the 1970s,

Yuanshan Zoo entered into a transitional period of modernization, and due to the limited space, preparation for relocation to Muzha had started. And finally, in 1986, the entrance gates were closed, and a new chapter of "Muzha Zoo" was opened - a brand new modern zoo.

In 2014, Taipei Zoo has already reached its centennial anniversary, from Yuanshan to Muzha, it will soon move towards the next century. Relevant historical data, newspapers, and photographs were collected from this past century, the detailed contents were compiled into *A Century of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014* and officially released and published. At the same time, to provide a more colloquial and inviting history book of the Zoo for the domestic and international public and professionals, *A Century of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014* was adapted into this brief history book to share with the sectors of the community.

On the usage of name, "Taipei Zoo" is the official authority name given today. For the ease of description in this book, "Yuanshan Zoo" will be used when talking about the Yuanshan Period, "Muzha Zoo" will be used when talking about the Muzha Period, and when referring to the overall development over the century, the full name "Taipei Zoo" will be used.





The lar gibbon and orangutan Ichiro-kun drawn by artist Tateishi Tetsuomi during the Japanese Period
Image Source: *Literary Arts Taiwan*



A poet and also a historian, Yun-ping Yang wrote Japanese poems related to animals, such as orangutan Ichiro-kun and alligators when visiting the Zoo
Image Source: *Taiwan Times*



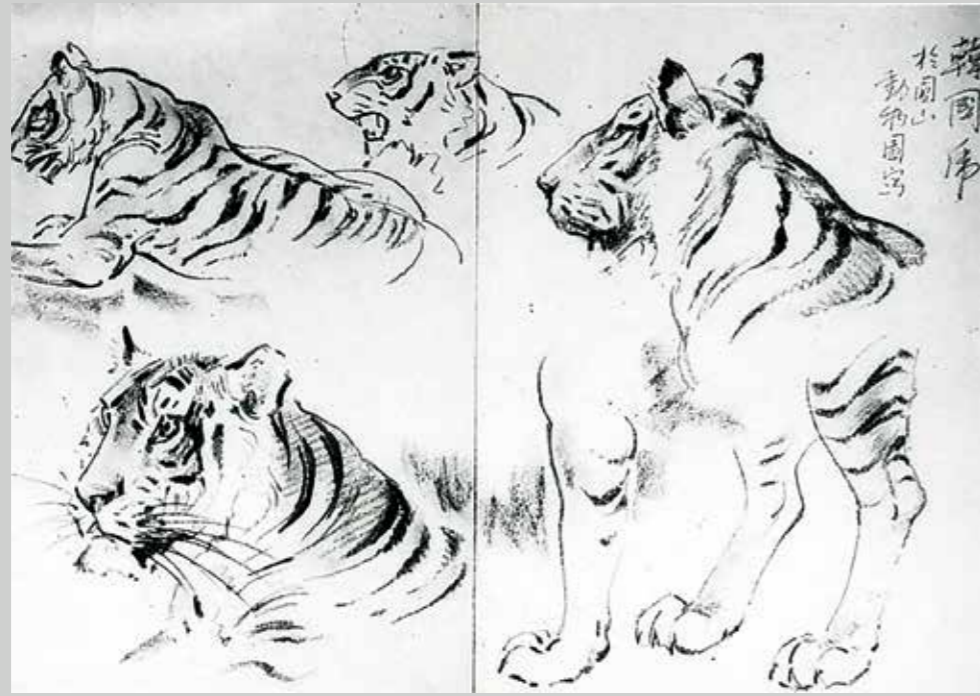
Wild boars of the Zoo drawn by Tateishi Tetsuomi
Image Source: *Taiwan Picture Book*



"Peacock" embroidered by Taiwanese woman, Zhao-zhi Kao-Chou, and is stored within Taipei Zoo today



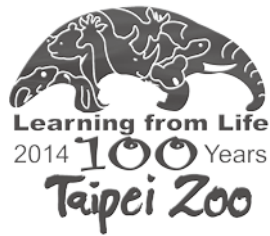
Elementary students' animal artwork during Post-war Yuanshan Period
Image Source: *Mandarin Daily News*



Artist Yu-shan Lin brought art students to sketch at Yuanshan Zoo
Image Source: Yu-shan Lin, provision by Artist Publishing

Artist Yu-shan Lin sketched at the Zoo during post-war Yuanshan Period, these are respectively Siberian tiger, owls, mallards, and monkeys

Image Source: Yu-shan Lin, provision by Artist Publishing



Brief History of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014

Publisher: Jason Shih-chien Chin

Author: Sheng-kai Hsu

Planning Team: Yi-ming Chen, Chih-hua Chang, Eric Hsien-shao Tsao, Lucia Ju, Szu-lung Chen,
Tina Chih-ting Chen, Wen-chi Lin, An-hsing Lee, Ming-ling Lee, Yu-fang Lu, Li-ling Wu

Publishing Executors / Reviewers: Yi-ming Chen, Lucia Ju, Szu-lung Chen, Yu-fang Lu

Art Designer and Ebook Producer: Tiger Advertising Co., Ltd.

English Translator: Chung Hua Translation Service

Publisher and Distributor: Taipei Zoo

Address: No. 30, Sec. 2, Xinguang Rd., Taipei City 11656

TEL: 886-2-29382300

FAX: 886-2-29382316

Website: <http://www.zoo.taipei.gov.tw>

E-mail: zoo@zoo.gov.tw

Price: NT\$200/CD

Published Oct. 2014 / CD / First Edition of *Brief History of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014* (English Edition) (PDF)
【 This CD also includes First Edition of *A Century of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014* (Chinese Edition) (PDF) 】

GPN: 4310301907

ISBN: 978-986-04-2531-4(PDF)

Description of other types and editions:

Published Oct. 2014 / Paper Hardcover / First Printing, First Edition of *A Century of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014*
(Chinese Edition) ISBN: 978-986-04-2413-3

Sold at:

Government Publications Bookstore Songjiang Store

Address: 1F., No. 209, Songjiang Rd., Taipei City 10485

TEL: 886-2-25180207

Website: <http://www.govbook.com.tw>

Wu Nan Book Store, Taichung Main Store

Address: No. 6, Zhongshan Rd., Taichung City 40042

TEL: 886-4-22260330

Website: <http://www.wunanbooks.com.tw>

Publication and Souvenirs Shop of Taipei City Government

Address: 1F., No. 1, Shifu Rd., Taipei City 11008

TEL: 886-2-27208889 Ext. 3391

Copyright Management Information: For those wanting to use the content of this publication in part or in whole, they are required to seek the consent or written authorization of the copyright holder, and must contact Taipei Zoo Research and Evaluation, TEL: 886-2-29382300 Ext. 109.

The source of the images and data used in this book are indicated within the text, and have negotiated the licensing matters, if there are any omissions contained herein due to negligence, please notify us, the Zoo is willing to be responsible for the obligations of copyright negotiations.

Brief History of Taipei Zoo: 1914-2014



臺北市立動物園

百年簡史

