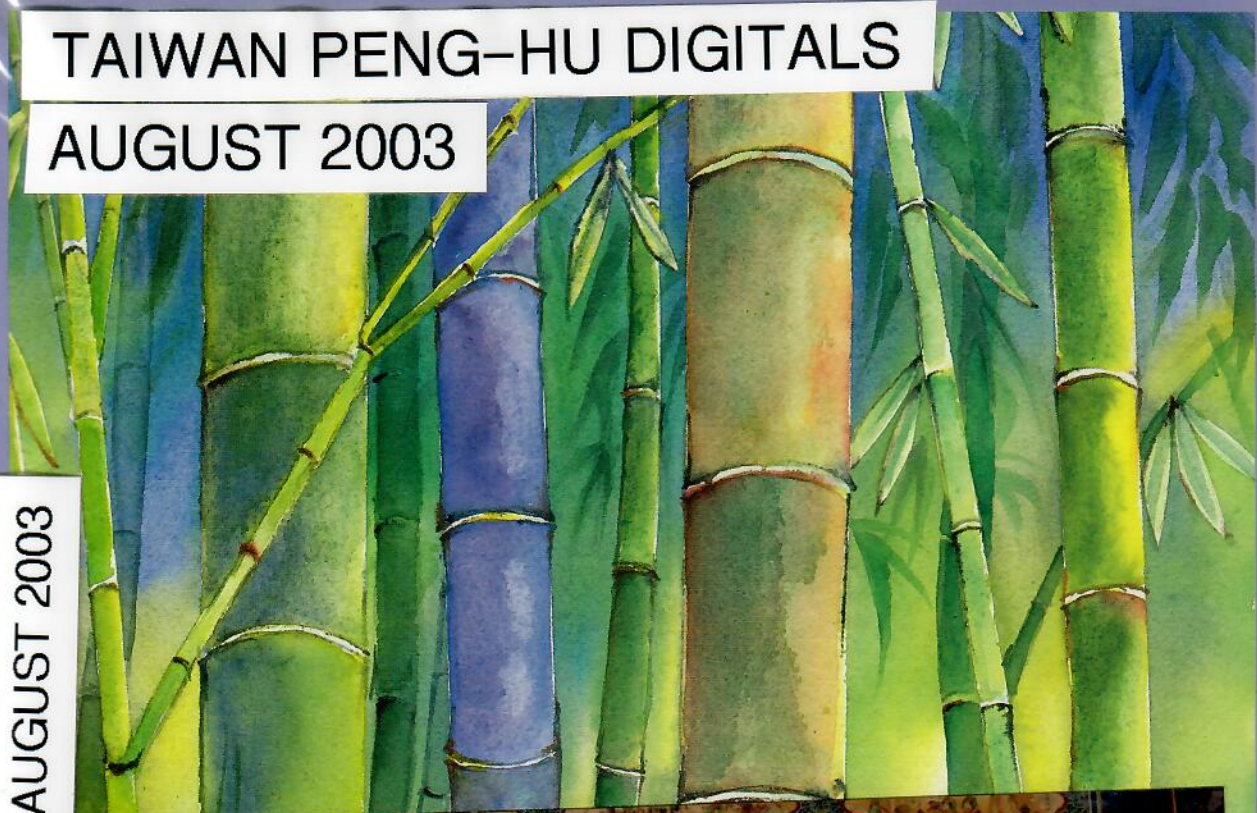


TAIWAN PENG-HU DIGITALS

AUGUST 2003

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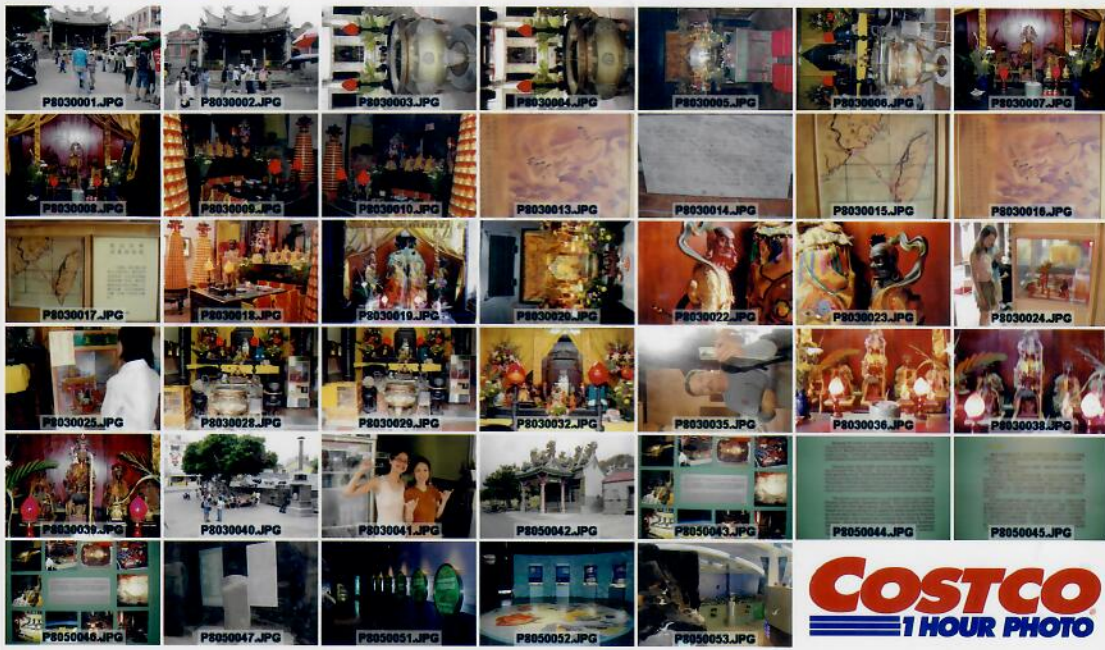




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QUEEN OF HEAVEN TEMPLE

THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN TEMPLE IS THE HOME OF THE GODDESS OF THE SEA. ACCORDING TO LEGEND, A KING OF THE MING DYNASTY RAN INTO A STORM AT SEA AND WAS DRENCHED AND NEARLY DROWNED IN AN ATTEMPT TO CROSS THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. HE WAS RESCUED BY THE GODDESS OF THE SEA WHO BROUGHT HIM TO THEIR ISLAND. IN 1602, A TEMPLE WAS BUILT TO HONOR THE GODDESS OF THE SEA AS THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN. SHE BECAME WIDELY KNOWN AS THE GODDESS OF THE SEA TEMPLE IN THE KINGDOM OF MALACCA. THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN TEMPLE WAS REBUILT AS THE NAME OF THE WHOLE AREA IN 1908. THE TEMPLE WAS EXPANDED BY TAN YU AFTER HIS VISIT TO JAPAN IN 1914. IT WAS REBUILT IN 1928 AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE IN THE MING DYNASTY. THE TEMPLE WAS DESTROYED BY DUTCH SOLDIERS IN 1942 DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR. THE TEMPLE WAS REBUILT AND RESTORED WITH DUTCH BLESSING IN FOLLOWING YEAR. THE TEMPLE IS NOW A PLACE OF PILGRIMAGE AND THE NAME OF THE AREA IS

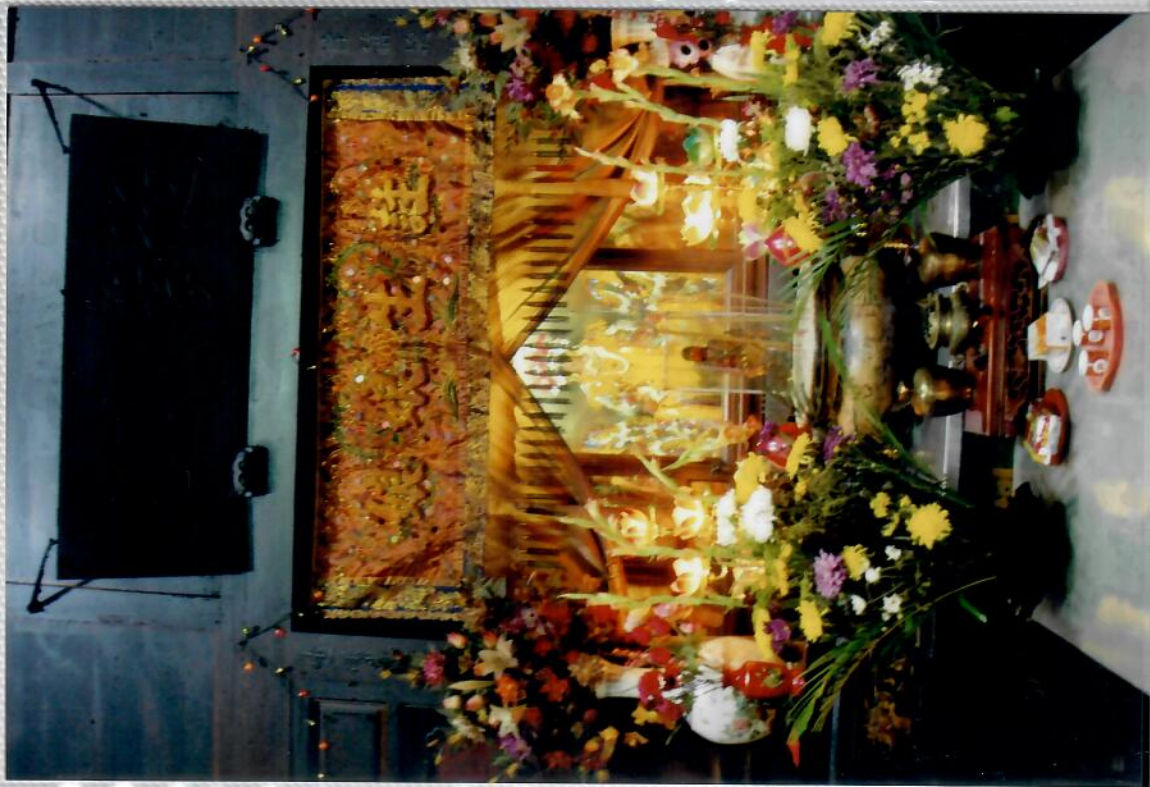
媽祖海上救難圖

疏廣海遠航展航
 艱正旋所各各意呀 右羅而注日父得保全先已後夫
 始和同河是路方父之舟舟濟者先之航吁難於備竟
 不獲也



媽祖信仰
渡臺路線圖

「媽祖」是中國大陸
 長江以南各地，最早崇拜
 的航海神。約於明末隨閩
 南移民傳入澎湖；繼而由
 臺灣府城向南北傳播；而
 擴及全臺；並日逐漸轉型
 為臺、澎漢人的居家守護
 神。













媽祖出巡

海島與沿海居民的關係不僅限於元宵節的乞龜活動，即使在平日，漁民的居民也會在家裡供奉一尊由一片硬殼所製成之海龜形狀的“金龜龜”，在每年元宵節時送到廟宇中給神明去“加福”，然後再帶回家以保佑全家來年的平安。

媽祖是海濱漁民的守護神，不少的在海上捕魚的漁民，都傳說是在到媽祖的引渡才得以脫險的，因此她在民間的心中，有著極高的地位，自古至今，不論是傳統或是現代中，我們都可見到無數在海島對人說故事，從此，海龜在民間的信仰中，也帶有若干傳奇色彩，沿海的鄉中，如雲林縣，最近都會舉辦盛大的媽祖出巡巡遊活動，以保佑當地居民的平安，而身為救難神的海龜，也自然成了媽祖出巡時最佳的護衛了。

Goddess

Residents of Pinghu have coins made in the shape of a turtle. During the Lantern Festival, people bring these coins to the temples to have them blessed. The coin turtles are then brought home so that the blessing can be shared. The Goddess of Nature is revered by fishermen. Many stories tell of how the fishermen were able to survive terrible storms because they were favored by the Goddess of Nature. Usually the stories include a sea turtle that leads the fishermen back to shore. In Lanin county, they have annual celebrations for the Goddess of nature, for blessings and protection. The sea turtle has become the symbol of this deity.



Because the turtle is a symbol of good luck and long life, in Chinese mythology, locals sometimes make flags or banners with a turtle on it. People then pray to it seeking blessing and peace for the whole country. In the past, many elder Penghu residents move into turtle shaped houses believing that it would extend their life.

Several years ago people released sea turtles thinking that it would benefit their own lives. By protecting other lives, their own lives would be saved. Today Buddhists are trying to not only release animals into the wild but also protect them as well from other hunters. The people in Penghu have a close relationship with the sea turtle. If we can help people understand this culture then perhaps they can be more supportive to promote the protection of this wonderful creature.

The above shows that there is a very tight relationship between the sea turtle and the Taiwanese culture. This relationship does not exist with any other ethnic group. In many countries, sea turtles are viewed as a source of food or as objects to attract tourists for money, so conservation efforts in those countries is harder because they lack the momentum and support to conserve the turtles for cultural purposes. Since the sea turtle is an integral part of the Taiwanese folk culture, conservation efforts were embraced and successfully increased the number of sea turtles because of the pride the Taiwanese people take in their folk customs.

民俗活動

龜因代表福氣與吉祥，因此在中國的民俗活動中，常常佔有著重要的地位。一些沿海縣市的民俗祭典，多會用海龜作其旗幟的騰圖，以示祈求國泰民安之意。

在過去，不少的澎湖鄉親在年邁時，會搬到龜形的房舍中居住，以求其壽命能和龜一樣的長久。

若干年前，國人流行宗教放生海龜，認為經由法師做法祈福後再野放或是放在廟裡的長壽動物如海龜等，會增加自己的福報。這種做法源自媽祖的“不忍殺生”之說，且立意甚佳，但因涉及保育類野生動物的買賣行為，及無法提供飼養物種之妥善照顧的長期虐待之行為而被禁止。目前，宗教界，尤其是佛教，提倡護生（即維護生命）而非放生！

這些都代表海龜和國人的關係的確是十分的密切。這種密切的關係是世界上其他的民族所沒有的；在許多國家中，海龜不是當地動物蛋白質的來源就是吸引觀光客的財源，保育工作之推展，往往缺乏道德上的約束與民俗文化的聯繫，這會使海龜的保育失去了自發性的誘因，進而使工作的困難度增加。在我國，因海龜與民俗文化的關聯十分密切，因此保育工作的推展，不僅能逐步恢復正在消失中的海龜族群，而且能保持固有的民俗文化於不墜之地，進而達到海龜保育與鄉土民俗共榮的目的。



媽祖出巡

海島與山海間的關係不僅限於日常的生活活動，節慶在平日，海島的居民也會在慶祝性者——藉由一次慶典將彼此之海島所共有的「海神媽祖」在每年元宵節時以廟宇中輪流所去「巡遊」，然後再回宮以保佑全家平安。

媽祖是海島地區漁民的守護神，不少的在海上遇難的漁民，都傳說是在媽祖的引導才得以脫險的，因此就在居民的心中，有著極高無上的地位。自古中外，不論是傳統或是現代中，我們都發現到神對信海島人於故事，因此，海島在民間的信仰中，也帶有若干種類的色彩。這類的節慶，如鹽林縣，每年都會舉辦盛大的媽祖出巡繞境活動，以祈求當地漁民的平安，然後再將顯靈者的海龜，也自然成了媽祖出巡時繞境的護照了。

Goddess

Residents of Pinghu have coins made in the shape of a turtle. During the Lantern Festival, people bring these coins to the temples to have them blessed. The coins are then brought home so that the blessing can be shared. The Goddess of Nature is revered by fishermen. Many stories tell of how the fishermen were able to survive terrible storms because they were saved by the Goddess of Nature. Usually the stories include a sea turtle that leads the fisherman back to shore. In Linlin county, they have annual celebrations for the Goddess of nature, for blessings and protection. The sea turtle has become the symbol of this deity.







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1 HOUR PHOTO





















