

## Piecing Together Tainan Image Cultural Map

臺南影像文化地圖，大家一起拼起來

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If there is a magic that could keep one forever young and flowers always in full bloom, it has got to be photography and videography. If the recorded images captured the landscape of the city at the same time, they could piece together the city's faces throughout the years, making up a visual history of its changes. "Reclaiming People's Way of Seeing: Images from South" invites you to send in images, whether stationary photos or motion pictures on 8mm film or VHS, and redevelop the images of 20th century Tainan.



"It all started with New Glory [新光榮]!" said Wu Yong-yi, assistant professor at Graduate Institute of Studies in Documentary & Film Archiving, Tainan National University of the Arts. Relocated to Nanmen Road in 1958, New Glory Photo Studio was one of the few studios in Tainan that still shot photos with films. The interior decoration and equipment is like a time capsule, preserving the appearance of photo studios from fifty or sixty years ago. Before the owner Fang Rong-ling passed away in April this year, he donated all the photography equipment in the studio to the institute for academic research and teaching. To commemorate Fang's selfless donation with gratitude and to go through the image history of New Glory, with the support of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the institute further promotes Nanyang Common People Image Base Expansion Plan. Through collection events, images of common people are proactively preserved. The themes of collection include photography works by New Glory, photos and video footages of Tainan citizens in the 20th century, with emphasis on motion pictures.





Wu Yong-yi said that before 1960's and 70's, affluent families in Taiwan would record motion pictures on films because there was no analog tape at that time. After the 1980s, tape recorders began to enter Taiwan. Some middle-class families would buy VHS cameras to make home videos. Most images of these eras have now become orphan images, especially those on tapes, for equipment to playback is hard to find. Since the film playback machines are mechanical and optical, if the films are kept in decent condition, they can still be played. Even if they cannot be played back, you can still see something through the light. On the other hand, images on analog tapes cannot be seen with naked eyes. Without a machine, the images could not be recovered. Due to the warm and humid weather in Taiwan, many of these home video tapes have gone moldy because they are not well preserved. If not rescued in time, the images may disappear forever.

Wu commented that images of the common people have not been highly regarded. However, some of these images have historical value, capturing events that were not documented officially. This image collection event is held in the hopes of building an online image database that preserves and accumulates the memories of Tainan. The database, which will offer public online access, can tell the story of Tainan with the images. In October, New Glory Ex Situ Conservation Exhibition will be held at the Tainan Film Center, replicating memories of photo-shooting and developing experience at photo studios. If you are interested in participating in the image collection event, contact the Tainan Film Center before the October exhibition. Otherwise, image scanning service could be arranged.



如果有一種魔術，可以使人青春永駐，花兒長開、青山綠水長在，如此神奇的魔術，肯定非照相或錄影所留下來的影像莫屬；如果這些影像還凝結了城市的地景，那麼透過這些影像，便能拼湊出歲月在這城市寫下的容顏，堆疊起來，就是一部城市變遷的影像歷史。「南瀛顯影」影像徵集活動邀大家，不管是平面的相片，還是動態的八釐米膠片或VHS家庭錄影帶，一起用影像，把20世紀臺南的樣子一點一滴拼回來！

「一切的緣起全都是因為『新光榮』！」臺南藝大音像紀錄與影像維護研究所助理教授吳永毅說。民國47年遷到南門路的「新光榮相照館」，是臺南一家少數仍以傳統底片拍攝的老相館，店內裝潢及設備也猶如時光膠囊般，保存了五、六十年前的老相館樣貌，老闆方榮靈在今年四月過世前，將店內攝影器材及設備全數捐給了音像所作為學術研究及教學之用。為感念方榮靈的無私捐贈並梳理「新光榮」的影像歷史，音像所在文化局的支持下，進一步推動「南瀛庶民影像基地擴增計畫」，透過徵集活動，積極進行庶民影像的保存工作，徵集主題包括新光榮相館的攝影作品、20世紀臺南市民的照片以及動態攝影等，特別是動態影像的收集。



吳永毅說，臺灣在1960、70年以前，家庭條件好的，會用膠片拍攝，因為那時還沒有類比式磁帶，80年代以後，磁帶式錄影機開始進到臺灣，一些中產以上家庭會買VHS攝影機來拍家庭錄影。但這兩種不同時代的影像，現在大部分都已成為了孤兒影像，沒有播放的器材。特別是磁帶、膠片的播放機器因為是機械式及光學的，只要有一點點保存條件勉強還可以播放，就算不能播放，對著光還是可以看到一些東西，類比磁帶則是肉眼完全看不到任何訊息，沒有播放機器的話，影像就永遠找不回來了。臺灣的天氣又濕又熱，大部分家庭的磁帶由於保存不善，多半都已發霉，再不及時搶救，影像就可能永遠消失掉。



他有感而發，庶民影像一直以來較不受到重視，但有些民間影像是具有歷史價值的，官方不見得有記錄，這次活動便是希望能建置一個能保存、累積臺南記憶的線上影像資料庫，讓大家都上網查閱，用影像來說臺南的故事。十月份也將在南門電影書院舉辦「新光榮相館異地保留展」，讓大家重拾過往到相館照相、沖洗相片的美好記憶；有意參加影像徵集的民眾，在十月展覽前都可逕向南門電影書院接洽，也可安排專人到宅影像掃描服務。