



## Fake museum beggar makes real money

### 蠟像太逼真 「乞丐」收入多

A statue of a **beggar** with a pleading expression and begging bowl has become the star of the newly-opened Lanyang Museum, prompting compassionate visitors to hand out coins to him. The constant **stream** of donations has made the statue the museum's "wealthiest" item.

The museum entered its second stage of operation last Friday, letting visitors in for free. The museum's records showed almost 20,000 visitors passed through its doors over a weekend and many of them left favorable comments about its design and the content of the exhibitions.

The second floor exhibition shows life during the early days of the Republic of China in Taiwan. On a corner depicting life at the Ximen Ferry Point in Yilan, a few wax statues stand in front of pictures of streets and shops. One of the statues is of a bare-footed old beggar with white hair, holding a walking stick in his right hand and a broken bowl in his left hand, pleading for **handouts**.

His expression is so realistic it has caused compassionate visitors to put coins into his broken bowl. Museum staff are

keen to prevent such donations but when the museum is busy visitors secretly put coins in the bowl when the staff are not paying attention. When business is good, the beggar's income can reach NT\$5,000 to NT\$6,000 per day.

The donations have become a headache for the museum's management. By putting money in the bowl, visitors often damage the statue. Sung Lung-chuan, acting director of Yilan County Government's Cultural Affairs Bureau, said that when the **accumulated** donations reach a certain amount, the museum will give it all to charity or disadvantaged groups.

(LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY TAIJING WU)

剛開放的蘭陽博物館內有一尊乞丐蠟像，由於托碗乞討的神態楚楚可憐、太過逼真，遊客當場掏錢施捨，讓乞丐「收入頗豐」，也成為館內最夯的展示品。

蘭博從上星期五進入第二階段試營運，開放給民眾免費進場參觀，根據館方統計，周末就湧進近兩萬名遊客，民眾對於館內陳設的文物、設計反應都相當不錯。

在二樓的「平原層」展區中，營造早期宜蘭市西門渡口的民眾生活場景，除了有圖繪的街景、店鋪，並擺放了幾尊人物蠟像，

其中一尊造型是白髮蒼蒼的赤腳老乞丐，他右手拄著柺杖、左手托著破碗開口行乞。

或許是蠟像太過逼真，激發遊客的惻隱之心，掏出零錢往破碗內放，雖然現場解說人員看到時會制止，但因為遊客太多，還是有許多民眾趁著解說人員沒注意時偷偷將零錢丟進碗內，讓這名乞丐每天都有五、六千元的「收入」，「生意」可說相當好。

但民眾的善舉愛心，卻也造成館方人員管理上的困擾，更怕會造成蠟像毀損，宜蘭縣政府文化局代理局長宋隆全表示，縣府並不鼓勵民眾如此做，但對於已經收到的善款，將會在累計到一定的金額後，全數轉贈給縣內的慈善、公益或弱勢團體。

(自由時報記者胡健森)

A statue of a beggar, top left, and a mural depicting life in mid-twentieth-century Yilan, are pictured at the Lanyang Museum in Yilan County on June 28, 2010.

PHOTO: HU CHIEN-SEN, LIBERTY TIMES

六月二十八日攝於蘭陽博物館的照片依序是：一尊老乞丐蠟像（左）；描繪民國初年宜蘭民眾生活狀況的壁畫。

照片：自由時報記者胡健森攝

### TODAY'S WORDS

#### 今日單字

#### 1. **beggar** /'bɛɡə/ n.

乞丐 (qǐ3 gāi4)

**例：**A beggar asked me for change on the subway this morning.  
(今早在地鐵上，有個乞丐跟我要零錢。)

#### 2. **stream** /strɪm/ n.

源源不斷 (yuán2 yuán2 bú2 duān4)，流 (liú2)

**例：**The controversial TV show sparked a stream of complaint letters.  
(民眾不斷去函投訴那個備受爭議的電視節目。)

#### 3. **handout** /'hænd'aut/ n.

施捨物 (shī1 shě3 wù4)

**例：**Leo survived by living on social security handouts.  
(李奧靠社會救濟過活。)

#### 4. **accumulate** /ə'kjumjə'let/ v.

積累 (lěi3 jī1)

**例：**By the time of his death, Horace had accumulated millions of dollars worth of art.  
(霍勒斯去世前收藏了總價值數百萬元的藝品。)