

Parade

In the afternoon of April 20, a “Wonderful Reading” parade was held in commemoration of World Book & Copyright Day on April 23. The NCL planned the parade to coincide with this international day for the express purpose of letting the public experience the fact that reading is an integral part of a wonderful life.

The groups that participated in the parade did so of their own accord, coming from schools, libraries, book clubs, and story-telling troupes from all over the island. In all over one thousand people participated. At least one group portrayed the main character and the animals from the currently popular book *Life of Pi*.

Other characters seen in the parade include *Alice in Wonderland* and *Peter Pan*; also, the eye-catching “book jacket people” put their favorite books on display by using cardboard and other materials to make human-size book jackets, which they then donned. They were, as it were, living advertisements for good books.



Minister of Education Chiang Wei-ling (2nd from left) giving an opening speech.

There’s a romantic legend in Spain regarding World Book & Copyright Day that involves roses and books (wherein the knight who saves the fair maiden gives her roses as a token of his love and, in turn, receives books from the princess, symbolizing knowledge and power). As such, the parade ended in a romantic fashion as 50 pairs of fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, couples, husbands and wives, and friends presented books and roses to each other.

■ Visiting Distinguished Guests

Dr. Deanna Marcum, former associate librarian for Library Services at the Library of Congress (LC) and Dr. TongLi Chen, former director of the Asian Library at Illinois University visited the NCL on the 15th of March, 2013.



Former LC Associate Librarian Dr. Deanna Marcum and Director-general Tseng.

Besides making a courtesy call to Director-general Tseng, they discussed and exchanged on digitization of publications, legal deposits,

manuscripts collection as well as the long and sustained relationships between these two libraries. This was followed by a visit to the Special Collection Division and the results of the LC and NCL digitization collaboration.

Since the year 2005, the LC and NCL officially signed a digitization of rare books cooperation agreement. This agreement was extended to 2007 until the end of 2012. This mutual agreement was signed by Dr. Deanna Marcum in her position as the then LC associate librarian.

This project was funded and supported by the National Science & Technology Council “Taiwan e-Learning & Digital Archives Program” (TELDAP) program and the Ministry of Education. This enabled the progressive digitization of titles from Sung, Ming, Ching and Korean ancient documents. The digitized outcomes are posted in the NCL “Rare Books Image Search System” providing a global service, opening Taiwan to world renowned libraries as a herald in the digitization cooperation on Chinese documents and archives. This indeed has its historical significance.

Events

■ *Attending the AAS 2013 Annual Meeting and Book Exhibition*

The Association for Asian Studies’ (AAS) 2013 Annual Meeting and Book Exhibition was held on March 22-24 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, California. The Center for

Chinese Studies from Taiwan’s National Central Library extended an invitation to the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange to attend the annual meeting and book exhibition together. NCL Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei and Assistant Editor Zhen Liao represented the Library.

NCL’s stand at the book exhibition displayed 485 titles (525 volumes) of books and CDs published in Taiwan in the last three years covering the topics of Chinese and Taiwanese studies. These represent the scholarly achievements and publication trends in Taiwan. The one thousand plus attendees from all over the world were able to order the books on display. At the same time a complete set of these resources were donated to the University of Texas Austin, which signed a memorandum with the Library in November 2012 for a Taiwan Chinese Studies Resource Center. The donation was designed to increase the Chinese studies and Taiwanese studies resources available in its library.



Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei (center) presented publications to Director Su Meng-fen (left), University of Texas Austin.