

The NLA has a rich amount of holdings on Chinese books and Chinese studies, including works by early Australian sinologist C.P. Fitzgerald, the Australian ambassador to China during the War of Resistance Douglas Copland, and German sinologist Walter Simon. Regarding its holdings of Chinese books, just a look at its London Missionary Society collection shows what valuable work it has.

The London Missionary Society collection has 722 works, including 680 in Chinese, which were published between mid 19th century and early 20th. A few of the works were printed in the 17th century. The most unique aspect of the collection is the many works from mid to late 19th century on the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, such as *The New Gospel of Matthew* by Final Edict and *The Taiping Heavenly Calendar*.

In addition, other holdings related to Christianity include 60 translations of the Bible, which are important in researching translation and Sino-interpretation issues. There are also many contemporary Chinese books and periodicals. The Australian government and academia have actively promoted Chinese studies: as such, since 1990 Australia has become an important academic center internationally, as well as an important partner in publication exchanges with the NCL.



A replica of “Diamond Sutra” of the NCL collection is given to the NLA.

The signing of this cooperative memorandum occurred in NLA’s Asian Collections reading room. Present were NLA’s Assistant Director General Amelia McKenzie, Head of Chinese Collections Ouyang Dipin, and Chih Yao-tsung, Executive Director of Education Division of TECO in Canberra.

## Events

### ■ *NCL Reprises its “Four Seasons of Reading” Lecture Series*

The NCL reprised its “Four Seasons of Reading” lecture series this year, furthering the library’s ongoing efforts to promote national literacy. The spring series comprise seven lectures under the title “Reading the Poetry of Taiwan.” “Notable Figures of the Republic of China” is the main theme of the summer series, which brings together six lectures under the title “The Enlightened: Six Notable Figures from the Turn of the Century.” The fall lectures will put Chinese classics in the spotlight during a six-session series entitled, “Lyricism and Impressionism: Love and Alliance in Classical Opera.” The series will wrap up with six winter lectures on western classics.



The lecture venue

The 2014 spring series of lectures kicked off on February 22. This series aims to heighten

reader awareness of Taiwan's classical poetry and appreciation of how these works are closely tied to the pulse of Taiwan's history and society and reflect a love for the land of Taiwan. The covered works range in subject from the migration and settlement of Han Chinese in Taiwan, observations on indigenous culture and ethnic interaction to elegies of turbulent times, reflections on the people's life and local customs, and writings on Taiwan's natural and cultural landscapes. The lectures seek to open a new window to the classics and present a different perspective of the beauty of Taiwan.

■ ***Illustrated Book Master Tatsuya Miyanishi Shares a Beautiful World of Pictures at the NCL***

The NCL held the "Beautiful World of Tatsuya Miyanishi's Illustrated Books" seminar on February 9, 2014. Readers began arriving at the seminar venue at noon to hear best-selling Japanese author of illustrated books Tatsuya Miyanishi talk about the creative process and the life philosophy, rooted in love, that informs each of his beautiful stories.



*A group photo of Master Tatsuya Miyanishi, Director General Tseng and Cheng Ming-chin taken in the lecture venue.*

Miyanishi's books are much loved by readers for the spirit of warmth, humor and true feeling they capture through their illustrations and complementary stories. Renowned children's book

authors Lin Huan-chang and Cheng Ming-chin also attended the seminar to welcome this distinguished guest from afar.

■ ***NCL Announces the Results of the 2013 Survey of National Reading Habits***

The NCL released a report on "Reading Tastes in Taiwan" and announced the results of the 2013 survey on reading habits in Taiwan at a press conference held at the Ministry of Education (MOE) on the morning of March 7, 2014. NCL's Director General Tseng explained findings on literacy in Taiwan.

The report noted significant increases over 2012 in terms of number of library visitors, number of book borrowers, number of books borrowed, number of library website searches and number of library card applicants (the library received 82.13 million visits in 2013, up 9.4 million or 13% from the year before; the number of book borrowers increased to 16.63 million, up 610,000 or 4%; the number of books borrowed increased to 62.09 million, up 470,000 or 0.8%; the number of website searches increased to 74.72 million, up 9.71 million or 15%; and the number of library card applicants increased to 11.42 million, up 630,000 or 6%).



*Director General Tseng is answering questions for a media interview.*