



Mr. Kao states that the entire Cesky Krumlov was listed as a cultural heritage area by UNESCO.

Before the lecture began, Deputy Representative of the Czech Economic and Cultural Office David Hrdousek spoke. The first thing Mr. Kao did in his lecture was point out how Charles Bridge had long since become a landmark in Prague, as well being acclaimed as “Europe’s most beautiful bridge”. Following this, he focused on religious reforms, scientific achievements during the Renaissance, the influence of musical genius Mozart on the people of Prague, Czech literary achievements, and the Art Nouveau that Alphonse Mucha was representative of and its encompassing of worldwide decorative art.



A captivated audience listens attentively.

■ **Panamanian Ambassador to Taiwan, Dr. Alfredo Martiz, Presents the NCL with a Collection of Books**

On April 20, Panamanian Ambassador to Taiwan Dr. Alfredo Martiz presented the NCL with 17 volumes published in his home country.

These included a collection of works by famous Panamanian artists, Panamanian children’s stories, and a book about the Panama Canal. Ambassador Martiz explained that two years ago he had been invited to the Taipei International Book Exhibition, and this experience had made him to want to donate books. He hoped that the books would help the Taiwanese public discover Panamanian book culture.



Panamanian Ambassador Alfredo Martiz (left) Presents a Collection of Books to NCL Director-General Tseng.

Director-General Tseng remarked that this was the first visit to the NCL by a Panamanian ambassador, and the first time the library had been donated books published in Panama. She continued to say that this was the first step in a book culture exchange between the two countries. Besides presenting Ambassador Martiz with a certificate of thanks, Ms. Tseng hoped that in future the two countries could work together to host lectures and exhibitions. She also invited the embassy to send a representative to this year’s International Workshop for Professional Librarians, which will shortly be hosted by the NCL. Director-General Tseng accompanied Ambassador Martiz’s delegation throughout their visit to the NCL’s Special Collection’s exhibition and stack room. Ambassador Martiz said he had learned a great deal from the visit.



Director-General Tseng (center) with Panamanian Ambassador Alfredo Martiz (2nd left) and Mrs. Martiz (1st left).

■ Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies Hosted at the University of Jagiellonian

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) of the NCL in cooperation with the University of Jagiellonian, Poland, organized the “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” on May 18. Prof. Lawrence C. H. Yim (嚴志雄) from the Chinese University of Hong Kong was invited and spoke on “Wu Weiye’s (吳偉業, 1609-1672) ‘Song of the Lute’: A Mourning Song for the Fallen Country.” This talk was included in the seminar of “Jagiellonian Window to China” organized by the university.



Prof. Yim speaks on “Wu Weiye’s (1609-1672) ‘Song of the Lute’: A Mourning Song for the Fallen Country” at the Taiwan Lecture for Chinese Studies.

Prof. Yim argued that the first and the last sections of Wu’s poem consist of a nuanced dialogue

in which the doomed fate of the late Ming is played out in terms of the differences between the Southern and Northern cultures. He continued that here in the poem, Wu muses on the music, culture, and living style of late-Ming Jiangnan, which are regrettably seen as elements contributing to the demise of the Ming house. To conclude, Prof. Yim pointed out “Song of the Lute” tenderly expresses a sense of self-criticism, and can be considered as a confession of guilt.

In celebration of TRCCS’s first anniversary set up at the Jagiellonian University in May last year, Director-General Tseng was invited to speak at the conference as the keynote speaker. Director-General Tseng spoke on “Digital Curation for Cultural and Intellectual Assets—Recent Efforts of the National Central Library.” Participants were impressed by NCL’s efforts in digitizing its collections and willingness to share Taiwan’s digitization materials.



Director-General Tseng speaks at the seminar of “Jagiellonian Window to China.”

■ The NCL Holds the Foundation Training Course in Pingtung County

To assist Pingtung (屏東) County in improving its library services and enhancing the professional skills of its library staff, the National Central Library (NCL) recently held the Pingtung County Foundation Training Course in Public Library Management. Seven experts and scholars were