

## NCL International Exchange Events

On Oct. 27, 2017 Head Librarian Esther Chen and Cathleen Paethe from the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Germany visited NCL. They desired to understand NCL's collections, patrons and current cataloging efforts, library-sponsored activities, digital humanities projects, and international collaboration.

On Nov. 3, 2017 Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès, who has overall responsibility for the Vatican Library and Vatican Secret Archives, visited the NCL. Besides describing the collection of ancient books and manuscripts held in the Vatican Library, Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès discussed exchange cooperation and exchange between the two libraries.



*Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès presents Director-General Tseng with a new reproduction Bible printed on parchment.*

On Nov. 21, 2017 Choi Seoyoung from the Seoul Children's Public Library lead a group of eleven individuals to visit NCL and better understand actually service policies and facilities. They hope to use what they learned in this visit to improve library services in Korea.

On Dec. 12, 2017 Dr. Susan E. Parker, head librarian at the University of British Columbia in

Canada, and two others visited NCL's Rare Books Room and other services and facilities. They also visited with Director-General Tseng, where both parties shared their experiences in digitizing and cataloging ancient books. They also discussed possible future projects to collaborate on.



*Dr. Parker presents Director-General Tseng with publications.*

On Dec. 14, 2017 Mr. Gyoung-Cheol Kim, director of the National Library of Korea, led a three-person delegation to visit the NCL. They enjoyed an introductory film on the library and toured its facilities and services. In addition, both libraries exchanged views on such topics as NBINet, resources for literary holdings, the E-book ATM system, Taiwan E-book, and recommending the works of select authors.

On Dec. 18, 2017 Prof. Zlatko Sabic (who is in charge of the TRCCS project) from the School of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia, visited the NCL and discussed with Director-General Tseng matters of collaboration for 2018, such as mutual visits by librarians in both institutions and hosting a Taiwan Lecture on Chinese Studies.

On Dec. 19, 2017 Assistant Director Liu Yuhong

from the Local Chinese Gazetteer Control Group Office led a delegation of six to visit the NCL. Deputy Director-General Ying-mei Wu welcomed them. In addition to touring the library, they also held a discussion with NCL staff from Special Collections and Knowledge Services Divisions.

On Dec. 21, 2017 Assistant Dean Yang Guanghui from Fudan University's Graduate Institute on the Preservation of Ancient Chinese Books and fifteen students from the institute visited NCL. NCL's Special Collections Division personnel showed them NCL's collections and digitization facilities. The group also saw the book restoration area and exchanged ideas and experiences in this discipline.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

Professors Axel Schneider and Peter B. Ditmanson were invited to give a talk at the Academic Seminars for CCS Scholars Worldwide on Oct. 3. In the first session, Prof. Schneider delivered his lecture, entitled "What is Conservatism? A Reflection on Intellectual History." Prof. Schneider pointed out that Conservatism was not at all uninterested in progress, but values tradition, stability and genial change.



*Left to right: Prof. Axel Schneider, Prof. Jo-shui Chen, and NCL Director-General Tseng.*

In the second session of the seminar, Prof. Ditmanson lectured on "Early Ming Dynasty Book Publication and Its Supporters." He argued that the preface functioned not only to introduce the author, but also to reveal information about the book's publication. Asking a grand secretary to write a preface was just like a guarantee to gain the government assistance, and so the preface of each book reflects the social networks of an author.



*Prof. Ditmanson (left) and Prof. Hung-tai Wang.*

Prof. Manas Ghosh shared the fruit of his research on the films of Taiwanese director Hsiao-hsien Hou on Oct. 18. Prof. Ghosh remarked that Hou's works were influenced by Hong Kong's New Wave Cinema of the 1970s. The national discourses of Asia and Taiwan mainly center on the binary opposition of city and village. Small town society does not fit this binary, however, and is closer to be a link between city and village. Director Hou challenges this convention.

On Nov. 8, Prof. Philip Clart of Leipzig University's Institute of East Asian Studies was invited to speak at the Academic Seminars for CCS Scholars Worldwide. In his lecture on "Religious Museums in Taiwan," Prof. Clart described how he visited religious museums around Taiwan, investigating the founding aims and layout of