

After the lecture, the audience took advantage of this rare opportunity to interact with Rector Sych, asking many questions regarding the content of her lecture. Rector Sych answered from a professional perspective, giving her views and feedback based on actual experience. This interaction deepened the significance of the event.

■ Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies held in Europe and East Asia

In conjunction with the establishment of new Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies (TRCCS), National Central Library (NCL) and the partners of TRCCS regularly plan and host the Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies series. The purpose is to tap into the vibrant atmosphere surrounding Taiwan studies and Chinese studies to effectively promote domestic and international exchanges on research achievements in these areas. In May and June, there were three Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies held in Europe and East Asia by NCL.

On May 7, 2019, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia in cooperation with the Center for Chinese Studies at the NCL hosted the first session of Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies. Prof. Chiung-yun Liu, associate research fellow at the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, was invited to present “Loyalty in Print-Forming and Transforming Moral Paragons in Rijigushi (Stories of the Past to be Remembered Daily).”

On May 9, 2019, Prof. Chiung-yun Liu gave the second lecture on “When Fantastic Narrative Encounters Empirical Knowledge: Imagining the World in The Record of Eunuch San-Bao’s

Voyage to the Western Ocean” at Sapienza University of Rome (also simply referred to as Sapienza or Rome’s first university).



From left: NCL's Editor Chih-hong Chen, Prof. Brezzi, Prof. Chiung-yun Liu, and Minister Jung-kuo Huang.

On June 28, the third lecture was held at Seoul National University, Korea. Prof. Ho-yi Lin from Department of Drama and Theatre at National Taiwan University was invited to present “The Influence of New Varieties of Fiction on Literary Chuanqi Drama in Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasty.”



Prof. Ho-yi Lin gives a lively lecture at Seoul National University.

In addition, on June 12, 2019, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences also hosted the lecture at Library and Information Centre of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Krisztina Hoppál,

research associate at Eötvös Loránd University, was invited to present “Formosa and the Silk Road: A Mysterious Bronze Object from Taiwan.” Each lecture attracted a large and engaging audience that interacted with the lecturers, demonstrating an increasing interest in Chinese studies abroad.



Dr. Krisztina Hoppál gives a lecture at Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

■ A Taiwanese Gentry Family: Xiaoyun Villa's Ancient Books Join the NCL's Collection

A ceremony marking the donation to the National Central Library (NCL) of Xiaoyun Villa's collection of ancient books and documents was held at the library on the afternoon of June 21, 2019. Director Bo-shou Lu of the Xiaoyun Villa Management Committee donated the Lu clan's old collection to the NCL on the committee's behalf, so that it could be preserved in perpetuity.

The donation was facilitated by Prof. Shi-yung Liu of the Institute of Taiwan History at Academia Sinica, Prof. Chien-Hsiang Lee of China Medical University, and Ms. Shu-ying Wu, secretary-general of the Chinese Cultural Object Preservation Society. The donation included

Classics, Histories, Philosophical Works, and Anthologies, as well as Japanese Colonial era documents such as transaction certificates and accounts books, totaling 102 titles spanning 550 volumes. The majority of these ancient books were not already held in the NCL collection and are therefore particularly precious.

Built in 1866 during the period of Qing rule and located in Taichung's Shengang District, Xiaoyun Villa was the ancestral residence of a successful candidate in the provincial level imperial examinations, Ru-hsiu Lu. His father, Bing-nan Lu, established a study at Xiaoyun Villa in 1878. It was the most well-stocked study in Taiwan.

At the donation ceremony, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng thanked both the Xiaoyun Villa Management Committee and the Lu family for their generous gift. She remarked that this valuable donation of ancient books was the first time that NCL had received from the Taiwanese local gentry family, which sets a very important precedent. In the future NCL will appropriately arrange the collection, digitize it, and make it publicly accessible on the internet.



The Xiaoyun Villa Management Committee presents Director-General Tseng (front row 2nd right) with valuable donation of ancient books at the donation ceremony.