

could feast their eyes on a veritable banquet of Buddhist scriptures and get a real sense of how Buddhism spread across China's central plains after its transmission to the far east, and how Taiwanese Buddhism's flourishing landscape has become one of the wonders of world religious culture. The NCL was invited to select some Buddhist classics to represent its collection at the exhibition, contributing 21 precious items for display. The library has also compiled and published this beautifully illustrated exhibition catalogue with clear and concise descriptions of the Buddhist scriptures in its collection. The exhibition offered the public a taste of the beauty of the library's Buddhist manuscripts, taking them on a journey through cultural history and a deep dive into the ocean of wisdom contained in Buddhist scripture.

NCL International Exchange Events

■ Joy Comes from Afar: Recent Important Foreign Visitors

NCL has long given strong emphasis to international exchanges. Not only does it maintain great interactive relationships with foreign representatives stationed in Taiwan, but also is favored with frequent visits by libraries from China and abroad. From July to September 2019 a total of 36 visitors in 8 delegations visited or toured NCL.

On July 16, Liu Wenling from Indiana University's East Asian Library met with Director-General Tseng, during which they discussed the holdings and resources of both libraries and related development policies, as well as sharing past experiences in aspects

related to the acquisition and cataloging of ancient books. This was also an opportunity to arrange future collaboration regarding the Union Catalog of Rare Books database. On July 30, NCL invited University of North Carolina Chapel Hill Librarian Elaine L. Westbrooks to speak on "The Future of Scholarly Dissemination: Toward a Basic Construct of Open Access." She shared how to create a sustainable development of future scholarly dissemination. Before her lecture, she visited NCL Director-General Tseng, where both parties discussed resources, library operations, and related services. They also planned for future collaboration regarding the Union Catalog of Rare Books database. On August 16, the Slovak Economic and Cultural Office Taipei representative, Mr. Martin Podstavek visited Director-General Tseng and discussed issues regarding collaboration on exhibitions and displays for select original works by children's books illustrators housed in the Slovak National Gallery. The hope was also expressed that both parties could have even more opportunities for exchange and collaboration in the future. On September 20, Mr. Hanno Lecher, the Head Librarian at Heidelberg University's East Asian Library visited NCL to discuss possible collaboration. Many ideas were shared on both sides regarding potential collaboration on Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies and the Union Catalog of Rare Books database. On September 24, Malaysia New Era University College Tan Lark Sye Library Director Zhuang Luyu led a 3-person delegation to NCL. They arranged a tour of NCL's Digital Resource Center and were shown the various services and facilities

at NCL. In addition, they were able to experience the Twin Oaks VR display that is currently on display. Due to the sustained good relations between the libraries in international publication exchanges, Librarian Zhuang brought 40 volumes of Chinese and Western-language books as a donation to NCL's collection.

In terms of delegations that visited NCL, on July 11 a total of 11 persons from the 2019 International Conference on Library and Information Science (ICLIS) paid a visit. Director Fan from the International Cooperation Division personally received them. Apart from understanding NCL's organization and operations, key initiatives, and digitized resources and services, they also spent much time exchanging ideas and discussing issues faced in digitizing library holdings. After the meeting, they toured NCL's Digital Center, special collections, and other service facilities. On July 25, Mr. Rafael Joseph del Mundo, a library staff in the legislative resource department of the Philippine Senate came with four others to visit NCL. He not only sought to understand the general conditions of NCL but also was introduced to information on the Center for Chinese Studies' research grants for foreign scholars by Director Fan from the International Cooperation Division. It was also arranged for them to tour each floor of the library and the various service resources there. On September 3, a group of 13 graduate students in cross-strait civil and business law from Tsing-hua University, Nanjing University, China University of Political Science and Law, Beihang University, and Hohai University visited NCL. They toured the facilities and services at the library, as well as learned how to make use of NCL's resources.



The Slovak Economic and Cultural Office Taipei representative, Mr. Martin Podstavek (left) visits Director-General Tseng (right)



Ms. Elaine L. Westbrooks, Librarian at University of North Carolina Chapel Hill pays a visit to NCL Director-General Tseng



Ms. Wenling Liu, Indiana University's East Asian pays a visit to Director-General Tseng



Mr. Hanno Lecher (middle), Head Librarian at Heidelberg University's East Asian Library visits NCL to discuss possible collaboration

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ The Center for Chinese Studies Holds Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies Lectures

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) promotes academic exchanges in order to increase interaction between the local and overseas Chinese Studies communities. To this end, the CCS established the Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies, which every year assists 15-20 overseas scholars in coming to Taiwan to conduct research for periods of between 3 and 6 months. Besides hosting Academic Seminars for Global Chinese Studies from time to time at which these scholars can present the fruits of the research, the center also often invites renowned scholars from around the world to visit and deliver lectures. Between July and September, 2019, eleven scholars gave their presentations. Topics and speakers for each session are as follows:

On July 18th, 2019, Dr. Jia-Chen Fu, Assistant Professor at the Department of Russian and East Asian Languages and Cultures at Emory University, gave the lecture on “The Other Milk: Reinventing Soy in Republican China.” At the same day, Dr. Vladimir Kurdyumov, Head of Chinese

Language Department and Professor at Moscow City University, gave the lecture on “Typology and Theory of Chinese Language for Universities' Students in Taiwan and Abroad.”

On July 30th, 2019, Dr. Steven L. Riep, Associate Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature, Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, gave the lecture on “Remapping Taipei: Street Names, Political Symbolism, and Artistic Responses in Fiction, Poetry, and Film.” At the same day, Dr. Aaron K. Reich, Assistant Professor at Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, USA, gave the lecture on “Becoming a Daoist God: A Study of The Canonization Scroll of Li Zhong, a Ming Dynasty Certificate of Canonization .”

On August 2nd, 2019, Dr. Zhang Songjian, Associate Professor with Tenure at the School of Humanities, Nanyang Technological University Singapore, gave the lecture on “The Influence of Taiwan Modern Poetry on Singapore.” At the same day, Dr. Nicolas Standaert, Professor of Sinology at University of Leuven, gave the lecture on “Chinese Voices in the Rites Controversy.”

On August 13th, 2019, Dr. Stefan Kramer, Professor at University of Cologne, Germany, was invited to give the lecture on “Time and Space Aesthetics: On Film and New Media.” At the same day, Dr. Andrew Birtwistle, Associate Professor of Canterbury Christ Church University, gave the lecture on “Unhealthy Realism: Representations of modernity in the films of Pai Ching-ju.”

On August 20th, 2019, Dr. Hanung Kim, Junior Fellow of Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts at Southern University of Science and Technology, was invited to give the lecture on “Between Nāgas and Dragons: The Historical and Religious Meanings of Tibetan Rainmaking Rituals on