

“Who is the intended audience of book editing?” are basic research questions and thought patterns. She spoke of the influence of printing techniques, or what is called early modern printing in Europe. She then spoke of initial process of scholars and textual transmission knowledge beginning with the Renaissance. Next she spoke of the religious reforms brought about by Martin Luther and the scientific concepts of Descartes and others from the Enlightenment, when the value of transmitted knowledge greatly increased.

Dr. Blair also spoke on the significance of the German bible in terms of printing history, cultural history, and translation and dissemination. Rare books from the West reveal artistic works resulting from exquisite printing, manual revisions, and manuscript illustrations. Dr. Blair then introduced the illustrations and exquisite portraits in rare Western works, as well as how techniques in book decorations influenced the rise of business in Europe. She also spoke of the phenomenon of rare Western books, specifically through fact that many printers, editors, carvers, and errata were recorded much value was added to these ancient books.

Dr. Blair spoke of Francis Bacon, the famous thinker, researcher, businessman, and even failed politician (due to a scandal). One main characteristic of his writings was the fact that the margins were all blank. Through new discoveries and new items, Bacon enabled us to accumulate more knowledge. Through copperplate illustrations, we can see the thoughts the author wanted to portray; that is to say, surging forth on a tidal wave as we navigate the sea of knowledge.

A folio version of Shakespeare is different than the books in Latin that Francis Bacon wrote, making it a rare edition of Shakespeare’s collected plays. From the inserts in the book an outline of cities at the time is visible, as well as the rejection of actors and theatrical companies by people at the time. For this purpose, after Shakespeare died his friend went to much pains to print this folio version in an attempt to remedy this type

of prejudice. Dr. Blair analyzed the difference between the first and second folio version, as well as the traces of glue used in fixing them.



*Professor Dr. Ann Blair gives a talk.*



*NCL Director-General Tseng (left) presents Dr. Blair with some mementos.*

### ■ **Lecture on Contemporary Cultural Growth in India and the Experience of Learning Indian Arts in India**

The NCL and India-Taipei Association have been co-organizing the Contemporary India Talk Series since July 2019. Taiwanese artist, Ms. Hsuan-chen Liu, was invited to give the fourth talk in the series at the NCL on January 17, 2020, entitled “Contemporary Cultural Growth in India and the Experience of Learning Indian Art in India.” Despite the cold weather, the talk was well-attended.

The event organizers specially arranged for the dance group NTU Happy Feet to give a dance performance to open proceedings. Dressed in traditional saris, the dancers formed a circle and performed Thiruvathirakali, Kerala’s most

ancient traditional dance. The graceful, elegant movements of the dance left a deep impression on the audience.

In his speech, India Taipei Association Deputy Director-General, Mr. Sohag Sen, remarked that this was the fourth in the Contemporary India Talk Series session, and thanked the audience for their support so far. He said that the speaker, Hsuan-chen Liu, had been studying in India for more than ten years where she gained a deep understanding of Indian culture and arts, and that he believed it would be difficult to find a better artist anywhere in Taiwan. He also thanked both Ms. Liu for taking time out to share her precious experiences of India with the audience, and the National Library for supporting the Contemporary India Talk Series.



*Group photo of the speaker, dancers, and dignitaries from ITA and NCL at the fourth session of the Contemporary India Talk Series.*



*The speaker, Ms. Hsuan-chen Liu, talks about the development of contemporary Indian culture and her experiences of studying Indian arts.*

In her speech, Ms. Liu described India as a country where traditional and modern culture coexist. Contemporary Indian culture not only retains its artistic heritage, but also endeavors to share these cultural assets with the world. During her talk, she introduced the audience to Mohiniyattam, one of India's oldest classical dance forms, and to India's rich heritage of mural art, while also highlighting related opportunities to study these in India. She also brought with her three wonderful Mohiniyattam performances and commentaries, giving the audience the rare opportunity to experience their power and beauty.

In her talk she gave in-depth accounts of contemporary Indian cultural development, studying the arts in India, and the process of learning and understanding the forms of Mohiniyattam classical dance. A Q&A session drew this enjoyable and enlightening afternoon to a perfect conclusion.

## ■ Understanding the Connotations of African-American History Month through the Films of Denzel Washington

To commemorate African-American History Month, also known as Black History Month, the NCL and American Institute in Taiwan (AIT) co-organized a series of screenings of Denzel Washington films for February and March 2020. African-American History Month is celebrated in the United States each February to commemorate the struggle of countless African Americans to overcome slavery, prejudice, and poverty, and to look back on the contributions African Americans have made to American cultural and political life. In 1926, renowned scholar and historian Carter G. Woodson launched Negro History Week, choosing the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist Frederick Douglass. By 1976, the year the United States celebrated the 200th anniversary of its founding, the commemorations had been expanded and renamed "Black History