

until May 4, the first donation arrived at Harvard soon.

The receiving institution, the Harvard–Yenching Library, is an important repository of Chinese studies books in North America. It was established in 1928 and has over 4,000 ancient books that date back to the Qing dynasty. It is second only to the Library of Congress out of all of North America. The well-known Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies is a major platform for international scholarly exchange and for the development of outstanding researchers in modern and contemporary East Asian history. Brown University’s East Asian Library currently has nearly 200,000 books in East Asian languages, with 840 volumes in its Chinese special collections.



*A picture of some donated books.*

We believe that these important Chinese books, which reflect modern scholarly trends in Taiwan and which will be added to the collections of these institutions in the Eastern United States, will enable the international Chinese studies community to better understand the achievements of Chinese studies and current publications in Taiwan.

Link of the booklist of National Central Library’s intended exhibit at the 2020 AAS annual meeting: <https://reurl.cc/oLr0Ev>.

### ■ **“Relax into the Arts” Broadcasts Five Lectures**

In an effort to encourage continued support

for artistic performances during the pandemic and to provide the public with an innovative literary reading experience, National Central Library and the Trend Foundation built a live broadcasting website called “Relax into the Arts.” They also presented to the public the opera series “Luhao Explains Traditional Operas.” Each opera was planned and explained by Jenny Chen, Executive Director of Trend Education Foundation, and renowned traditional opera teacher Luhao Chu.

The “Luhao Explains Traditional Operas” series was held at 2 pm each Saturday in May and was broadcasted live. With the pandemic still raging, it was a way for the public to watch traditional operas and enjoy innovative literature reading experiences at home. The first three sessions were only held online due to pandemic prevention measures in place. The last two sessions, however, saw the pandemic abating. This opened the door for an audience to attend, provided they recorded their names before attending. These last two performances were also broadcast online for those who wanted to enjoy the lectures and performances safely on their computers or cell phones. After the performance, a video recording was made available for free on National Central Library’s Digital Audio Visual Archive system (DAVA) and Trend’s audiovisual platform and internet streaming site.

The first session of “Luhao Explains and Acts in Traditional Operas” was held on May 2 at National Central Library’s Cultural Arts Center Auditorium. It was also broadcasted live. Luhao Chu, known for his role in “Monkey King”, was invited to be the general director of the operas and to explain what was going on. Mr. Chu is experienced in Peking opera, Taiwan regional opera, Henan opera, TV dramas, and stage plays. Each opera was performed by traditional opera actors from the young generation, imbuing the performances with a strong sense of passing on tradition. The most classic and representative operas were handpicked to be performed for the audiences.

The five operas showings were: “Guahua” and “Bi Mawen” on May 2, the Taiwan regional opera “Bie yao” on May 9, the Hakka opera “Renhu qingyuan” on May 16, “Tiannü sanhua” and “Wusong dadian” on May 23, and “Youlong xifeng” on May 30.



Over 200 people attend the fifth showing of “Youlong xifeng”.



Group photo of NCL Director-General Tseng (2nd from right) with Luhao Chu (left) and Yu-lin Huang.



Luhao Chu (2nd row, 4th from right), Hsing-kuo Wu (2nd row, 3rd from left), and Executive Director Jenny Chen (2nd row, middle) take a photo with the actors.

## ■ Satisfaction Survey on COVID-19 Preventative Measures in Study Room at NCL

In early April 2020, National Central Library announced a Satisfaction Survey on COVID-19 Preventative Measures in Study Room at NCL.

The study room at NCL has continued to modify safety measures as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change. In addition to requiring patrons to swipe their library cards when they enter so that times and names can be accurately recorded, the following preventative measures have also been put in place:

1. Patrons must have their temperatures taken and their hands disinfected with hand sanitizer upon entering;
2. Study room requires patrons have a surgical mask on at all times—those who do not will not be allowed to enter;
3. Before the library opens each day, the cleaning crew will have disinfected the study room and wiped down the chairs and tables with alcohol; a sanitizer machine will be placed at the entrance for patrons to use;
4. The windows on either side of the study room will be opened to allow for better air circulation;
5. Acrylic splash shields have been installed between the 238 seats to reduce the risk of infection via airborne particles;
6. The distance between the seats in the study room was extended: originally nine seats were on each side of a table; that has been adjusted to only three. The tables have also been moved so that there is even more space between the seats.

In an attempt to understand the level of satisfaction patrons are experiencing regarding preventative measures in the study room at NCL, as well as their desires for services, those who visited the study room between March 27-29 were asked to fill out a survey. A total of 800 surveys were issued, with 502 being returned.