

but also historical and cultural interpretations by men from different periods. Important items in Director Huang's collection include a Moroccan Quran box, a silver Catholic wall hanging of St. Paul and St. Peter, a dolium with the Lord's prayer on it, medieval European handbell, a bronze music box of Our Lady of Lourdes, 19th century Belgian artist Ernest Cracco's illustration of Jesus, a 1650 vellum scroll of part of the Jewish law and Torah, a 1618 Catholic missal, Catholic documents from the 19th century, a French illustrated book of saints' stories, and an apostolic blessing plaque. Each item has some sort of unique connection with Director Huang and an interesting story.

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated in her remarks that in recent years NCL has diligently collected the manuscripts of and artifacts from contemporary persons of renown. NCL is very grateful for Director Huang's support of cultural heritages. In addition to complete preservation of precious artifacts, patrons worldwide have the ability to browse, admire, and research these items through searching the online database, which is the best promotion of social education.



NCL Director-General Tseng (right) presents Director Huang (left) with a certificate of appreciation.



Attendees spend time observing the items on display.

## ■ National Central Library Treasure Trove Reprints and Releases Banned Ming Dynasty Book *Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu*

The rare book *Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiangyi Fu* in the National Central Library's special collection of rare books on Ming Dynasty divination is a masterpiece among ancient Chinese works on astronomy and astrology. The book features such atmospheric phenomena as the sky, earth, sun, moon, meteors, the elements, rainbows, and corresponding ancient astrological content, and depicts these astronomical wonders in color. It is an excellent reference for understanding ancient astronomical phenomena, and is even one of the world's earliest books to feature aurora. In order to promote precious national treasures to the world, the National Central Library has in recent years been vigorously cooperating with domestic publishing houses in the reproduction and publication of ancient books. On this occasion, it has cooperated with Locus Publishing to release the color picture book *New Edition of the Imperial Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu*. It invited renowned Prof. Fong-Mao Lee, Prof. emeritus of National Chengchi University and researcher at Academia Sinica, to publish this dust-covered Ming Dynasty work, banned for hundreds of years, to enable readers to get a glimpse of ancient astronomical phenomena and the essence of ancient astronomical calendar systems.



Director-General Tseng displays the *Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu* in the Rare Book Room.

The National Central Library and Locus Publishing held a book launch and themed lecture on the afternoon of September 17, 2020, at which National Central Library Director-General Shuhsien Tseng and Mingyi Hao, Chairman of Locus Publishing, shared the intellectual journey of the reproduction of this precious ancient book. Director-General Tseng emphasized that the reprinting and republication of ancient books could enable the classics in the collection of the National Central Library to be reproduced today—the twenty-first century—with a brand new look. The public could get a glimpse of ancient books. At the same time, it would also facilitate utilization in much overseas sinological research, expanding the depth and breadth of such research. Tseng added that the publication of the *New Edition of the Imperial Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu* represented the third instance of cooperation between the National Central Library and Locus Publishing. There are many editions of the *Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu* in the National Central Library collection, she said; the reproduction on the occasion of this collaboration with Locus Publishing was the most complete and beautifully preserved.

At the book launch, Prof. Li was invited to give a lecture titled *The Decryption of Celestial Phenomena: Tian Yuan Yu Li and Contemporary Society*. Prof. Li guided readers towards a comprehensive vision of the beauty of ancient books from rich perspectives, such as those of history, folklore, astronomy, sociology, and philology, and further explained how the ancients viewed these astronomical phenomena, and the social significance and scientific principles behind them.

The *New Edition of the Imperial Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu* is a three-volume set with an additional appendix volume. In addition to a comparative table by Prof. Li comparing five editions of *Tian Yuan Yu Li*, it also provides 15 links to editions related to the work that can be read at home and abroad, bringing the classics to life and facilitating their enjoyment and the

reader's absorption in them.



*The reprinted New Edition of the Imperial Tian Yuan Yu Li Xiang Yi Fu is bound and presented as a three-volume, four-in-one set.*

### ■ “Love Is Our Guide”: Yang Mu’s Life and Literature

In March 2020, the poet Yang Mu passed away, sending shockwaves through literary circles in Taiwan. To remember this treasured poet, National Central Library and Trend Education Foundation co-planned and held a series of events throughout the month of September, called “Love Is Our Guide”: Yang Mu’s Life and Literature. Specific events included an exhibition on “Yang Mu’s Life and Literature,” poetics theater and a lecture called “Remembering Yang Mu,” and viewing the documentary “Towards the Completion of a Poem.” The public was invited to NCL to view the exhibition and to attend the other events. Together everyone was able to remember the style of this great man of letters and his creative works which have already become classics.

#### *Opening Ceremony and Press Conference*

On August 31, an opening ceremony and press conference was held in NCL’s Reading Room. In addition to inviting representatives from the Ministry of Culture, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (Department), public libraries to attend, invitations were also sent to Yang Mu’s wife, Mrs. Ying-ying Hsia, their son Chang-ming Wang, a close friend Bi-jung Yeh, and many noted poets and authors including Chun-ming Huang, Yang Zhao, Xiang Yang, Winway Xu, and Yang Ze. Together everyone