

Invited to the donation ceremony were famous opera singers Wen-hua Tang, Yuhang Wen, Yangqiang Zhao, and Ming-ling Chu who performed the arias “The Eight Immortals Cross the Sea,” “The Heavenly Official Bestows Blessings,” and “The Yellow Dragon Descends.” National Central Library also unveiled “Pages of Drunken Maundering: An Exhibition of Academician Yong-yih Tseng’s Manuscripts.”

NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, this is the second manuscript Prof. Tseng has donated to NCL. In 2017, he donated a cache of manuscripts, totaling more than 300 in all. In addition to scholarly works, there were many travel records, emotive prose, and old poems. Including the *Xiqu yanjinshi*, his manuscripts total over 2 million characters. Prof. Tseng is a cultural icon and his donation will be an example to others, causing others in society to place more importance and give more support to National Central Library’s archiving efforts of such manuscripts.



A group photo of the dignitaries attending Prof. Tseng's manuscript donation ceremony.

NCL Director-General Tseng also pointed out that in the information age people have largely abandoned paper and pen when writing books. In future days, there may not be any more manuscripts produced. Because of this, in terms of cultural legacy and cultural asset preservation, the manuscripts of famous people should diligently be sought out and treasured. Manuscripts received by the National Central Library in recent years total more than 80,000. NCL has also created

the Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts database. The manuscripts and paintings received have been digitized and preserved in the online database. In this way, they are accessible to the entire world and made easy for patrons to view, admire, and research.

■ National Central Library Receives the Manuscript of Prof. Hsien-yung Pai's New Book, Globally Recognized after Digitization

On 15 September 2020, renowned author Prof. Hsien-yung Pai released his latest masterpiece, *Forty Years of Joy and Sorrow: General Pai Chung-Hsi and Chiang Kai-shek*. The book could be said to be a military history of the Republic of China. At the book's launch, Prof. Pai donated the 483-page manuscript to the National Central Library. It was received by the NCL Director-General, Shu-hsien Tseng.



Prof. Hsien-yung Pai projects photos as he recounts history at his book launch.

Forty Years of Joy and Sorrow: General Pai Chung-Hsi and Chiang Kai-shek is Prof. Pai's third work describing his father, after *Father and the Republic: Collected Silhouettes of General Pai Chung-Hsi and Pain Relief: General Omar Pai Chung-Hsi and 228*. The book is divided into three volumes: volume one *Northern Expedition Anti-Japanese War*, volume two *The Civil War of the Kuomintang and the Communist Party*, and volume three *Taiwan Years*. The first two volumes are led by Yanbo Liao, and the third volume is written by Prof. Pai. The book makes extensive

use of historical materials, including more than 8,400 telegrams, letters, warrants and petitions exchanged between Chiang and Pai, as well as many files, diaries and memoirs, etc.

Among Prof. Pai's manuscripts about his father in the collection of the National Central Library, apart from *Taiwan Years*, the third volume of *Forty Years of Joy and Sorrow: General Pai Chung-Hsi and Chiang Kai-shek*, are also *Sixteen Critical Days: Preface, The Guangxi Spirit: Building a Model Province in Guangxi, 1931-37*, and *The Post-war Struggle Between the Chinese Communist Party and Kuomintang in the North-East: Causes, Consequences and Significant Impacts of the First Siping Street Battle, Spring and Summer 1946*.

Director-General Tseng said that the library has worked hard in recent years to collect manuscripts by distinguished contemporary figures, and that, after donating seven manuscripts in 2014 and twelve in July 2020, the author, Prof. Pai, was donating manuscripts for new books once again in September. The National Central Library is extremely grateful to Prof. Pai for his support of the dissemination of culture. Apart from perfectly preserving the precious manuscripts, it will also make them available to the entire world via its Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts website, giving rein to the greatest purpose of the promotion of social education by enabling readers to use them for reading, enjoyment and research.



The NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng receives the manuscript of Prof. Pai's New Book.

■ National Central Library Receives a Rare Hand-written Vellum Scroll

On September 18, 2020, Director Mei-ting Huang, Fu Jen Catholic University's Monuments Serica Sinological Research Center was invited to the National Central Library to speak on "The Meeting of Artifacts, Religion, and Man: My Experience in Collecting." An exhibition of her collection of ancient European artifacts was also held. Director Huang also donated a hand-written vellum scroll, an illustrated book of saints in French, and a document of being single from the Catholic church to NCL's collection.



Director Mei-ting Huang during her speech.

Director Huang specializes in Utopian literature from Germany, German Catholic literature from the Middle Ages, and Sinological studies and translation theory by missionaries. She has spent many years promoting scholarly exchange between Europe and Taiwan, and is well respected worldwide. She has written several books, including *Patterns of Unity: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue on the Thought of Chiara Lubich* and *The Tao and the German Utopian Literature in the 20th Century: As Examples of "Die drei Sprünge des Wang Lun" und "Die Stadt hinter dem Strom."* In addition to scholarly research, Director Huang is also a collector of artifacts. Her area of collection is rather unique, as most items are related to the history of the Catholic church. Director Huang is a devout catholic and has deep feelings toward the relationship between artifacts and religious faith. These artifacts are not only symbols of history