

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

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.