

# National Central Library

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## Spotlights

### ■ Chengdingtang Ancient Books and Manuscript Symposium and Manuscript Donation Ceremony

Western collector of ancient books, Chengdingtang, has donated and entrusted to the National Central Library 200 letters and manuscripts by cultural figures. The National Central Library held the Chengdingtang Ancient Books and Manuscripts Symposium and Donation Ceremony in its International Conference Hall on 31 October 2020. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng presided, and Chengdingtang was represented by Mr. Jason Dou. Also invited to give formal addresses were the VIP guests Bureau France de Taipei Director M. Jean-François Casabonne Masonnave and former Minister of Culture Li-chiun Cheng.



*Chengdingtang representative Jason Dou (left), treating a letter from first US president, George Washington, as emblematic of the donation ceremony, presents it to Director-General Tseng.*

On the day of the ceremony, the National Central Library launched the Chengdingtang Exhibition of Ancient Western Books and Manuscripts by Cultural Figures, exhibiting manuscripts by great Western authors, including poetry and drama by Alfred de Musset, three manuscripts by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, works by Victor Hugo and Gustave Flaubert, letters by Guy de Maupassant and Emile Zola, transcripts of Franz Joseph Haydn's Four Seasons drama, and Alexandre Dumas' five-act poem Fiesque of Lavagne, likely being seen for the first time in Taiwan. They were accompanied by precious ancient books previously brought to the National Central Library, such as a 1483 Koberger Bibel, the historiographical masterpiece Supplementum Chronicarum, published in 1490, a Complete Comedies, Histories and Tragedies of Mr. William Shakespeare, printed in 1632, a 1570 first edition of I quattro libri dell'architettura, a 1762 Du contrat social ou principes du droit politique by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a 1637 Discours de la methode by René Descartes, and a 1721 Lettres persanes, by Charles Montesquieu.

### Postal Address:

No.20 Zhongshan S. Rd.  
Taipei, Taiwan 100201,  
Republic of China

Tel: +886-2-23619132  
Fax: +886-2-23820747

### E-Mail

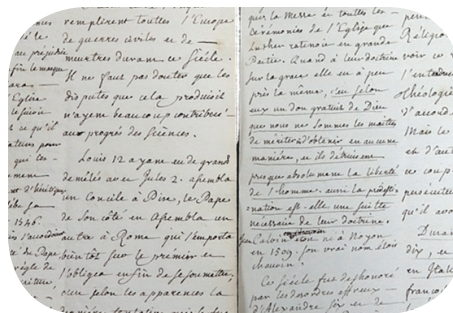
iechief@ncl.edu.tw

### Website:

<http://www.ncl.edu.tw>



Also on the day of the ceremony, the Chengdingtang Ancient Books and Manuscript Symposium was held, hosted by Director-General Tseng, at which distinguished scholars were invited to speak on related research fields. Director-General Tseng said that the library holds a wealth of material in its special collections. There are over 5,000 Western language volumes of 100 years old or older, including illustrations, texts and copious rare books, as well as the precious Western classics and manuscripts transferred by Chengdingtang. She said that the National Central Library should appropriately organize and maintain them, and digitize and place them on the internet, for the reading and research convenience of readers, and for optimum promotion of social education.



Jean-Jacques Rousseau's manuscript for "On Women and the Church."

In his address, Jason Dou of Chengdingtang said that his family had been collecting ancient Western books for more than 100 years, had for almost 50 years been collaborating with the National Library of France and German institutions of restoration on the restoration of documents, and had in recent years stored some ancient Western books with—and made some donations of ancient Western books to—the National Central Library, in the hope, with the strength of the library, to preserve this consignment of mankind's cultural heritage and digitize it, make it available to scholars for research and lend it to overseas libraries for exhibitions, and other varied promotional uses.

## ■ NCL Strategic Plan 2021-2030

The National Central Library launched its new "Visions and Strategic Plan of the NCL, 2021-2030" in January 2021. This strategic plan sets out the NCL's direction for its next decade development as it looks ahead to 2030. The above-mentioned new strategic plan includes 6 values, 6 visions, and 12 strategic goals as follows.

### Strategic Plan 2021-2030



### Knowledge, Culture, Learning, Experience, Innovation, Cooperation

- Preservation of the Nation's Heritage, Proceeding Value-added Utilization of Collections
- Digital Engagement of All People, Exercising Instrumental Leadership for Academy
- Renovation of Services, Providing User-Oriented Programs and Services
- Construction of Intelligent Taiwan Information Platform, Taking Leadership in Promoting Sinology Worldwide
- Development of Expert Service Team, Triggering off Significant Progress
- Pursuit of Ever-growing Excellence, Making Endeavors with Great Motivation

1. Promotion of Civic Information Literacy, Enhancing the Nation's Potentialities
2. Facilitating Joint Collection Preservation Collaborations, Conserving Important Cultural Assets
3. Implementation of New Information Technology, Upgrading Services for Academic Communities
4. Developing e-Learning Programs, Transforming knowledge into Competitive Power
5. Incorporation of Innovative Technologies, Transforming Service Models
6. Advancing Service Model Innovations, Delivering Sensational Services
7. Enhancement of the NCL Sinology Information System, Facilitating Scholarly Communication
8. Expanding International Sharing Programs, Broadening Global Reach and Influences
9. Taking Leadership Role for Taiwan Library and Information Communities, Advancing Service efficacy
10. Extending Services to Publishers, Nourishing Publishing Industries
11. Flexibly Adopting New Strategies and Positive Philosophy, Re-engineering the NCL into an Effective Organization
12. Establishing More Service Bases, Strengthening Service Efficiency