

National Central Library

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Spotlights

■ A New Page in the Taiwan-Mongolia Exchange: “Treasures from Taiwan: Taiwanese-Mongolian Joint Exhibition Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the National Library of Mongolia” Is Held at the National Library of Mongolia

On December 29, 2021, National Central Library and the National Library of Mongolia co-hosted the opening ceremony for “Treasures from Taiwan: Taiwanese-Mongolian Joint Exhibition Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the National Library of Mongolia.” This exhibition was held at the museum hall of the National Library of Mongolia and ran until January 29, 2022. Items on display include 57 replicas of items from the Mongolian-reign *Yuan* dynasty in National Central Library’s holdings. Other items for the exhibition included 20 replica scrolls of rubbings and portraits of emperors and empresses from the *Yuan* dynasty from the National Palace Museum and Institute of History and Philology at Academia Sinica. It is hoped that the diversity of content will give full display of many different aspects of the great *Yuan* dynasty.

The opening ceremony began with the enchanting sound of traditional Mongolian singing and the elegant performance of traditional music. National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and National Library of Mongolia Director Ichinkhorloo both hosted the event. Special dignitaries in attendance included Taipei Trade and Economic Representative Office in Ulaanbaatar Representative Chin-ru Lo, Mongolian Bureau of Culture Cultural Heritage Division Head Davaatseren, Ulaanbaatar Trade and Economic Representative Office Representative Zolzaya Lkhagvasuren, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs Department of West Asian and African Affairs Director-General Syin-yi Yang. These distinguished guests were highly supportive of how the exhibition would promote cultural exchange between the two countries. They also thanked National Central Library for allowing some of the historical works on Mongolia in its holding to be brought to Mongolia so that Mongolians can better understand the origins of Mongolia’s historical culture through the exhibition.



Director-General of the National Central Library Shu-hsien Tseng giving her remarks.

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Director Ichinkhorloo stated that she is very honored to once again invite the National Central Library of Taiwan to collaborate on an exhibition. She is also thankful that NCL Director-General Tseng was generous in lending out some of NCL's collection. From the items on display, the richness and importance of the rare books that in National Central Library's holdings is a sight to behold. These are not only treasures for Taiwan but also for Mongolia too. The Mongolian people can better trace the history of their ancestors through an appreciation of these items on display.



Library Director Ichinkhorloo of the National Library of Mongolia giving her remarks.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NCL Director-General Tseng and guests from Taiwan were unable to attend in person. However, they were able to participate in the entire opening ceremony via video conferencing and watch the broadcast from Mongolia. Director-General Tseng stated that in an effort to strengthen the collaboration between National Central Library and the world, as well as promote international cultural exchange, the joint exhibition by NCL and the National Library of Mongolia would promote better cultural understanding and appreciation between the people of these two countries. In addition, it is with great pleasure that NCL presented the exquisite replicas of the ancient books and scrolls to the National Library of Mongolia to commemorate this special event. Representative Lo presented the gifts in hopes that the knowledge contained in these books from NCL's rare collections can be transmitted to overseas and offer the Mongolian people the chance to enjoy the beauty and the significant contents of these ancient works.

This exhibition marks the second collaboration between the two libraries, the first collaboration began in 2019. It is hoped that such meaningful international

cultural exchange can be continued under both parties' endeavors to realize the dual goals of promoting book history literacy on one hand, and to strengthen friendship between the two countries on the other. To ensure that the attendees have a toll-new experience, National Central Library took special arrangement to ensure that this is a brand new exhibition, avoiding duplicate items that had been exhibited in 2019. The exhibited items provided by the NCL include the documents related with the origins of Mongolian history, records related with the formation of decrees and regulations, biographies of important figures in Mongolian history, documents on the transformation of its society, culture, geography and territory, records concerning the exploration to the West, literary creations, and the commentary scripts on ancient scrolls, rubbings of inscriptions and portraits done by famed literati or historians. It is hoped that the diversified arrangements of the cultural relics for this exhibition would made it broadly reflect the life, culture, and the arts of the *Yuan* Dynasty, showing we later generations the true glory of the country in her history.



Taiwan's National Central Library and the National Library of Mongolia utilize video conferencing utilities to cut the ribbon and mark the beginning of the Exhibition, Treasures from Taiwan: Taiwanese-Mongolian Joint Exhibition, Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the National Library of Mongolia.



Representative Grace Chin-ru Lo, on behalf of the Director-General of National Central Library, Shu-hsien Tseng, presents the National Library of Mongolia with replicas of the ancient books and paintings scrolls to commemorate this special event.



A commemorative photo of the Taiwanese and Mongolian groups after the opening ceremony.

■ NCL Special Exhibition Shines in Europe—“The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan” Held at the National Library of Estonia

On October 8, 2021, the National Central Library collaborated for the first time with the National Library of Estonia, holding at that library the opening ceremony of “The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan.” The exhibition lasts from October 8 to 23. It exhibits inscriptions on oracle bones, facsimiles from the library’s collection, such as rubbings of bronze inscriptions and stone inscriptions and others, and introduces the significant highlights within the National Central Library’s rare collections including thumb fingerprints, handwritten works, the evolution of printing technology, ancient engravings and reproductions, and many replicas of rare and precious items in the Library’s holdings.



NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng cuts the ribbon at the exhibition opening.

This is one of the destinations of the traveling exhibition the National Central Library arranged follows on that to the National Library of Latvia in 2015, and the 2016 holding of the "Imprint of Civilization" ancient documents exhibition at Hungary’s National Széchényi Library, and is a further visit to the Baltic. This exhibition also represents the third occasion on which the National Central Library has collaborated with a European country in holding exhibitions. It is hoped that through such jointly held exhibitions, the two parties could stimulate a passionate cultural exchange in further so as to promote book history literacy as well as to advance cultural exchanges. One of the highlights of this exhibition is printing technology, one of the ‘four great inventions’ of China, and it focuses on how this world-influencing technology has developed and evolved over the long course of history. The exhibition involved wide-range of materials from oracle bones and stone carvings which were used to record text since ancient times, to various handwritten copies that became mainstream after the popularization of paper and pen, to the popularity of wood-board engraving and movable- type printing after the creation of printing skills, as well as such extraordinary techniques of hand-written facsimile copies which resembles today’s photo-machine copying and digital-transcription.



Example exhibited items at “The Imprint of Civilization: Ancient Books from the National Central Library, Taiwan” at the National Library of Estonia.