



The exhibit of ancient classics in the activity of Reading the Beauty of the Life of Chinese Ancient People (pictured from Culture and Economic Center in Houston).

On the first day of the exhibition, National Central Library hosted a tea reception, replete with tea and delicacies imported from Taiwan. All of the senses were stimulated as attendees savor the tea, an activity that ancient Chinese were quite fond of. Guides were also on hand to explain the details of each exhibit.

“The Exhibit of Chinese Ancient Classics” in the Chinese Studies Library at Taiwan Academy presented again the duplicate copies of the related subject classics collections owned by NCL, as well as the related contemporary publications in print and the digitization of classics in Taiwan.

Tea tasting has resulted in the high light of activity as expected. In regard to elaborating tea quality, water quality, utensils, and good mood, drinking tea is no longer considered to merely quench the thirst any more; rather, it’s an artistic taste of our life and an utmost pursuit of the beauty of life. To enhance the interests in drinking tea, NCL prepared in particular, the commemorative tea cup filled with tea leaves and printed with the NCL-owned flower and bird pictures from its classics collections, together with

the persimmon-shaped cutting on the Taiwanese *Hakka* calio, as two gifts to give away to visiting audiences. By the way, the Chinese pronunciation of persimmon is fortunately happened in literal accordance with the meaning “everything turns out as one wishes.”

With the assistance from the foreign representatives and the staff at the NCL, the planning and operation of this series of activity and the related extension and marketing programs have all come to a happy and satisfactory close. This is further testified by the attending audiences who have fully occupied the rooms in each session of activity. For further details, please visit the following web address: <http://goo.gl/gznSD>



■ *The Beauty of the NCL Photographed by the Master*

The “Libraries: Photographs by Massimo Listri” is the exhibit that the Italian photography Master Massimo Listri presented at the NCL in the beginning of 2012. Before his departure from Taiwan, Master Listri took a special trip to the NCL, found a good view of shooting, and finished this masterpiece. From the constructional viewpoint of this photo, there are two large visual

parts, i.e., the horizontal “books” at the bottom, and the “window sills” in square pieces in the middle. There are also two smaller objects that are vertical “book shelves” that stand between two main parts and the “courtyard” that is on the top of the photo.

The two large visual “books” and “window sills” have clearly presented the image of an oriental library. Massimo focused his photograph on the horizontal “books” at the bottom. This is the highlight of the picture with its intention to indicate that the location of the shooting is in the library. For the part of “window sills,” Master Listri has unintentionally revealed the imagination of a Western artist about the Oriental world. The combination of two simple elements has clearly shown that this picture of a library was taken in the Oriental society. Obviously, this is a sharp contrast with what Massimo have photographed of the most Western libraries.

Look at the lattices of book shelves at the bottom of photo and the lattices of window sills on the wall, there is a nearly perfect of mutual relationship and harmoniously reflection with each other. In addition, there is an interesting image that all small lattices have inserted in the large lattices and that happens in book shelves and in window sills as well.

The “oblique lines” shown on book shelves and on courtyard have made the photo neither too dull nor losing its symmetry. Furthermore, the dark “books” at the bottom seems very solemn, the “window sills” in the middle shows warm color, and all extends the color to the natural, bright sunlight from the courtyard on top. All this color changes have made the photograph feel calm and warm.



Rare Books Room at the NCL photographed by the Italian photographer Massimo Listri.

Numerous lattices and lines have arranged in such a perfect and neat symmetry that seems to present the calm atmosphere of the library and the good order of the Oriental society. The structure of “courtyard” and “window sills” on the upper part of the photo consists of eight lattices each, while the vertical and horizontal book shelves on the lower are made of seven lattices in neat cutting.

Taking a closer look, numerous lines and lattices, either vertically or horizontally presented from the “courtyard,” “window sills,” “book shelves,” and “books,” neatness, symmetry, and the harmony of lines and lattices have all produced the calm atmosphere when one is reading in the library, as well as the sense of order in the Oriental society in which we live. When comparing with the variations of several thousand years of human history and knowledge deposited in the NCL special collections, the differentia of atmosphere and variations have sharply revealed the character of calmness and order in this photograph.