

share cultural diversity with everyone. Therefore, La France à Taiwan in the month of March is not only a celebratory event but also one laden with deep significance in the exchange of culture.

On March 3, there were more than 300 people in attendance, including teachers, high school and junior high school students, and others who love the French language. The first day, two movies were shown: “Ma Vie de courgetti” and “Petit Pays.” The opening ceremony was marvelous because of the important remarks delivered by NCL Director-General Tseng, the Haitian ambassador, and the representatives of the other participating countries. The ceremony was a superb one because of the wonderful remarks that have delivered important ideals and values. It was indeed a perfect way to start off the 2022 Festival du film francophone for La France à Taiwan.

This Francophone film festival showed the following films (in order): “Ma Vie de courgetti” (Switzerland), “Petit Pays” (Burundi and Rwanda), “Le Jeune Ahmed” (Belgium), “La déesse des mouches à feu” (Canada), “Je m'appelle humain” (Canada), “Adieu les cons” (France), and “Les Brigands” (Luxemburg).



A group photo of dignitaries from French-speaking countries at the Opening Ceremony of the “French Month in Taiwan” (La France à Taiwan).

■ The Treasure of a Lost Century Reappears in Splendid Glory: A Symposium for the New *Dunhuang* Scrolls in NCL’s Collection

NCL has been working on publishing *Dunhuang* Scrolls for many years. And finally in spring 2022 it was published! This new publication has been heralded by academia as the reappearance of the final puzzle piece in the precious *Dunhuang* scrolls. NCL has 161 *Dunhuang* scrolls in its collection (Rare Book Holding No.141). They are the most significant *Dunhuang* collection held by governmental agency in Taiwan in terms of

the number of items and quality. They were primarily obtained during the Sino-Japanese War by members of NCL’s Rare Books Preservation Society in Hong Kong and Shanghai. This collection of *Dunhuang* scrolls was carefully identified by manuscript experts before being added to the library’s collections. The *Dunhuang* scrolls held at the Library includes Buddhist sutras, commentary on Buddhist works, esoteric Buddhist teachings, hymns, and *bianwen* (adapted stories from sutras, historical records, or legends). Texts of many of the scrolls are unique among all *Dunhuang* collections. Furthermore, some of the scrolls contains written prefaces, postfaces, engraved seal print, and some had been mounted with underneath lining for preservation purpose. These are evidences that the scrolls had been owned and treasured by different literati or historians, and they also reveal the transferring history of the scrolls. In addition to the valuable unique content, the fact that the paper material they were written on was preserved from around the *Tang* dynasty; this is truly a marvel. They provide us opportunity to observe paper property of the *Sui-Tang* period (late 6th century to early 10th century), making them an invaluable asset of Chinese culture and human knowledge.

The value of the classics is in their broad distribution and seamless passing down but not in their being stashed away. In 2010, NCL invited internationally renowned *Dunhuang* expert Guang-chang Fang from Shanghai Normal University to personally come to conduct appraisal of the scrolls and write abstracts for them, which initialized the plan to publish this set of annotated *Dunhuang* scrolls. After many years of preparation and editing, NCL teamed up with Linking Publishing once again, after published a replica of the *Diamond Sutra* in collaboration in 2018. This newest set of publication of the *Dunhuang* scrolls are featured with the rearrangement based on the content, providing annotations for each scroll, henceforth made the content of this treasure collection easy-to-understand and conveniently accessible for researchers.

Dunhuang Scrolls New Publication Symposium was held on March 19, 2022 at NCL. Taiwan *Dunhuang* experts Professors A-chai Cheng and Ming-chang Yang were invited to hold a discussion on the origin, content, and unique feature of the *Dunhuang* scrolls in NCL’s collection. This insightful discussion effectively pulled back the mask on these rare items from a lost century.

NCL Director-General Tseng stated that in past years, National Central Library has been proactively promoting the reading of the classics. Starting in 2012, the NCL has worked in collaboration with six outstanding publishers in Taiwan to replicate some important rare items in the library's collection and publish them again, thus allowing the highlights in NCL collection to reappear in today's 21st century. This set of *Dunhuang Scrolls* publication was done through joint efforts with Linking Publishers, marking NCL's third collaboration with them. It is hoped that this publication will infuse *Dunhuang* studies worldwide with new energy.



A group photo of the dignitaries at the Dunhuang Scrolls Symposium.



A picture of the six-volume set of Dunhuang Scrolls.

■ NCL Publishes an Analysis of the Influence and Research Subjects of Taiwan Academic Resources

NCL has long devoted significant efforts to the preservation of important academic resources in Taiwan and has thus established three major

databases: the “National Digital Library of Theses and Dissertations in Taiwan,” the “Taiwan Citation Index—Humanities and Social Sciences,” and the “NCL Taiwan Periodical Literature” database. These three major databases are heavily relied upon by Taiwan researchers and the ways in which the graduate theses and dissertations, journal publications, academic books, and other academic resources included in the database are utilized reveal insights into Taiwan’s academic capabilities. This analysis by NCL was based on the databases’ data through the end of 2021 and presents the circumstances of the utilization of graduate theses and dissertations, journal publications, academic books, and other academic resources as well as presenting research subjects which have particularly received attention in recent years; additionally, it publishes a list of award recipients among journal publishers and universities. The award ceremony was held on March 28th 2022 and included the following awards: “Graduate Thesis/Dissertation Communication Award, Graduate Thesis/ Dissertation Award for Openness, Graduate Thesis/ Dissertation Resource Contribution Award, Publication Contribution Award for High Citations, Journal Resource Contribution Award, Timely Communication Award for Journals, Long-Term Communication Award for Journals.” These awards were presented to deliver the gratitude for contributions made toward academic research and they demonstrate the nature of Taiwan academic resources.

The 2022 press conference for the release of the report took place amidst the sound of string music at Shih-Chien University. During her remarks, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated that the three above-mentioned databases are all provided free of charge for use by academic communities in Taiwan and abroad in accordance with copyright standards. With the aim to provide convenient reference for scholarly research, the NCL, with a spirit to foster free information and open access, encourages scholars from all fields to release copyright to grant open access to full-text digital versions of their publications. In recent years, an increasing number of scholars has responded to this call. In the future, NCL will continue to work with the Ministry of Education to promote open access of academic publications and