

Alexandre Dumas, and George Sand. In addition, other invaluable rare books, such as *Mémoires complets et authentiques du duc de Saint-Simon sur le siècle de Louis XIV et la régence*, which is a collection of historical anecdotes. The Duke of Saint-Simon secretly observed people and affairs in the French palace then described them in the most vivid manner with his unique literary language. The book contains portraits, anecdotes, genealogy, chronicles, dialogs, and discussions.



The Ancient Western Book Section at Exploring and Reading France @NCL: Books and Special Collections Exhibition.

Exploring and Reading France @NCL: Lecture Series

In conjunction with the French-themed book exhibition, there were three lectures held:

The first lecture was on June 11 and was given by L'Express de Bénarès founder Jonathan Chiche, who spoke on “Exploring French Culture through Rare Books and Manuscripts.” The second lecture was on June 18 and was given by Prof. Chun-wei Lai from the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature at National Ilan University. He spoke on “The Beauty and Sorrow Called Forth by Literature: On Proust’s “In Search of Lost Time.” The third lecture was held on June 26 and was given by Prof. Hui-yu Huang from the Graduate Institute of European Cultures and Tourism at National Taiwan Normal University. She spoke on “The Roaring 1920s in Paris: Imagination after the Pandemic.”

■ “National Central Library–Your Pilot: Reading Anytime, Anywhere”: NCL’s Booth at the 2022 TiBE

The Taipei International Book Exhibition (TiBE) was cancelled for the last two years due to the pandemic. This year was the first year it was held in summer, specifically from June 2-7 at the World Trade Center. France was the Guest of Honor, with a total of 31 countries and 364 publishers from Taiwan and abroad joining this book feast. 2022 also marks the 30th year of TiBE. The theme set for the 2022 TiBE by the Taipei Book Fair Foundation was “Let’s Find Interest in Reading Together.” It also had 10 special pavilions, including a display called “Hello 30! Thirty Special Exhibitions for 2022 TiBE,” “In and Out of the Forest Children’s Pavilion,” and a digital pavilion with the first AR theater in Taiwan. The Dragon Boat Festival fell during the six days of the exhibition, and a total of 250,000 people visited the exhibition.

National Central Library and TiBE have a deep relationship, not only was NCL the host for the first exhibition, but also the only library in Taiwan that has involved in all thirty exhibitions. As a result, NCL designed a display on the 30 years of the exhibition, which happened to reflect NCL’s progress in responding to societal changes and information evolution. It was one of the most historically potent displays at TiBE.

For this year’s book exhibition, NCL decided on the theme “National Central Library–Your Pilot: Reading Anytime, Anywhere” for its booth. On display were the many reading events NCL offers, important scholarly resources, replicas of ancient Chinese books that make them come to life, digital reading services, and cultural and creative products made by using NCL’s collection to create an aesthetic life. Even more special was the collected historic pictures and reports from the early years of international book exhibitions, which were displayed in both physical and digital form. Through these selected materials, NCL put on display its efforts in promoting reading in Taiwan, in engaging in international scholarly exchange services, and its move on to the international stage. It is our hope that it can guide people from Taiwan and other countries to understand the fact that NCL is both a repository of books and other materials, as well as a

national brand in the promotion of reading, in addition to a window by which the world accesses Taiwan's scholarly resources and other libraries.

The opening ceremony for the booth was held at Exhibition Booth B219 in the Taipei World Trade Center Hall 1 on June 2 at 2:30 in the afternoon. That day many dignitaries were in attendance, including representatives from cultural and education circles, ambassadors and representative offices from other countries, and publishers. Deputy Minister of Education Teng-chiao Lin and Taipei Book Fair Foundation Robert Lin were invited as special guest to speak at the opening ceremony. As Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, NCL's theme this year was "NCL – Your Pilot: Reading Anytime, Anywhere," which is designed to help people more fully understand what NCL has in its amazing collections, what it does with its variety of reading promotion events, what its achievements are in planning and leading, and how it is indefatigable in its efforts to create an environment where reading is always present.



National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng during the opening ceremony states that reading fills us with power.



Group photo from the opening ceremony at "National Central Library—Your Pilot: Reading Anytime, Anywhere."

The NCL booth had eight main sections

1. A Look at 30 Years of Exhibitions section: Replicas of ancient books: A total of 10 ancient book replicas that were on display for the first exhibition.
Historic photos: A total of 17 photos from the first TiBE.
Historic information: Including the "First TiBE Catalog and Handbook," the book *Shu de gushi*, (Stories about Books), which NCL published for the 3rd TiBE, and reports and articles about the 1st TiBE.
2. Poster display section: On display were posters from the Taiwan Reading Festivals from 2013 to 2021 and Olympic athletes' reading promotion posters. A total of 24 were on display.
3. Publications section: NCL worked with publishers to publish *Dunhuang juanzi*, *Tianyuan yuli*, and *Shanghai jing tujian*. NCL has also published *Taiwan chuban yu yuedu*, *Taiwan xueshu ziyuan yingxiangli fenxi baogao*, *Taiwan yuedu fengmao ji quanmin yueduli baogao*, and the six main subject collections of the regional resource centers.
4. Cultural and creative products section: A selection of around 20 such products from NCL were on display, including mugs, porcelain cups, Chinese drama themed notebooks, business card holders, thumb drives, a series of *Su Dongpo* themed scarves, ties, and handmade books.
5. Ancient book section: This is the first time the *Lotus Sutra* and the *Diamond Sutra* have been on display; the area also has a TV wall playing a video concerning ancient books.
6. Digital viewing section: Since the Dragon Boat Festival fell on a day during the exhibition, one wall was designed with a large image of the festival. A video was also shown (on loop) on NCL's achievements in reading promotion and emphasis on diversity, include the Taiwan Reading Festival, the Center for Chinese Studies' Dragon Boat Festival celebration, a collage of posters promoting reading, important databases created by NCL, and overseas collaborations to establish Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies (TRCCS).
7. Digital exhibition section: A video on "NCLibTV Services Delivered to Your Home" was shown and related informational material provided.

8. Interactive section: Held a “NCL Answers *Your Questions*” event using traditional bamboo strips for divination. In the container were 15 strips on “reading recipes”; NCL souvenirs were also given away, adding to the excitement of the event.



Attendees look through replicas of books in NCL's collection.

Salon style lectures in conjunction with the exhibition

NCL hosted two lectures in the exhibition salon area. The first was held on June 2 by Hung-hsu Liang from NCL's knowledge services division. He spoke on “What You Don't Know about National Central Library.” He interacted with the audience in a light and engaging manner, answering all their questions and explaining NCL's orientation, its rare collections and abundant resources, its services, its reading promotion, etc. The second was held on June 5 in the salon area of the French pavilion. The lecture was given by Li-ling Lin, a restoration specialist in NCL's Special Collections Division. She talked about restoring ancient books and demonstrated common ways to fix books. It was a rare display of technical knowledge.

During the expo, visitors of all ages from all over Taiwan and the world visited NCL's booth. They took time to read and observe everything on display. NCL's booth especially elicited a surprised reaction from those ardent book exhibition fans because they could read and see information from the very first TiBE. It was believed that NCL's booth “NCL—Your Pilot: Reading Anytime, Anywhere” at the 2022 TiBE was able to help many people from Taiwan and abroad better understand the services available at NCL. These include both ancient and modern reading resources, reading promotion and resource dissemination both in Taiwan and abroad, and services for young and old patrons alike. NCL combined both physical and digital displays to show

rare items so that people would know of the important national cultural and scholarly collections and resources, and NCL's efforts in reading promotion, wishing that this exhibition could pique people's interest in library resources and inspire them to use them in lifelong learning. This will benefit all people in increasing knowledge power. It was sure that the exhibition has given people new knowledge, the surprise of new insights, and the warm feeling of nostalgia.

■ Sinologist Qinghao Chen Donates His Collection of Books, Including Folk Song Lyrics, to National Central Library

National Central Library received a donation from Sinologist Chen Qinghao's Spring Radiance Studio of books and journals on *Minnan* opera librettos and Chinese studies. This collection of works has been stored at National Cheng Gung University's Chinese department for research projects. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng reached out to Professor Qinghao Chen, who lives in Paris, and he agreed to donate these materials to NCL. The books were sent to NCL on April 11 and will greatly benefit the public.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated, development in scholarship is depended on the leadership and the guidance of elite professionals. Professors are steeped in their disciplines and research, which needs support of plenty of related books and materials. These collections are like spring rain, they can benefit all of academia as well as nurture the next generation of scholars. NCL's collections, from its inception, has been much enriched by generous donations from public and private organizations, as well as individual collectors. Their abundant and varied books and other materials are a special boon to NCL's collections. The donated works allow for a long-term preservation of cultural assets. They also augment the development of scholarship. International acclaimed Sinologist Qinghao Chen has long been engaged in the research of Chinese culture. In the 1980s when he was in Taiwan, he edited *Zhongguo minjian gushi quanji* (The Complete Collection of Chinese Folk Tales), *Yuenan Hanwen xiaoshuo congkan* (Chinese Novel Series in Vietnam), *Riben Hanwen xiaoshuo congkang* (Chinese Novel Series in Japan), *Siwuxie huibao* (Righteous Thinking Series)—all of which deeply influenced scholarship.