

■ NCL Promotes Three Series of Book Collections on Its History for Its 90th Anniversary

In celebration of NCL's 90th anniversary, the National Central Library is promoting volumes 1-6 of its *A Look at National Central Library History* series. A book launch was held on April 19, 2023 in NCL's Briefing Room.

The most precious documents in NCL's collection regarding its history are those regarding the mainland era (1933-1948). With the realization that these materials hold great value and importance for the international history of libraries, in 2017 NCL began actively organizing the materials and trying to outline what actually happened. Doing so benefits academia in being able to reevaluate and interpret history. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated: This year is NCL's 90th anniversary. I pay tribute to our predecessors who exerted great effort to collect all of the books at NCL. We specifically chose "Saving Ancient Books" as the theme in publishing what we have found over the years. We invited Mr. Ding-jong Yan, Editor Huey-Ru Chuang, and Ms. Hsiu-ling Sun to write on historical persons related to three aspects of this period: gathering historical materials, the process of buying rare Chinese books from collectors, and saving ancient works. The three-title set has six volumes in total. With text and pictures side-by-side, it is our hope that these books can testify to the National Central Library's amazing contributions to the preservation of culture and scholarly research. These are the best gifts for NCL's 90th anniversary. Related historical materials will also be available online with the publication of these books.

The editors of these works were asked to share their stories at the book launch so that the public could have a deeper understanding of the National Central Library's history, its rare holdings, and the complicated stories of its past. The National Central Library hopes that through this event more people can appreciate its cultural contributions and increase the public's understanding and support of libraries.



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■ Treasures of Knowledge: NCL's 90th Anniversary Exhibition

In order to celebrate the 90th anniversary of its founding, the National Central Library, focusing on its collection of books and documents, curated Treasures of Knowledge with the joint efforts of the Knowledge Services Division and the Special Collections Division: The opening ceremony of the NCL's 90th Anniversary Exhibition was held on April 19 2023 in the library's Arts and Culture Center. This special exhibition presented the historical trajectory of the movement and construction of the NCL over the past 90 years through the "Corridor of Time and Space", planning the exhibition areas in accordance with the most distinctive collection resources of the National Central Library. Categories included such themes as "Multi-colored splendor" sets of ancient printed books, "Traces of the Times" ancient folk books, "Handwritten Past" manuscripts of contemporary masters, "Rare and Precious Periodical Treasures" first editions of children's and youth magazines and periodicals issued by the NCL, and "Master's and Doctoral Thesis/Dissertation." It was hoped that the public would gain a more advanced understanding of the NCL through the meticulously planned content.

The event kicked off with melodious recorder and guzheng performances. At the opening ceremony, former Director-General Fang-rung Juang was invited to deliver remarks, expressing that the development of the NCL under the leadership of Director-General Tseng was obvious to all. Many activities were being continued enthusiastically, and construction of the southern branch was underway.

In her own remarks, Director-General Tseng said that she sincerely welcomed the directors, deputy directors and fellow representatives of national libraries from eight countries, including the UK, Germany, Canada, Lithuania, Poland, the Czech Republic, Estonia and Singapore. She thanked former directors Fang-rung Juang, Wen-Lu Wang and Kuan Chung Huang for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend, and expressed great happiness at seeing directors and other colleagues who had retired from the NCL. She expressed her belief that everyone would remember their hard work during their service at the NCL and be filled with memories. She also expressed her heartfelt thanks to the library's partners for building the achievements of the NCL throughout the course of the past 90 years.



Opening Ceremony for Treasures of Knowledge: NCL's 90th Anniversary Exhibition.

■ Writing about Taiwan through Danqing: The National Central Library and India Taipei Association Hold the “Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings”

The National Central Library and India Taipei Association, from July 7 to 14, 2023, held the “Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings by Harsha Dass: From Strokes to Shapes.” At the opening ceremony on July 6, apart from figures from Taiwan and Indian cultural, educational and business circles, others who participated enthusiastically were diplomatic envoys posted in Taiwan and Taiwan's own Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng of the National Central Library said that the library regards knowledge, culture, learning, experience, innovation

and cooperation as its core values, and hopes to open up international exchanges and expand its global influence. In the past decade or so, therefore, it had maintained close interactive cooperation with embassies and representative offices of various countries in Taiwan, including promoting multi-faceted exchange activities, such as exhibitions and events involving reading, language and culture. In recent years, with the support of Gourangalal Das, Director-General of the India Taipei Association, the National Central Library had collaborated with the India Taipei Association on various events. These included the successful “Contemporary India: Talk Series,” held in 2019, and the remarkable “INDIA from the Eyes of Taiwan Photography Exhibition,” in July 2022, as well as the planning, in 2023, of this “Exhibition of Hua Niao Paintings by Harsha Dass: From Strokes to Shapes,” further revealing the commitment to promote cultural exchanges and cooperation between Taiwan and India; Director-General Gourangalal Das deserved great credit.



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

The principal creator of this exhibition, Ms. Harsha Dass, wife of Director-General Das, has lived in Taiwan for the past three years. She not only integrated herself into local life in order to learn Chinese conversation, but also regarded Taiwan as her home, even exploring ink and wash painting, which she had never encountered in India, expanding her artistic horizons from oil painting and mixed media to traditional Chinese *danqing* painting. She also likes to use her camera to capture the beauty of Taiwan and explore local art. With her brush, she not only captures the charming scenery of Taiwan, but also reflects her friendship for the people of Taiwan and her lived experience here.