



Director-General Tseng posing with an honored guest.

■ Visiting Foreign Scholars Gather in Yilan, Experience Local Taiwanese Culture and Industry for Dragon Boat Festival

The NCL aimed to enhance the experience of its Research Grant recipients and the recipients of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Taiwan Fellowship during their research tenure by immersing them more profoundly in Taiwan's rich traditional culture and fostering a better understanding of the significance of the Dragon Boat Festival, a significant holiday in Taiwan. Additionally, our intention was to facilitate increased scholarly interaction. To achieve this objective, on June 14, 2023, a celebration of the Dragon Boat Festival was organized, along with a culturally enlightening excursion.

The scholars expressed substantial enthusiasm for this event and conveyed their heartfelt appreciation to the NCL and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for orchestrating it. This event left an indelible mark on their memories of Taiwan, leading to a deeper understanding of the local cultural industries and contributing to the augmentation of their cultural experiences while residing in Taiwan.

The event was organized through a collaboration between the NCL's Center for Chinese Studies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These two entities orchestrated a comprehensive itinerary for the scholars, encompassing visits to the National Center for Traditional Arts and the Kavalan Distillery. Through exposure to traditional cultural crafts, artistic

presentations, and local industries, the scholars gained a profound appreciation for the cultural significance of the Dragon Boat Festival and the refined industry culture that accompanies it.

Initiating the activity, the scholars were guided to the National Center for Traditional Arts in Yilan, where they were engaged in crafting incense bags tailored for the Dragon Boat Festival. Here, they were also enlightened about the historical origins of these bags. As the festival falls at the advent of summer, the incense bags serve the dual purpose of repelling insects and snakes from households while also symbolizing the invocation of tranquility and the expulsion of malevolent forces. This gesture was designed to bestow upon these scholars from diverse corners of the world a sense of peace and felicity throughout their sojourn in Taiwan. Notably, Professor Daniela Zhang Cziráková from Slovakia conveyed her satisfaction in partaking in this event, sharing that despite her extensive research endeavors in various Asian countries, she had not previously had the privilege to immerse herself in the distinct ambiance of the Dragon Boat Festival. Crafting an incense bag enabled her to comprehend its cultural nuances and celebrate the occasion in Taiwan.

Subsequently, the cohort proceeded to the Kavalan Distillery, where a comprehensive tour was provided, followed by an opportunity to savor the locally produced whiskey. This engagement served to deepen the scholars' understanding of Taiwan's indigenous culture and industry. Expressing her enthusiasm, Professor Tobeckliwu Toby Nwachukwu Precious from Nigeria underscored the significance of this experience as not solely affording them insights into Taiwan's local customs, but also granting them the privilege to sample exceptional-quality spirits. She further emphasized Taiwan's exceptional reservoir of natural and cultural resources, which amplify the intrinsic worth of their research expedition.

In recent years, the global pandemic has posed substantial challenges to international exchanges. Scholars worldwide encountered hindrances in visiting Taiwan and bearing witness to its splendor. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng highlighted, "Beyond observing Taiwan's commendable efforts in curbing the pandemic's spread, we envision

this event as a means to enable these scholars in Taiwan to project Taiwan’s cultural allure onto the international stage. We extend a warm invitation for their return to Taiwan, to become an integral part of our community, and to immerse themselves in the vivacity of Taiwan’s cultural tapestry.”



Scholars make incense bags for the Dragon Boat Festival.

NCL Publications

■ NCL’s Library Exploration of Historical Sources Series 1-4: Salvaging Compilations of Ancient Texts



Published in April 2023
 ISBN 9789576787294
 ISBN 9789576787300
 ISBN 9789576787317
 ISBN 9789576787324

A complete set of four volumes, collected during the period of the National Central Library’s founding between 1940 to 1948, when the Anti-Japanese War moved westward, followed by demobilization

and return to Beijing, in order to avoid the outflow of important classics, an order was issued in two areas—Shanghai’s enemy-occupied districts and Hong Kong—to entrust the private Document Preservation Association secretly to seek and purchase historical materials related to the second-grade project concerning lost illustrations and books, such as administrative documents, correspondence, express mail, collectors’ bibliographies and purchased bibliographies, totaling 965 pieces and 2,420 images. Specifically, Chia-hua Chu and Lih-wu Han from the Sino-British Board of Directors for the Management of Gengzi Reparations’ and Lifu Chen from the Ministry of Education emerged to lead by putting up funding. Fu-tsung Chiang, Senyu Xu, Kung-Ch’o Yeh, Yüan-chi Chang, Shouyong Zhang, Ping-sung Ho, Zhenduo Zheng and others separately carried out the project: the undertaking and originating of the case, Hong Kong and Shanghai’s competition for purchase, the process of the disappearance and return, etc., of historical items and records.

■ NCL’s Library Exploration of Historical Sources Series 5: Salvaging Ancient Heritage Treasures



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From 1940 to 1941, when the Anti-Japanese War was at its height, a group of insightful people living in the occupied areas of Shanghai spontaneously formed the “Document Preservation Association,” and, with the great support of the Nationalist Government risked in Shanghai and Hong Kong alike secret operations to purchase ancient books frenetically. With insight and courage that transcended the times, they demonstrated the lofty ambition of scholars to serve the country.