

and has published several books, including *Masters of the 20th-Century Chinese Ink Painting from the Collections of the National Gallery in Prague* (2017), *Emissary from the Far East. Vojtěch Chytil and the Collecting of Modern Chinese Painting in Interwar Czechoslovakia* (2019), and *One Hundred Years of a Single Tree. Lubor Hájek and Institutional Collecting of Asian Art in Czechoslovakia* (2021). Furthermore, she has published much research on ancient Chinese paintings and Song and Ming painting theory. She has also taught many classes at Charles University.

During her presentation, Dr. Pejčochová outlined several important periods of Chinese art collecting in Central Europe since the 16th century. For example, Chinese porcelain, lacquerware, and ornaments began appearing in the palaces and villas of Europe's aristocracy during the Renaissance. One of the more well-known is the collection by Rudolf II, King of Habsburg. Dr. Pejčochová also mentioned that during the two world wars, travelers and businessmen brought ancient and modern Chinese art to Central Europe to meet the needs of collectors there. During the same time, Czechoslovakia started discussing the issue of establishing a national institution for Asian art collections. After the second world war, Czechoslovakia began exchanging art with China during the 50s and 60s. Also, at the end of the 1980s, interaction with the National Taiwan Museum enriched the mutual understanding of art collections in both countries. Her presentation was full of insights and blended perfectly with the exhibition. Apart from admiring cultural objects and types from different cultures and learning more about the history of art collections during different periods, both parties used this opportunity to deepen their understanding of each other's art culture.



Curator of the Collection of Asian Art of National Gallery in Prague Dr. Michaela Pejčochová speaking at the Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies.

Before the lecture began, the two libraries held a Taiwan Corner book donation ceremony. Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng emphasized that in an effort to expand the average foreigner's understanding of Chinese and the cultural conditions in Taiwan, NCL strives to work with outstanding libraries worldwide to set up a Taiwan Corner and donate new books, children's illustrated storybooks, and Chinese-learning materials from Taiwan every year. The hope is that these will help train the rising generation in good reading habits and inspire the public overseas to find joy in learning Chinese and improve their Chinese reading ability. Perhaps even more important is to increase their understanding of Taiwan.



On the first day of the exhibition, a Taiwan Corner book donation ceremony was held; Director-General Tseng presenting the donation to the National Library of the Czech Republic.

There were around one hundred people in attendance at the exhibition's opening ceremony. The exquisite design of the exhibition and the abundance of items on display surprised and awed attendees. Vice Minister Ondřej Chrást and others had a lot of praise for the ancient books on display. As part of the exhibition, there was a multi-color printing area where attendees could try their hand at ancient technology, as well as a place to make their own cards with auspicious Chinese phrases on them. These interactive areas incorporated older printing techniques and were a big hit with visitors.

■ The National Central Library Signs Agreement with Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou to Engage in Cultural Exchange

The National Central Library signed an agreement with the world-renowned cultural institution of

France, Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou (BCP), in Paris on the afternoon of May 31, 2023. The agreement was signed by NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and BCP Director Christine Carrier. Working behind the scenes to make this happen was Representative Chih-chung Wu from the Bureau de Représentation de Taipei en France, who was invited to give remarks at the event. Also in attendance were Director of the Education Section Mei-chen Lu and the directors of many departments (including the international collaboration department) from BCP.



The National Central Library and Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou showing the signed agreement, with Representative Wu looking on.

Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated BCP is a part of the Centre Pompidou. Signing this agreement aims at strengthening the collaborative relationship between the two libraries and to jointly promote reading and raise cultural literacy. It also will provide opportunities in the future for libraries and personnel to engage in cultural exchange, and through the sharing of experiences and resources lay a firm foundation for more collaborative projects to engage in. NCL will help even more people overseas come to understand Taiwan culture through its collaboration with the Centre Pompidou and in disseminating publications from Taiwan.

As one of the most important modern and contemporary art centers in Europe, BCP is known for its abundance of materials and its creative cultural events. It was established in 1977 and is located in the four-story building of the Centre Pompidou. It boasts a lot of space and modernized facilities. Its aim is to provide the public with an open and

diverse knowledge resource with which to promote cultural exchange and understanding. It has over 500,000 volumes and more than 1,000 newspapers and magazines in its collection. It also has a sizable collection of audiovisual materials, including movies, videotapes, and musical scores. The library also hosts various cultural events and exhibitions, such as symposiums, reading groups, workshops, and forums. These events are used to promote the arts and culture, fully bringing together the function of both art center and library to create an innovative and inspiring environment. It has not only become an important cultural venue for Parisians but also for international visitors too. It has attracted many people from all over the world to come and seek knowledge, culture, and art. The amount of knowledge that has been exchanged and shared with people is amazing.

To express its appreciation to a new partner, the National Central Library presented BCP with a replica copy of the *Diamond Sutra* published in 1341. The original work is a national treasure in Taiwan and was the first dual-colored print version, making it extremely rare. Thus, in the history of printing, it enjoys a very important place. During its transmission, it became imbued with a rich sense of legend. By sharing such classics, it symbolizes the value and uniqueness of our mutual collaboration.



*NCL presenting Bibliothèque publique d'information du Centre Pompidou with a replica copy of the national treasure the *Diamond Sutra* as a symbolic gift.*

■ Book Donation Ceremony in Honor of Professor Otto Ladstätter

On April 10, the National Central Library held a book donation ceremony for precious books from the family of Austrian sinologist Professor Otto Ladstätter