

■ Advancing to the Caribbean: NCL and Haiti Exchange Books, Set up a Taiwan Corner, and Increase This Ally's Understanding of Taiwan's People and Customs

In an effort to promote cultural exchange with our ally, on November 21, 2023, the National Central Library and the Haitian consulate held a book exchange ceremony and a lecture. Haitian Ambassador Roudy Stanley Penn, NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng, many foreign diplomatic envoys and representatives in Taiwan, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Li-kuo Chen, and a representative from the Ministry of Culture were invited to attend and witness this book exchange ceremony.



A group photo of the dignitaries in attendance.

National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng stated during her remarks that in recent years, NCL has expended much effort in developing international exchanges and expanding its influence worldwide. With regard to the consulates of its ally nations and representative offices in Taiwan, NCL has donated books, promoted reading, and other cultural events. Taiwan and Haiti are close to 14,900 km apart, but the two countries have enjoyed over 60 years of friendship. The two countries not only support each other and maintain their friendship but also have sustained development in trade and cultural exchanges. Each year, Haiti has more than one hundred students come to Taiwan to study at our universities. This time NCL set up a Taiwan Corner at the Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti, making it the 13th one worldwide. Over 80 books were donated, including fifteen Chinese-French comics produced by Golo, such as *Made In Taiwan*.

Other books included those on Taiwan's history and customs. Museum items included artifacts, paintings, and works of calligraphy. We believe that through the books displayed on this Taiwan Corner shelf, many Haitians will be able to better understand Taiwan through reading. This will improve the mutual understanding of our peoples and ensure libraries will become an important platform for cultural exchange in the future.



NCL donating books to the Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti and establishing its 13th Taiwan Corner.

The Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti is an important local scholarly institution as well as the head of the public libraries in the country. Established in 1939, it has more than 80 years of history. The library strives to preserve, procure, and disseminate the literary assets of Haiti. It also ensures the right of the public to read the archived materials. Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti Director-General Dangelo Neard is an important figure in Haiti's cultural and intellectual circles. He was a radio host on the international French radio station Koze Kilti. He also used to host the show "Les gens de lettres" on Radio Télévision Nationale d'Haïti, on which he would promote works of literature. Currently he hosts a weekly show on Caribbean TV called "Books and You." In April 2020, after becoming the Director-General of the Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti, he used media to promote the Bibliothèque Nationale d'Haïti, expanded reading, and increased cultural capital for Haiti. After the book donation ceremony, Neard spoke on "Books, Engines of Living Together and Generators of Humanity in a World in Crisis" to share his viewpoints. In addition, he also presented NCL with 15 books by notable authors in Haiti to promote books from his country and to increase the cultural exchange between Taiwan and Haiti.



Director-General Dangelo Nèard during his speech.

■ National Central Library Receives Books Published by Yuan-Liou Publishing Co.; Collaboration Planned to Digitize Historical Publishing Materials

To help promote the Taiwan Publishing Museum at the Southern Branch of the National Central Library & National Repository Library, on December 18, 2023 the National Central Library and Yuan-Liou Publishing Co. met at NCL's international meeting room for The Archival and Digitization of Historical Materials on Publishing Collaboration Agreement Signing and Book Donation Ceremony. National Central Library Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and Yuan-Liou Publishing Co. CEO Jung-Wen Wang signed the agreement. Wang also donated 8,000 books that his company has published to the National Central Library for archiving.



Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng and CEO Jung-Wen Wang exchanging signed copies of the agreement.

Deputy Minister of Education Lin Ming-yu shared some remarks and presented a shield-shaped appreciation plaque. Examiner J.T. Huang from the Examination Yuan, Academician Ovid Tzeng from Academia Sinica, Former Minister of the Council for Cultural Affairs Kun-liang Chiu, Vice Minister of Culture Ting-chen Yang, and important persons

from the publishing industry in Taiwan were all in attendance. Authors Chun-ming Huang and Yuchun Hung shared moving stories and did book readings. This collaboration is an important model for bringing together libraries and publishers. The book donation will not only benefit the National Central Library in preserving historical materials on Taiwan's publishing industry but also help provide patrons with scholarly research materials and reading materials on the industry.



A group photo of the dignitaries thumbing through books published by Yuan-Liou.

Events

■ The Quintessence of Song History: NCL Acquires the Collection of Internationally Renowned Scholar on Song History Prof. Kuan-chung Huang

During the warm winter in Taiwan, NCL held the Prof. Kuan-chung Huang Book Donation Ceremony on November 30, 2023. Prof. Huang is an internationally acclaimed scholar of Song history. He has previously served as the head of the Institute of History and Philology at Academia Sinica, Director-General of the National Central Library, Vice President of National Chung Hsing University, and lecturer in the Department of Medical Humanities and Social Sciences at Chang Gung University. Prof. Huang began researching Song history during his university years. For the last 50 years, he has addressed such topics as politics, military affairs, social issues and culture. If all the books he wrote were stacked up, they would be the same height as he is. He is venerated by the scholarly community. After his retirement, he became a lecturer at Chang Gung University, expanding humanities education and courses to those studying to become doctors for ten years. He is a historian with deep practical ability and cross-disciplinary vision.