

to NCL's Contemporary Celebrities' Manuscripts database. This will not only make them accessible no matter where one is on the globe, but also extend their influence worldwide. Because of this, the National Central Library and Lion Art firmly believe that "Art in Taiwan has only begun! It has not ended."



Lion Art Founder Hsien-wen Li donates his artwork and calligraphy to the National Central Library

During his remarks, Mr. Li stated that in August 2023 Lion Art posted a short 138-character article on its Facebook page that garnered a surprising number of responses: "No regrets. Lion Art has contributed what it can to the development of art in Taiwan." During this process, the Lion Book Company was blessed to receive public interest and support. Former NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng was also one of the first to express interest in the company and in archiving its publications. She wanted the torch of art education in Taiwan to be passed on through the National Central Library's archival of these materials. Mr. Li also discussed the difficulties he faced in running *Lion Art Monthly* and the Lion Book Company. However, with the support of many authors, he was able to compose an indelible chapter in the history of art in Taiwan. He spent around five years painting the portraits of older artists, during which he felt continuously buoyed up by their encouragement. He once opined that he was a simpleton, running a business that wasn't making any money. However, the artist San-lang Yang once told him, "If this society is going to progress, then we need more of this kind of simpleton to make it happen!" Mr. Li choked up at one point in his speech, which moved those present by his sincere earnestness.



Cutting the ribbon at the start of the exhibition



An exhibition attendee thumbing through a rare copy of Volume 4 on display

■ NCL Donates Taiwan Corner Books to the Cape Town Campus of the National Library of South Africa

In an effort to promote exchange between libraries in Taiwan and South Africa, on June 21, 2024 the National Central Library donated a Taiwan Corner display and 80 books to the Cape Town Branch of the National Library of South Africa. Mr. Marcus L. Maphile, who is in charge of library operations, received the donation. Mr. Maphile was also invited to speak that day on "The National Library of South Africa: Mandate, Operations, Management, and Key Projects."

National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang stated South Africa is a country with three capitals. Of these, Cape Town is the legal capital of the country with parliament and many government offices located there. It is often called the "Mother City" and is the birthplace of

libraries in South Africa. According to *The Law of the National Central Library of South Africa*, South Africa has two national libraries. These are the Cape Town Campus (established in 1818) and the Pretoria Campus (established in 1887). Mr. Maphile has over 25 years of experience in libraries and publishing. Currently, he is in charge of public engagement at the National Library of South Africa and operations at the Cape Town campus. He is also responsible for the promotion of reading, writing, and publication of official languages. Needless to say, he is very influential in South Africa and in the African region as a whole with regards to library science and culture. To deepen the cultural exchange between Taiwan and South Africa, NCL also donated a Taiwan Corner display as well as 80 books on Taiwan's history, customs and people, geography, and natural scenery. It is hoped through this display, the citizens of South Africa can get to know Taiwan better. This marks the 15th Taiwan Corner that NCL has installed in public libraries around the world.



Director-General Han-ching Wang presenting the South African national library with a Taiwan Corner and publications

During Mr. Maphile's visit, he was invited to speak on the 20th. NCL, Fu Jen Catholic University's Monumenta Serica Sinological Research Center, and the Monumenta Serica Institute in Saint Augustine, Germany cohosted a "2024 International Symposium of Monumenta Serica Encounter of Africa and Chinese Culture: Classics, History, Religion and Images." In addition, NCL also arranged for Mr. Maphile to visit important university libraries, the main branch of the New Taipei Public Library, and the Beitou branch of the Taipei Public Library to promote future collaboration and exchange.



A group photo after the Taiwan Corner donation

■ The National Central Library Cohosts "Famous Czech Composers" Exhibition with the National Museum of the Czech Republic and the Czech Economic and Cultural Office

To spur on cultural exchange, the National Central Library, the National Museum of the Czech Republic and the Czech Economic, and Cultural Office cohosted an exhibition called "Famous Czech Composers." The exhibition opened on June 13, 2024 at the National Central Library main library. National Museum of the Czech Republic Directorate Michal Lukeš, Chief Deputy Speaker of the Czech Senate Jiří Drahoš, Czech Economic and Cultural Office Representative David Steinke, Weiwuying- National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts Director of Arts Wen-pin Chien, Taipei Symphony Orchestra Head Pei-yu Kuo were all in attendance. The exhibition went from June 13 to August 14.



Dignitaries cutting the ribbon at the start of the exhibition

National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang stated that in recent years NCL has enjoyed many close interactions with the Czech