

Republic. In addition to the Taiwan Resource Centers for Chinese Studies established at the Czech Academy of Sciences Research Center of the Oriental Institute and at Masaryk University, in recent years NCL has cohosted exhibitions and book fairs with the National Museum of the Czech Republic, as well as Palacký University Olomouc. Both were well received. This year is the 200th anniversary of the birth of Czech composer Bedřich Smetana (1824-1884). The National Museum of the Czech Republic and NCL also have displays on the life stories of the four main Czech musicians: Antonín Leopold Dvořák (1841-1904), Leoš Janáček (1854-1928), and Bohuslav Martinů (1890-1959). Each is from a different age and demonstrates a unique musical style. Their compositions are filled with cultural freshness, and they give full representation to the Czech Republic on the world stage.

During the opening ceremony, NCL Deputy Director-General Chih-tsung Weng stated that this exhibition is the second overseas stop for the National Museum of the Czech Republic, the first being in New York in 2023. It is also the first stop in Asia. This gives the Taiwanese an opportunity to better understand the unique life experiences of these four composers without having to go to the Czech Republic. At the exhibition, one can find many famous musical pieces that were adapted into Chinese and used in music textbooks in Taiwan. For example, the familiar piece “Going Home” is from the second movement in Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9 “From the New World.” Other examples include a piece by Smetana, the father of Czech music, called “My Fatherland” which enjoys a very wide influence in music. Pieces by Janáček and Martinů are also used as benchmarks for learning and sources of inspiration worldwide.

During Directorate Lukeš’s remarks, he introduced the exhibition and explain that in order to help the world better understand these four amazing musicians, the designers of the exhibition—Sandra Bergmanová and Veronika Vejvodová—did a deep analysis of where they lived, their thought processes, and creative inspiration and experiences. Illustrator Alexei Klyukov’s images were on display throughout the exhibition. The two curators, along with Aleš Březina and Jiří Zahradka, produced video and audio clips to show historical photos, documents, handwritten musical scores and samples of the most

famous compositions of these four composers. The content was amazing, and music lovers would have been amiss to pass this opportunity by.



A group photo of dignitaries

Apart from illustrations, videos, and audio clips, NCL selected works from its collection that related to the theme, helping attendees to better appreciate the wonderful music and cultural connotations of the Czech Republic through these books.



Attendees at the exhibition

■ Linking Thinking-Linking Publishing 50th Anniversary Forum

NCL and Linking Publishing Company jointly held a forum entitled, “Linking Thinking-Linking Publishing 50th Anniversary Forum” on the afternoon of May 26th, 2024 in NCL’s 3rd floor International Conference Hall.

Half a century has passed since Linking Publishing’s founding and for their 50th anniversary, the publishing house carefully planned a forum of 10 short lectures for their readers around the theme of “Linking Thinking.” The forum invited 10 prominent and influential Linking Publishing authors to give speeches on 10 different subtopics, bringing authors and

readers together and creating links between our lives and ideas, the past and the present, Taiwan and the world.



National Central Library and Linking Publishing jointly hold the “Linking Thinking-Linking Publishing 50th Anniversary Forum”

Linking Publisher Linden Lin provided introductions at the start of the forum. The morning session included Academician Cheng-sheng Tu’s speech entitled, “How to Understand China,” Professor Paelabang Danapan’s speech entitled “Literature as a Form of National Defense,” Sechin Y. S. Chien’s speech entitled, “Do Animals Deserve Our Serious Consideration?” and Ming-hui Peng’s speech entitled, “Knowledge and Information.” The afternoon session included Dr. Stephan Thome’s speech entitled, “Across Cultures-Life and Literature,” Associate Professor Anthony H. Yeh’s speech entitled, “What is Justice?,” Retired Admiral Hsi-ming Lee’s speech entitled “How to Face War,” music critic Yuan-pu Jiao’s speech entitled, “Literature within Music, Music within Literature,” novelist and poet Cai Sufen gave a speech entitled, “Oceans and Forests, Novels and Poems,” and Professor Jong Shinn Wu gave a speech entitled, “Space, Technology, and the Future of Humanity.”

The forum came to a close after these ten prominent speakers shared their rich and brilliant talks. The aim of the forum was to link together the perspectives of experts from different fields to bring new ideas and inspiration to Linking Publishing’s readers, so that within those ideas they can learn about the past, understand the present, and take measure of the future. Through reading, they can search, question, and debate ideas; in the act of

exploring, they can participate in community and find personal peace and stability.



A timeline of events and books in Linking Publishing’s 50 years.

■ Class on Library Resource Use and Academic Visit for Foreign Taiwan Fellowship Recipients

In order to assist NCL’s “Research Grants for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies” and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Taiwan Fellowship” recipients in fully grasping the distribution and utilization of academic resources, NCL held the “Class on Library Resource Use and Academic Visit for Foreign Taiwan Fellowship Recipients” at NCL on the afternoon of May 8th, 2024.

As a part of the activity, scholars were led on a visit of the National Archives Administration by Archives Researcher Ya-chu Li, who introduced the archives’ research resources and academic services and gave a tour of their exhibit area. First, scholars were shown an introductory video to learn about the variety of documents held in the National Archives Administration collection, followed by introductions to databases that have been developed by the archives in recent years including: the National Archives Access Service, the Navigating Electronic Agencies’ Records system, and the Archives Time-Travel Capsules. Among these, the National Archives Access Service created a specialized section for the use of political archives in response to political archive retrieval needs. The Archives Time-Travel Capsules is a collection of information on special exhibits held by the National Archives Administration over the years. The attending