

readers and researchers with valuable resources. This initiative also supports the digitization of related publications from libraries and archival institutions across Taiwan, extending the lifespan of these physical books. Director-General Wang expressed hope that by partnering with universities in Taiwan that have nearly a century of educational history, they can consolidate the academic knowledge held in various university collections, promote Taiwan studies overseas, and enhance the academic influence of Taiwan research globally.

Director Sung shared that her university, originally established in 1919 as the Taiwan Governor-General's Specialized School for Agricultural and Forestry, has long preserved books related to agriculture from the Japanese colonial era. The materials being digitized in this collaboration are largely rare historical documents. Through this partnership, the aim is not only to preserve these ancient texts but also to leverage digital technology to publicly share these valuable collections, making them accessible to a wider audience of scholars, students, and the general public—something well worth the effort.



*A display of special collection items in the National Chung Hsing University Library*

In this collaboration with the National Chung Hsing University Library, several dozen books will be digitized, including the book *Pests and Diseases*, which is rich in content and features illustrations of insects. The combination of text and images makes it an essential resource for plant cultivation knowledge. The collection also includes an early edition of the *Collection on Agriculture* published by the Zhonghua Book Company, along with other rare and invaluable

old texts related to agriculture, plant pests, and more. These precious documents carry the wisdom and ideas of past generations and are an indispensable part of our historical memory. In the future, these cultural treasures will be digitally reproduced and made available online for public viewing.



*A view of *Pests and Diseases*, part of National Chung Hsing University Library's collection*

The two institutions have officially launched their digitalization collaboration, which will digitally reproduce the original appearance of the books. This project not only serves as a method of preserving ancient texts but also represents an interdisciplinary integration of knowledge, benefiting a wider audience by allowing them to access the scholarly works of past generations. This partnership also symbolizes the strong connection between the National Central Library and major universities in Taiwan, showcasing their shared commitment to the preservation and transmission of Taiwanese culture. By mutually sharing digital resources, they aim to create a powerful platform for the reading and research of Taiwan's historical materials, ensuring that these resources will have an enduring and far-reaching impact worldwide.

## ■ NCL Receives Donation of Music-related Audiovisual Materials and Books, Including “Aesthetic Education Lectures,” from Golden Bell Award Recipient Nancy Chao

On the morning of July 26, the National Central Library held a donation ceremony for music-related

materials from Dr. Nancy Chao (Chin Chao). Director-General Han-ching Wang represented the library in accepting the donation. Dr. Chao, who dedicated her career to producing music broadcasts and served as a lecturer for the “Aesthetic Education Lectures” course at National Taiwan University, donated a valuable collection of materials, including course manuals, various audiovisual materials, sheet music, books, and concert posters. These items will be fully preserved and promoted by the National Central Library.

NCL has always adhered to the principle of “embracing all streams” in actively seeking donations of scholarly books, manuscripts, and thematic academic materials from scholars and renowned figures both domestically and internationally. This effort aims to enrich the library’s collections for the benefit of the public. Additionally, it encourages future generations to engage with the donated materials, allowing them to connect with the expertise and legacy of experts, scholars, and masters in various fields. This initiative further fulfills the library’s mission to preserve cultural heritage and promote academic knowledge.

Director-General Wang stated that Dr. Chao has devoted significant effort to the field of broadcasting music and won multiple Golden Bell Awards for her programs produced at the China Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). In 2002, she was honored with the Golden Bell Award for Special Contributions. Due to her deep passion for music, Dr. Chao has also produced highly acclaimed concerts, accumulating a wealth of rare and valuable music-related resources over the years, both domestically and internationally. Each item in this donation represents the culmination of her career’s hard work and dedication. Among the donated materials is the audiovisual recording of the world premiere of “Chang Hen Ge” (The Song of Everlasting Sorrow), considered the first modern Chinese opera in the genre of unaccompanied vocal music. This work is a significant milestone in the history of Chinese musical theater and an important achievement in the world of Chinese music. Dr. Chao’s program “Yinyue Feng” (Music Trends) on CBC not only pioneered classical music broadcasting in Taiwan but also marked a turning point in Taiwan’s cultural landscape.

In 1995, at the height of her career, Dr. Chao made a bold decision to further her education by traveling to the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) to pursue a PhD in ethnomusicology. After completing her doctorate, she returned to Taiwan and continued her efforts by producing “Music Encyclopedia” on CBC, promoting music education and aesthetic awareness.

In addition to the invaluable audiovisual files of Dr. Chao’s broadcasts, the donated collection includes books, with the earliest item being a nearly century-old music score. The score, “Twenty-five Lessons for Medium Voice, Op. 10: A Sequel to the Fifty Lessons,” composed by the famous 19th-century Italian vocal teacher Concone and published by G. Schirmer in New York, remains an essential vocal training resource today.



*Dr. Chao presenting donations to Director-General Wang*

In her speech, Dr. Chao stated that the extensive body of related literature generated from over 40 years of engagement in music broadcasting and promotional activities is sizable. The content can be roughly divided into three major categories: 1. broadcasting program archives (including recordings, proposals, documents, photographs, manuscripts, etc.); 2. promotion activity items (including recordings, audiovisual publications, proposals, documents, manuscripts, music scores, program lists, posters, photographs); 3. personal archives (including written works, documents, and photographs). The historical documents and materials in her possession are incredibly unique. Through the radio programs hosted by Dr. Chao, the public has

had the opportunity to listen to contemporary cultural and artistic figures discuss their life stories and ideals; the concerts organized over the years have captured the performances of almost all contemporary music masters; and the symposiums she has hosted have featured the intellectual exchange of scholars and experts. The preservation of these rare documents from Taiwan's modern history in digital format is not only a meaningful endeavor but will also contribute a valuable asset to the nation's digital archiving initiatives.



*A display of books donated by Dr. Chao*

Dr. Chao's radio programs can be seen as a journey through the golden years of classical and contemporary music broadcasting in Taiwan. The donation ceremony showcased part of the materials she donated, including a rich and diverse selection of segments carefully designed to meet the needs of music lovers, continuously evolving to reflect the times. These programs span a range of musical genres, from traditional to modern, and from Asian to Western music, presenting a multifaceted view of music and guiding the public into the vast world of music through her meticulously curated program "Musical Trends." The donation also includes a complete set of 25 booklets from the NTU Aesthetic Education Lecture Series, offering a refined and valuable resource that holds significant potential for preservation and transmission of knowledge.

The ceremony was attended by many of Dr. Chao's close collaborators and friends from the broadcasting and music industries, including Professor Chia-Hong Drapal Liao, Dean of the

College of Music at National Taiwan Normal University; Mr. Tsu-Wei Lan, former Director of the National Film and Audio-Visual Culture Center; and renowned vocalists Ms. Yu-wen Fan and Ms. Yuan-yuan Hsu. In all more than ten distinguished guests were present. During the event, Dean Liao spoke about Dr. Chao's nearly half-century dedication to broadcasting and television hosting, highlighting her significant contribution to Taiwan's music broadcasting history. Mr. Lan, a loyal fan of Dr. Chao, shared how her programs opened up many directions in life for him. He expressed his gratitude to the National Central Library for preserving these valuable assets and hopes that more people will engage with them and that their impact will continue to spread like dandelion seeds, blossoming into beautiful flowers. Ms. Fan praised Dr. Chao for her meticulous approach in classifying and preserving these materials, sharing how her hands-on involvement in producing music programs helped bridge professional connections between Taiwan and the international music community. Ms. Hsu acknowledged Dr. Chao's unwavering commitment to the music broadcasting profession, emphasizing that the legacy of her decades-long career, now donated to the National Central Library, would be of great benefit to young scholars. The presence of each guest added warmth and radiance to the event, as they collectively witnessed the historic moment of Dr. Chao's lifelong work being preserved in the National Central Library for future generations.



*Dr. Chao presenting her personal collection, including her production of the "Aesthetic Education Lecture Series," to NCL*

The National Central Library is deeply enriched by the donation of these invaluable materials, which

significantly enhance the breadth and depth of its music collection. Looking ahead, NCL hopes to collaborate with more scholars and experts who have dedicated years to research across various fields, preserving their important research materials and publications as part of NCL's collection. This will contribute to strengthening the nation's scholarly competitiveness and fostering a more robust intellectual foundation.

### ■ Chinese Studies Goes to the Baltic: The National Central Library Showcases Taiwan's Academic Strength at the EACS Biennial Conference

The European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS), an organization with significant influence on international academic development, held its biennial conference from August 27 to 30, 2024, at Tallinn University in Estonia. In an effort to expand Taiwan's scholarly influence and promote Taiwan Studies, the National Central Library's Center for Chinese Studies, in collaboration with the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, held a book exhibition during the event. With the support of the National Taiwan University Press, the exhibition showcased a total of 225 titles (235 volumes) of outstanding publications from the past three years related to Chinese studies and Taiwan studies.



*NCL staff talking about research grants and resources for Taiwan studies*



*A view of the book exhibition*

The books displayed at the exhibition were all donated to Tallinn University after the four-day conference concluded. The donation ceremony was held at the university on August 28, local time. The donation was presented by Ambassador Andrew H.C. Lee of the Taipei Representative Office in Latvia on behalf of the National Central Library. The donation was accepted by Lisa Indraccolo, Vice President of EACS and Associate Professor at Tallinn University's School of Humanities. National Central Library Director-General Han-ching Wang assigned Editor Hui-ju Chuang from the Liaison Division of the Center for Chinese Studies and Assistant Editor Lin Liling from the Special Collections Division to oversee the donation process.



*A group photo of the special guests at NCL's book donation ceremony at Tallinn University*

The organizing institution for the EACS Biennial Conference, Tallinn University, is located in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia. Founded in 2005, the university has rapidly developed in academic research and enjoys a strong international