

National Central Library

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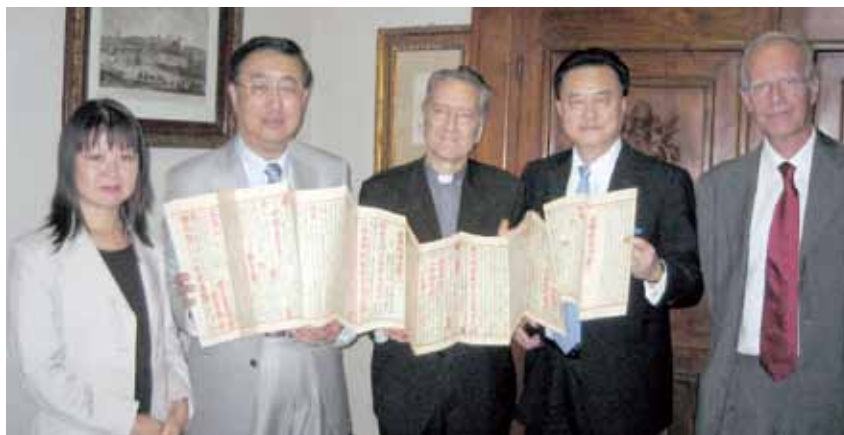


Spotlights

■ *NCL Director-general Visits Vatican*

In early 2010, the National Central Library (NCL) signed an academic cooperation agreement with the head of the Society of Jesus, Chinese Province, Fr. Louis Gendron S.J. Under the agreement, the Taipei Ricci Institute of the Society of Jesus donated over 30,000 volumes of Chinese and western language publications for permanent deposit at the NCL. The NCL established a "Matteo Ricci and Pacific Studies Reading Room" to house the collection, representing one of Taiwan's most significant international cultural exchanges in nearly a decade. After months of planning, the NCL officially opened the new reading room with a ceremony this May, coinciding with the 400th anniversary of the death of Matteo Ricci. Co-presided by NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku and the Taipei Ricci Institute's Fr. Benoît Vermander, the ceremony attracted a strong turnout of VIPs.

Director-general Ku visited the Holy See this year to thank the Vatican for arranging the ceremony. Other aims of the visit, which was arranged by Taiwan's Embassy to the Holy See, were to further discuss exchanges and cooperation; help Rome and church organizations with Sinology departments to develop research materials and resources; help the Vatican Library create bibliographies for their Chinese collection; and promote cooperation between the NCL and Vatican Library in digitizing rare Chinese books brought to the Vatican by missionaries over the centuries.



NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku (second from left), ROC Ambassador to the Holy See Larry Wang (second from right), Vatican Library Director Msgr. Cesare Pasini (center), and Vice-Prefect Dr. Ambrogio m. Piazzoni (right) after receiving a copy of a reproduced Yuan edition of the Diamond Sutra from the NCL.



Director of press and information affairs for the Society of Jesus Fr. Giuseppe Belucci, S.J. (center),

During the short two-day stay at the Vatican, Director-general Ku visited seven libraries and Sinology-related organizations and held discussions on cooperation matters with eight major persons. The NCL proposed to assist the Vatican Library with the cataloging of the large number of rare Chinese books in the library collection, using the NCL's advanced technology and remote-cataloging capabilities. Under the cooperation plan, the Pontifical University Library in Rome can upload the cataloging-in-publication (CIP) number of a Chinese publication to a designated server, and the NCL can then do the cataloging work in Taipei. The NCL also can provide information and CIP data on digital Taiwan publications to the Vatican Library.

During the visit, Director-general Ku also presented a limited edition reproduction of the Diamond Sutra to the Vatican Library. The work was reproduced from a rare Yuan period red and black ink edition in the NCL collection. This was the first copy of the book to be presented to an overseas library.



Pontifical Gregorian University Vice Chancellor Fr. Francisco Javier Egana (second from right) and Library Librarian Marta Giorgi Debanne (left).



NCL Director-general Ku with Fr. Marek Rostkowski (left), director of the Centre for Chinese Studies at Pontifical Urbaniana University.

■ *NCL participates in American Library Association Annual Meeting & Chinese American Librarians Association Conference*

The American Library Association (ALA) held its annual meeting on June 24-28, 2010, at the Washington Convention Center. About 14,000 people registered to attend. This year's event featured a personal schedule system that allowed participants to plan their own meeting program according to subjects, time, and other options.

As in previous years, the Library Association of the Republic of China (LAC) sent a delegation to this year's meeting. It also provided subsidies for professors and students to attend and present papers at the event. The association also encouraged library staff to take part in the meeting poster exhibition and to attend major meetings related to the library profession to improve Taiwan's international visibility and influence. The four main issues of this year's meeting were as follows:

- (1) Ex Libris Rosetta: Goodbye Digital Preservation, Hello Permanent Access. Panel speakers included Ling Wang of the University of Illinois at Chicago, CARLI Executive Director Susan Singleton of the University of Illinois at Chicago at Urbana Champaign, and Ex Libris' Mike Thuman. Singleton outlined six aspects of digital preservation: 1) Technology preservation; 2) Refreshing: copy to same/new medium; 3) Migration and re-formatting; 4) Emulation: re-creation HW/SW environment; 5) Data archaeology; 6) Output to analog media: microfilm, COM....
- (2) Multiple Formats and Multiple Copies in