

■ Director General Tseng Visits the Toronto Public Library and York University Library

The Toronto Public Library has a total of 100 branch libraries, the biggest of which is the Toronto Reference Library established in 1909. With 106 years of history it is one of a few libraries that has a Chinese collection. With the assistance of the City of Toronto, the Government of Ontario, the Government of Canada, and the Toronto Public Library Foundation, “a re:vitalize campaign” was put forth. Director General Tseng and accompanying staff made a special arrangement to observe the new facilities and services, including a 3D printer, training and learning spaces, information stations, and a special collections room with two million historic maps, photographs, and original manuscripts from Canada.

There are five libraries at York University, with holdings totaling two million volumes. Director General Tseng and accompanying staff met with York University Librarian Joy Kirchner, Associate University Librarian Catherine Davidson and Mr. Michael B. Moir (University Archivist and Head of Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections). They also viewed the incunabula and the Alice in Wonderland signed by the author in the library’s special collections.



Director General Tseng(3rd left) and accompanying staff meet with York University Assistant Librarian Catherine Davidson (1st right), and Special Collection Director Michael B. Moir (2nd left).

■ NCL Organizes the “Collection Evaluation: Cross-Strait Conference on Classification and Preservation of Ancient Chinese Books”

For the past twenty years, the collection,

maintenance, promotion of Chinese ancient books, its international cooperation and exchange, maintenance and use are very important issues of the East Asian Libraries worldwide. To promote the training of personnel in related knowledge, and through exchanges, understand the development of cross-strait academic research , the NCL in cooperation with Siyuan Cultural Foundation organized the “Collection Evaluation: Cross-Strait Conference on Classification and Preservation of Ancient Chinese Books” on August 4 and 5 at the NCL International Conference Hall.

During the two-day conference, a total of 21 research studies were presented (of which 9 from Taiwan, 12 from mainland China), and 3 keynote speeches. The opening and closing keynote speakers were National Library of China (NLC) Director Yongjin Han from mainland China, and Director Ming-chu Fung, National Palace Museum, R.O.C. That cross-strait highest directors of documents and relics collection sections delivered keynote speeches on the same venue followed by a comprehensive forum is indeed a rare and significant event loaded with meaning. Furthermore, the coming together of Taiwan and mainland China experts in ancient books identification and evaluation is an astonishingly unusual event. This is the first time in the last decade of cross-strait cooperation that such an important large-scale academic exchange and presentation took place. It would be beneficial to both sides in cultural asset preservation and classification.

Regarding the research on the classification and preservation of ancient books, it not only needs a long-term planning and investment of human resources through mutual exchanges, introduction of new methods and ideas but also interdisciplinary knowledge. This conference co-organized by NCL and Siyuan Cultural Foundation supported by Pan Pacific Group President, Mr. Siyuan Pan. Mr. Pan also provided the NCL staff training in the mainland and overseas as well, strengthening exchange of information on research of ancient books and documents to assist local libraries foster the formation of personnel in the collection of ancient books, in editing, repairing, classifying and publishing thereby fulfilling the libraries’ roles for preserving and promoting ancient books.