

Mackay was and continues to be a bridge-builder between Canada and Taiwan. The Mackay centennial activities saw the CTOT work with a wide array of partners (the Ministries of Culture, Aboriginal Affairs, and Communications, the cities of Taipei and Tamshui, the Shun Ye and Taiwan History Museums, Mackay Hospital, etc) on a half dozen different projects.

SELECTED EVENTS

Mackay Lecture Series

From February 19-25 the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, in collaboration with Academia Sinica and a number of other local partners, organized a lecture series titled, "100 Years Onward: George Leslie Mackay in the Context of Canada/Taiwan History". In addition to the opening lectures at the prestigious Academia Sinica, the series toured to Kaohsiung, Tainan, and Tamshui. The tour also served as a valuable tool for outreach, as Mackay is a topic dear to aboriginal groups and senior political figures who are disproportionately drawn from the Presbyterian church of Taiwan, which Mackay founded. Even the Premier of Taiwan took time out from a domestic political crisis to receive the scholars and share his thoughts on Dr. Mackay with the group.

International Mackay Symposium

On May 31, along with the Council for Cultural Affairs, the CTOT co-hosted a symposium titled "Mackay at 100: Present Work and Future Directions". Rather than focussing on academic themes, this was a working meeting aimed at gathering all government agencies, scholars, museums, and NGOs involved in research, commemorative, and preservation work relating to GLM. The CTOT invited Mackay scholar James Rohrer (currently writing a book on GLM), and Trudy Nicks, senior curator at the Royal Ontario Museum, which is home to the Mackay collection. Nicks' invitation was timed to allow her to participate in the opening of the ROM's exhibit of Mackay's aboriginal artefacts collection at the Shun Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines in Taipei on June 2.

The symposium was a huge success, with over 120 participants including Mackay's octogenarian grandson, John Ross Mackay, who currently lives in Vancouver. Dr. Nicks delivered an insightful history of Mackay's own scholarly interests reflected in the ROM collection. Dr. Rohrer focussed on ways to facilitate ongoing collaborative research. Plans to establish a central Taiwanese repository -- a Mackay archive -- were discussed.

Mackay Stamp Issue

In recognition of GLM's pioneering work, Taiwan issued a Mackay Memorial Stamp on June 1, in a ceremony held at the Mackay Memorial Hospital. On hand for the occasion was grandson John Ross Mackay, as well as CTOT HOM. The stamp features the familiar figure of GLM with his distinctive long beard, and the iconic photo of him pulling teeth (providing dental care in the hinterland was one of his claims to fame), as well as an image of Oxford College. In his speech, the Director-General of Posts, pointed out the continuing importance of the work he pioneered in Taiwan, and of the need to further recognise those deeds. The issue is only the fourth foreigner ever to be depicted on a Taiwanese stamp (dating back even to ROC pre 1949 days), and is the first in which a "non-political" figure from abroad has been represented.

The "Mackay Exhibit" at Taipei's Shun Ye Museum

After nearly two years of intensive preparation in both Canada and Taiwan, the "*Mackay Collection of Taiwanese Aboriginal Artefacts: Treasures Preserved Abroad*" opened on June 2 at Taipei's Shun Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines. Guiding this exhibit to completion was the most complicated cultural project that CTOT has yet undertaken, but the results were worth it, in terms of the huge media success,