

after his home county in Ontario. Both buildings still stand as historic sites. They are surpassed by their successor institutions – Mackay Memorial Hospital, one of the largest in Taiwan, and Tam Kang high school, Alatheia University, and Taiwan Theological College, which grew out of Oxford College. All of these are part of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, the largest protestant church in Taiwan. Mackay's strong sense of justice and dedication to Taiwan also continues in the work of this church, which played a key role in the forty-year struggle for democracy in Taiwan, a democracy which was achieved under the presidency of Tam Kang graduate and devout Presbyterian, Lee Teng-hui.

Mackay in Canada

On his second visit to Canada in 1893-5 Mackay was incensed by the head tax collected on his disciple (and future son-in-law) Koa Kau, and spoke widely and vigorously against this unjust unchristian, and unconstitutional discrimination. He was elected moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada in 1894. He led the church to publicly oppose the head tax, even sending a delegation to Ottawa. This is the first time a Canadian church became involved in political issue apart for the traditional issues of temperance and Sunday observance, and was, like Mackay, controversial.

Mackay then can be said to be the forerunner of Canada's fight against racism and unfair immigration laws.

During his time in Canada Mackay's letters and writings were edited into his book "From Far Formosa", still considered the best 19th century account of the natural history, ethnology, and society of Taiwan, where it is still reprinted. Mackay also brought back 16 cases of artifacts from his teaching museum at Oxford College, for a missionary museum at Knox College, Toronto. In 1915 this collection entered the vaults of the Royal Ontario Museum, where the over 1000 items lay untouched until rediscovered during the 1987 "Mackay 125" celebrations. Investigated by Taiwanese anthropologists, the collection is now recognized as the most important and earliest collection of Taiwan aboriginal artifacts in the world. In 2001, as part of the commemorations of the centenary of his death, part of this Mackay collection has been returned to Taiwan for a special exhibition, scheduled to be opened by two Taiwanese Presidents – the current and the former – on June 2.

The Canadian Mackay Committee

The CMC was organized by Taiwanese-Canadian organizations, the Presbyterian and United Churches, and academics, to promote the recognition of GLM as a Canadian of national historic significance. Mackay has brought much honour to the name of Canada in Taiwan. It is time that Canadians discovered this important part of our own history in this unique Canadian who helped to build modern Taiwan and pioneered the principles of equity which are central to the building of Canada today.