

It is always a pleasure to see collections come out of store rooms and into public galleries. It is a double pleasure for the Royal Ontario Museum to be able to share the George Leslie Mackay collection with the people of Taiwan through the exhibition created by the Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines on the occasion of the centennial of Dr. Mackay's death.

George Leslie Mackay presented a collection of several hundred objects and natural history specimens from Formosa to his alma mater Knox College at the University of Toronto in 1893. Mackay well understood the value of museum collections as teaching tools. In his book From Far Formosa he described the museum he created in his home in Tamsui for the education of his student converts. The collection he brought home to Canada would serve to educate Canadians about the natural and cultural history of Formosa and encourage support for his medical, educational and missionary work. Mackay brought a remarkable collection to Canada. Over 250 small match boxes containing plant and animal samples attest to his pioneering work in describing the natural history of Formosa. Some 640 objects, including tools, utensils, weapons, clothing, jewellery, household gods and ceremonial items, plus models of large items such as agricultural equipment and boats, speak to his travels among the aboriginal peoples of the plains and mountains of northern Formosa, as well his work with people of Chinese descent. Many of the descriptive paper labels he applied to items in this collection in 1894 are still intact. The information on these labels is complemented by descriptions of the cultures and the flora and fauna in *From Far Formosa*, first published in 1895. In 1915 the George Leslie Mackay collection became one of the founding collections of the recently formed university museum, which in turn became the Royal Ontario Museum, now an agency of the Government of Ontario. Over the years the Mackay collection has attracted the attention of many researchers. We wish the Shung Ye Museum success in mounting the exhibition ?

The Mackay Collection of Formosan Aborigine Artifacts--A silent century of treasures lost abroad?.

In the future we look forward to presenting the exhibition at the Royal Ontario Museum to renew the links between Canada and Taiwan that were forged by George Leslie Mackay over a century ago. A successful exhibition is the result of a great deal of hard work and collaborative effort. On behalf of the ROM, I would like to express appreciation to Eric H.Y. Yu, Director, and Yi-Ting Chen of the Shung Ye Museum of Formosan Aborigines who, along with Mark McDowell, Director (General Relations) of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, coordinated planning for the exhibition in Taiwan. Thanks to the Shung Ye Museum, Dr. Chia-Yu Hu of the Department of Anthropology, National Taiwan University, and Dr. Koun-min Hus, Curator at the National Museum of Natural in Taichung, Taiwan were able to make two trips to Toronto (once in the cold winter month of February) to study the Mackay collection. Lin

Yang, Assistant Curator of Anthropology, Exhibition Division, joined the research team on their second visit to the ROM. In Toronto exhibition planning was greatly assisted by Mr. Michael Stainton of the Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies, York University, and by Dr. Alwyn Austin, a leading Canadian historian of Canadian nineteenth century missionaries in China. Many people offered encouragement and support for the Mackay exhibition project both in Taiwan and in Canada. The ROM gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Taiwan Legislator Pa Yen Ta Lu; Dr. Wen-Chi Kung, Chairman of the Council of Aboriginal Affairs, Taipei City Government; Mr. David Mulrone, Executive Director of the Canadian Trade Office in Taipei; Rev. John E. Geddes and Rev. Jessie Cheng, Taiwan Theological College and Seminary; Wen-Hsin Chang, M.P.H., Vice Superintendent of the Mackay Memorial Hospital in Taipei; Albert Yao, Principal of Tam Kang High School in Tamsui; Antonio C.S. Chen, Director-General, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Toronto; David Lee, Director, Information Division, Taipei Economic & Cultural Office, Toronto; Mr. Kokki Yeh, President of the Taiwanese Canadian Association; Mr. Michael Huang, President of

000764