

Commission on Cultural Affairs 文建會

Chair Chen Yu-hsiu (陳郁秀) and her staff have already given NT\$300,000 aid to the Shun Ye exhibition. They asked if there is going to be a Mackay Consultation (研討會) and on hearing that we were it decided that the Commission would sponsor a two day consultation on Mackay, with both academic papers and a discussion on how to better promote Mackay work in Taiwan. This will happen sometime between May and September. We were told we would be invited back. We need to provide names of possible participants and agenda suggestions to the Commission.

The Commission is currently setting up a Museum of Taiwan History and would like to have a Mackay display as part of it. The unwillingness of current holders of Mackay artifacts to part with these may be an obstacle to this. Alternately, and preferably in my mind, they might explore with the various holders of Mackay material the idea of setting up a small private Mackay Museum with government help. Of course Oxford College would be the ideal place for this.

Premier Chang Chun-Hsiung 張俊雄 made a wonderful small speech praising Mackay, his contributions to Taiwan, and thanking Canada for giving him to Taiwan. He emphasized Mackay's medical work and suggested poetically that Taiwan's current work on becoming a centre of biotechnology research could be seen as a part of Mackay's legacy. He also thanked the Canadian Trade Office for its help in earthquake relief. We suggested to him that the historic area around the Schools and Mission Compound (Oxford College is already recognized as a class 2 historical relic since 1985) would make a wonderful historic preservation area that could attract a lot of Canadian tourists as well as local tourism. Chang gave instructions to his staff to look into this and develop a plan.

The Canadian Trade Office in Taipei, under Director David Mulrone and the energetic and creative drive of his staff Mark MacDowell and James Mitchell, has played an important role in facilitating all the ongoing Taiwan, including our trip. All of them have a strong vision not only of promoting Mackay to raise the profile of Canada in Taiwan, but of promoting Mackay as Taiwan's Mackay, and Canada's Mackay. Without their work the Shun Ye exhibition would never have got off the ground. They have eased all the government requirements, found a sponsor for shipment of the artifacts (Air Canada) and have kept a worrying eye on the progress of preparation of artifacts at the ROM, which has been a bit slow for Shun Ye's comfort. The fact that the exhibition will be opened by TWO Presidents – A-bian and