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Sent: June 26, 2001 8:21 AM
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Subject: meeting with ROM

JM

I met today with Trudy Nicks at the ROM. She was as usual, frank about what the real concerns of the ROM are and what the frivolous complaints that are to be ignored.

There are two real problems with the Kaohsiung Mackay exhibit. The first is the receiving venue; all that is needed is the facility report to set things right. Or to kill it from the outset I guess.

The second problem is that the conservators (Esther, Melissa) do not think that Shun Ye can be trusted to move and set up the show in Kaohsiung. Trudy says that if the ROM sends someone over this would assuage their fears. There is no shortage of ROM conservators who want a free trip to Taipei Trudy says, so we can ignore any moaning about ROM being too short staffed. This would suit Shun Ye fine as that would absolve them from any responsibility if things get damaged in the move. I said that we can cover the airfare and Taipei hotel, but that the compromise would be that the conservator would come AFTER the end of the Air Canada blackout period. This might mean tinkering with the opening date in Kaohsiung, pushing it back a bit, but I think Kaohsiung will have to take it or leave it.

There might be a longish period when all the artefacts are sitting in storage at Shun Ye waiting for the ROM conservator, but this will not be a deal breaker from either ROM or Shun Ye point of view. Trudy had a good idea for what to do during this gap: there should be a day or two for academics (and other select few) to get access to the items for study, under very close supervision by Shun Ye staff. For example, there have been enquiries about the possibility of copying some of the traditional aboriginal clothes for use in contemporary ceremonies (I believe there was some wedding memorabilia). I think that this could be a very good media hit.

One other issue we discussed was the eventual exhibition in Toronto. Apparently Thorsell is very keen on this still. One thing that Trudy mentioned is that ROM will need a lot of Shun Ye help to get the text and labels translated into English, and to get some other items to flesh out the exhibit (i.e. a little intro on who the aboriginal people of Taiwan are). Trudy said that Shun Ye might just be able to recoup a good chunk of their expenses when they give ROM the bill for all this.

The meeting with Trudy was planned to last 30 minutes, but in fact lasted a full 55 minutes, plus 40 extra minutes to go see the dinosaurs.

MM

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