



Mr. Elbeg Samdan (left) with Director General Tseng (right).

2013.06.26 A delegation from the China Social Sciences Press led by Deputy Editor-in-chief Cao Hongju visited the NCL. The group toured the collection of the Center for Chinese Studies and learned about the NCL collection of local records.



Director General Tseng (fifth from right) takes a group photo with President of the Association of Chinese Historians Mr. Zhang Haipeng (fourth from right) and other visitors.

Chinese Studies Symposium

2013.04.12

The World Sinology Lecture was presented by current CCS grant recipient Maura Dykstra, a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at the University of California, Los Angeles, who

spoke on “Borders, Countries, and Markets: The Rise and History of Chongqing Merchant Groups during the Yongzheng and Daoguang Periods.” Ms. Dykstra’s research is focused on understanding how these Chongqing merchant groups formed “xing” and “bang” groups to maintain and manage the enormous business network, as well as their mediation and mutually beneficial cooperation with local and central governments.



Ms. Maura Dykstra (first from left, front row)

Ms. Dykstra pointed out that during the Ming and Qing dynasties the population in Sichuan drastically dropped. The market in Chongqing, long languid and depressed, began growing during the end of the Kangxi period (1662-1722). By the Jiaqing period (1796-1820), it had become one of the busiest inland port markets in China. There was an encouragement of immigration policy during the Kangxi period, which led Chongqing merchants being supported by immigrants from Hubei, Hunan, Guangxi, and Guangdong. Traders from the various provinces came together to form a highly diversified society, which was at the core of the unique culture that quickly developed in Chongqing.

2013.05.17

The Center for Chinese Studies invited Khor Boon Eng, assistant professor of Chinese at Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Malaysia and current recipient of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellowship presented a lecture. Professor Eng spoke on "Female Taiwan Writers' Experience in and Writing of the South Seas: Case Studies of Su Xuelin, Xie Bingying, Zhong Meiyin."



Prof. Khor Boon Eng (first from left, front row)

In his lecture, Professor Eng gave an in-depth analysis as to why these three authors traveled to the South Seas, where they went while they were there, what activities they engaged in, and what scholars and other people they contacted. His main focus was to explain their writings while in the South Seas from a local vantage point, in writings such as Su Xuelin's diary-like prose, Xie Bingying's novels about local topics, or Zhong Meiyin's and Xie Bingying's travelogues. Through an examination of an overlooked aspect in the lives, lifestyles, and writings of these three female Taiwan writers, Professor Eng has added to their personal histories and given us a better macroscopic view of their place in the history of literature in both Malaysia and Taiwan.

CCS News and Activities

■ *The Center for Chinese Studies Visiting Scholar Culture Activity: A Trip to Yilan*

To help visiting scholars to gain a deeper understanding of the local conditions and social customs in Taiwan, on May 10th the Center for Chinese Studies arranged a trip to Yilan. Both CCS grant recipients and Taiwan Fellows supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as their families, attended the trip. In all, 32 people from 20 different countries participated. Colleagues from the CCS accompanied them to Yilan to tour the National Center for Traditional Arts, to stroll through Luodong Forestry Culture Park, and to experience the joy of hot springs in the Jiaoxi National Park.



A group photo taken at the National Center for Traditional Arts.

While at the National Center for Traditional Arts, the visiting scholars were treated to a traditional Taiwanese opera performance, giving them an initial understanding and experience of the traditional arts in Taiwan. At the Luodong Forestry Culture Park, they saw the logging railway