

2015.11.30 Librarian Jing-Yi Shih from the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, University of California, Berkeley, came to visit the NCL to gain a better understanding of its service facilities and Southeast Asia collection.

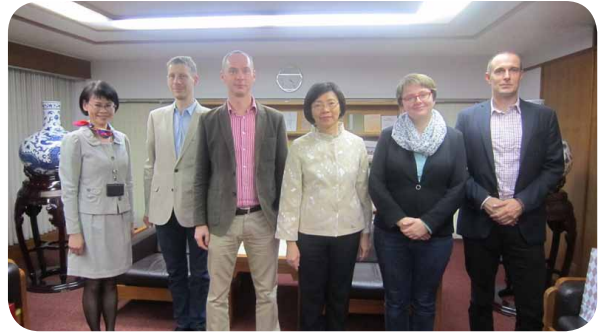
2015.12.02 President Teiichi Kawata of the “Promotion and Mutual Aid Corporation for Private Schools of Japan” led a delegation to visit the NCL to gain a better understanding of its various services and the Japanese collections in the Japanese/ Korean Collections Reading Room



*A group photo taken at the Rare Books Room.*

2015.12.03 Librarian Kitty Siu, Digital Scholarship Lab of Chinese University of Hong Kong Library, came to visit the NCL. She observed the NCL interactive display screen, digital reading display area facilities.

2015.12.04 NCL has just established the Taiwan Resources Center for Chinese Studies at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic in 2014. Its Director, Mr. Ondřej Beranek, led a delegation to Taiwan to attend the opening ceremony of its branch research center at the Academia Sinica Institute of History and Philology. Shortly after the ceremony, Director Beranek and his delegation visited the NCL to discuss how to enhance and promote bilateral cultural cooperation and academic exchange programs.



*Director General Tseng (3rd right) with the visiting delegation led by Director Beranek (3rd left).*

2015.12.05 Professor Janos Vandor from the Budapest Business School came to visit the NCL to gain a better understanding of the NCL’s databases, service facilities and international cooperation plans.

## Chinese Studies Symposium

**2015.11.19-20**

NCL’s Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) and the Academia Sinica Digital Culture Center jointly hold two-day International Conference on New Territory for Chinese Studies. The conference brought together sinologists from the U.S., the U.K., the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Germany, Korea, and Taiwan. A total of 13 papers were presented, with more than 20 foreign scholars in attendance from 18 countries. Discussion centered on 21st century development trends in sinology around the globe. Academia Sinica Vice President Fan-sen Wang, in his opening talk, pointed out that digitization efforts in Taiwan can provide more opportunities for research topics for scholars who study literature and history. He cited an example of using digitized copies of newspapers to show that 20-30 years ago, the term “intellectuals” was quite common, appearing thousands of times each year. However, in recent years it only appears a few hundred times, if that. This seems to reflect the decline of intellectuals in Taiwan’s society. Researchers can use this discovery to perform a more detailed analysis on the subject. Director General Tseng remarked, many outstanding foreign scholars came to present at the conference. She hopes this can be a catalyst for increased dialog and exchange between foreign and Taiwan scholars in discussing future prospects and

trends in Chinese studies, and in so doing achieve a new milestone in global Chinese studies.



Director General Tseng (5th left, front row) and Vice President Wang (6th left, front row) take a group photo with the speakers at the International Conference on New Territory for Chinese Studies.

### 2015.11.25

The CCS held a Global Chinese Studies Lecture Series, inviting CCS visiting scholar Dr. Toby Lincoln from University of Leicester and Dr. Frederik H. Green from San Francisco State University, to share their research findings.

Dr. Lincoln spoke on “War and Peace: The Urbanization of Wuxi City from 1911 to 1945.” During the year 1920, Wuxi city developed rapidly gaining the name of “Little Shanghai”.

Initially, Dr. Lincoln identified the throughput of various trade goods and the industrial zones planning of Wuxi to explain how it became a leading trading city of China in the early twentieth century. Then he explored Wuxi City silk factory distribution and urban planning during the Sino-Japanese war and the struggle between KMT and Communist regimes. He discovered that the process of social transformation in modern China, revolution, nationalism, modernization and other factors have considerable influence on urbanization

Dr. Lincoln used the Sino-Japanese war as his example to show his point. At the end of 1937, the Japanese army occupied Wuxi damaging factories and equipment. But because of the solid foundation of its silk industry, Wuxi recovered in no time. Moreover, Japan had a limited degree of control upon Wuxi economy because many farmers are still privately trading cocoon and there were hundreds of family based silk factories. On the other hand, before the Sino-Japanese war, urban planning can not be implemented

because of too many buildings but with Japanese aggression razing these areas, the local government was able to implement urban construction. Even if Wuxi suffered the destruction of war, its industrial urbanization continued to develop.



Presenter: Dr. Toby Lincoln (left).

Dr. Green spoke on “Sublime Love and the Torment of Exile: Chinese Neo-Romanticism and Xu Xu’s Post-War Fiction.” Xu Xu (1909-1980) is regarded as one of most widely read Chinese writers. It was after leaving Shanghai for Hong Kong in 1949 that Xu Xu began to explore themes of religious and philosophical dimension and that the themes of sublime love and exile gained prominence in his work. Nostalgia became the trope through which Xu gave expression not only to his physical exile in Hong Kong, but more importantly to a yearning for a metaphysical sanctuary.

Such yearning, Dr. Green argues, Xu Xu shared with a number of European twentieth-century neo-romantic authors. Through a close reading of Xu Xu’s novella “Bird Speech,” he then illustrates the degree to which Xu Xu’s work can be understood to formulate a critique of modernity similar to that of other neo-romantics, such as Hermann Hesse or André Breton, and why a reading of his work in the framework of romanticism can greatly enhance our understanding of certain aspects central to Chinese modernity.



Presenter: Dr. Frederik H. Green (left).

2015.11.27

The CCS and the University of Tokyo cohosted a session of “Taiwan Chinese Studies Lecture” on the theme of “How to Use GIS to Study China.” Invited speakers were Professor I-chun Fan, Executive Officer, Center for GIS, Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica and Dr. Chih-yun Chang, Research Fellow, Department of History, School of Humanities, Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Professor Fan spoke on: “Integration of Spatio-temporal Information for China Studies.” He uses the Center for GIS at Academia Sinica to illustrate the results of a long endeavor to develop geo-spatial technology. His talk mainly focused on what the Center has created the 2D, 3D and 4D spatial platforms for Chinese Civilization in Time and Space. The Center continues to increase collections and digitization of various maps and remote sensing images and to promote value-added applications. In addition, Professor Fan also used his study and experience of Hebei commercial sites, to share the use of GIS in the rapid formation of inter-village trade market network map.



*Professor I-chun Fan speaks at the University of Tokyo.*

Dr. Chang’s topic is on “The Opening of the Treaty Ports and the Foreign Expansion in China, 1870-1881: The Spatio-Temporal Presentation by Geographic Information System.” His makes use of geographic information systems to establish spatial and temporal distribution of the database which faithfully demonstrates the late Qing Dynasty nineteen treaty ports data and records. This study mainly describes how historical studies, using the geographic information system, show once again the new faces of the nineteenth century international trade history. It also enables future generations to rediscover the advantages and disadvantages of international trade in

Late Qing China.



*Dr. Chih-yun Chang speaks at the University of Tokyo.*

2015.12.14

The CCS and the Australian National University (ANU) collaborated to organize a seminar on “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” at the ANU “China in the World Centre” venue. This event marks the first collaboration between the NCL and ANU in organizing academic activities.

The speaker invited for this seminar was Professor Louie Kam, Adjunct Professor in the School of Humanities and Languages at the University of New South Wales and Honorary Professor in School of Chinese, University of Hong Kong. His topic was “Musculinity, Homo-sociality/sexuality and Class: Reflections on Two late Imperial Novels

Ms. Roxanne Missingham, University Librarian of the ANU served as moderator. Tzu-an Bi, Director of Education section, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, was present. He delivered a speech and also assisted in organizing the seminar. All these are indications how much importance our Australian Representative Office gives to academic exchange activities.

This lecture explored how male same-sex attractions are depicted in the Romance of the Three Kingdoms and Dream of the Red Chamber. Professor Kam also examined the representations by focusing on the homo-sociality of the protagonists. He then drew out their different class implications. The response of the audience was very enthusiastic. After the lecture, many questions were directed to Prof. Louie Kam which brought about lively discussions. The talk not only attracted a good number of ANU teachers and students, there were many Chinese Studies scholars from Canberra and Sydney who participated.

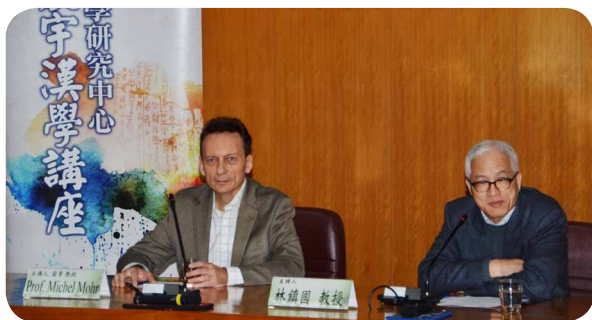


Professor Louie Kam speaks at the University of Tokyo.

### 2015.12.18

The CCS held a Global Chinese Studies Series lectures, inviting three visiting scholars to share their research findings.

The first speaker was Michel Mohr, an Associate Professor from the Department of Religion at the University of Hawaii. He spoke on “Reopening a Debate that Remained Dormant for a Century: Past and Present Approaches to ‘Universality’ and the Contrast Between Contemporary Japanese and Taiwanese Buddhism.” It was an analysis of the expansion development of several major Japanese Buddhist sects.



Presenter: Associate Professor Michel Mohr (left).

The second speaker was Sarah J. Babcock, a doctoral candidate from the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture, University of California, Santa Barbara. She spoke on the "Night Chats with a Maverick Monk: Exploring Huihong’s Miscellany in a Biographical Context." It analyzes the work of Northern Song monk Huihong Juefan (1071-1128): the “Lengzhai yehua, Late Night Chats from Chilly Hut”, exploring issues related to the interplay between poetry and Chan and other topics.



Presenter: Ms. Sarah J. Babcock (left).

The third speaker was Clark L. Alejandrino, a doctoral candidate from the Department of History at Georgetown University, USA. He spoke on “Geography and Culture of Climate: Typhoon Geography and Culture of Guangdong’s Leizhou Peninsula and Hainan Island.” Through the analysis of the records written in literary works and local history about the formation of typhoons, maritime weather, its strong force and the devastations caused, he investigated the characteristic typhoon geography of Leizhou Peninsula and Qiongzhou to understand how both of these places responded to the invasion of the typhoon, which developed their particular social and cultural characteristics.



Presenter: Mr. Clark L. Alejandrino (left).

### 2015.12.23

The CCS held a Global Chinese Studies Series lectures, inviting a visiting scholar, Associate Professor Thúy Nhung Đỗ from the Department of Chinese Studies, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, to share her research findings.

She spoke on “The Influence of Chinese on Vietnamese in the 20th and 21st Centuries: A Study of the ‘Tonkin Free School’ Movement and the Reports of

Chinese Communist Party Congress”.

She explored that the history of Chinese-Vietnamese contact entered a new phase in 1919, when Chinese ceased to be the administrative and national language of Vietnam in the wake of colonization by France. However, throughout the early 20th century, Chinese continued to be used in Vietnam as a tool to acquire knowledge. She also discussed that as China has experienced a process of reform and opening for the past 30 years, it has launched many policies which were accompanied by a new socio-political terminology. Almost simultaneously, Vietnam began to implement its reforms. Although in 1945, Vietnam started to use the Latin script, Vietnam still continued to borrow socio-political terms from China and has continued to absorb them into modern Vietnamese.



*Dr. Thúy Nhung Đỗ (5th left) with the participants.*

## CCS News and Activities

### ■ 2015 ROC National Day Reception

The National Day Reception held in the Taipei Guesthouse in celebration of the founding of the Republic of China is one of the grandest events of the Double Tenth (Oct. 10) National Day. To augment international scholarly and cultural exchange, the NCL arranged for recipients of both the CCS Research Grant for Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies and Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Taiwan Fellowship and their families to attend. The visiting scholars were all very excited to be invited to such an event, especially as the Taipei Guesthouse is a Tier 1 historical site in Taiwan and is seldom open to the public.

This year 34 scholars from 18 countries attended the reception. NCL's Director General Tseng, Deputy Director Wu, and directors attended with them. The groups joined three thousand others guests from Taiwan and abroad to celebrate in the Western-style

Baroque building and out in the courtyard. Both traditional Chinese music and Western classical music were performed, along with aboriginal songs and dances. In addition to offering an array of Chinese and Western food, also provided were specialty snacks from all regions of Taiwan, giving guests a first-hand experience at Taiwanese local culture.



*A group photo taken in front of the Taipei Guest House.*

## News from Taiwan Libraries

### ■ 54th President of the Board Selected for Library Association of the Republic of China

The Library Association of the Republic of China selected their 54th president of the board and board members on December 29. Professor Hao-ren Ke from Graduate Institute of Library and Information Sciences at National Taiwan Normal University was selected as president.

### ■ NKUT Library and Information Service Center Holds Joint Meeting for Library Coalition of Universities in Central Taiwan

The Nan Kai University of Technology's Library and Information Service Center invited librarians and staff from 23 universities in central Taiwan to exchange ideas at the Joint Meeting for Library Coalition of Universities in Central Taiwan. In addition to lectures given to increase professional knowhow, several proposals were raised to bring about closer working relationships between the libraries and to improve the effectiveness of interlibrary cooperation.