

Zifu Monastery on Zhongxing Road. It's the earliest existing dual-colored sutra, which has important meaning in philology, bibliography, and history of printing.

NCL authorized Linking Publishing to publish the Diamond Sutra(Sanskrit: VajracchedikāPrajñāpāramitāSūtra). It was published in two sizes: the original size and a smaller one. The book was published in full color, with an exquisite cover and a traditional silk case. The book was completely sold out during its internet presale promotion period in the end of 2017. It is now undergoing a second printing.

Linking Publishing Director Tsai-chue Lin gave his special thanks to the NCL for offering such a publication opportunity to benefit wide public who are interested in Buddhism and classics, as well as imposing great assistance to publishers. He also emphasizes that libraries are good friends of publishing industry, and appreciates NCL's efforts on ancient books reprinting, classics reading, and reading promotion of general public. Director-General Tseng thanks Linking Publishing for using its specialty in publishing and marketing to create a new look for publishing reprints of ancient books.



Director Tsai-chue Lin(right) presents a reprint of Diamond Sutra to Director-General Tseng.

Events

■ NCL Announces 2017 Reading Survey Findings in Taiwan

A press conference was held at the Ministry of Education on March 2, 2018, to announce the results of the 2017 Book Survey and the opening of community information centers. NCL Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng explained the results of the survey. In 2017, there were 86.22 million visits to Taiwan's public libraries. Of these, 20.5 million visits resulted in borrowings, with a total of 74.93 million books borrowed, an increase on the figures for 2016. The most popular category of books was language and literature, of which 36.74 million volumes were borrowed, or 49.03% of the total number of books borrowed during the year. Most readers fell into the 35-44 age bracket, and were responsible for borrowing 21.33 million books, or 28.47% of the annual total.



A press conference of "2017 Reading Survey Findings in Taiwan" is held in the Ministry of Education.

The NCL conducted an analysis of borrowing in the last three years at Taiwan's libraries. Residents of Sanwang Township in Miaoli County were the most prolific readers, borrowing on average 14.07 volumes. In second place came Guishan Township in Hsinchu County with 7.17 volumes,

while Yuanlin City in Changhua County was in third place with 5.7 volumes. Sanwang Township's figure of 14.07 volumes puts it close on the heels of Helsinki (15.57 volumes) and Vancouver (15.28 volumes), and ahead of Toronto (12.25 volumes), and neighbors Singapore (7.09 volumes) and Hong Kong (7.82 volumes).

■ The NCL Hosts a Series of Lectures on "Following the Traveling Poet"

In 2012 the National Central Library (NCL) began holding the Four Seasons of Reading lectures to help promote reading in Taiwan. A different theme is chosen for each season, and scholars are invited to give lectures. The 2018 Spring Poetry Reading Festival took place from February 24 to April 28, with the theme "Following the Traveling Poet." A series of seven lectures were held in the International Conference Room at the NCL, inviting the reader to follow famous poets down the ages, and observe how they interact with the landscapes and people they encounter, letting their poetic imaginations run free.

The themes of the seven lectures were as follows:

Feb 24 "Discussing Qu Yuan's Sorrowful Journeys." Prof. Liao Tung-liang, Department of Chinese Literature, National Chengchi University.

Mar 3 "Pale Blue Sky, Deep Blue Sea, and the Common People: Li Bai's Use of Poetry to Portray the World." Prof. Liao Mei-yu, Department of Chinese Literature, Feng Chia University.

Mar 17 "The Hard Travels and Poetic Artistry of Du Fu, the Poet-Sage." Prof. Hsu Kuo-neng,

Department of Chinese, National Taiwan Normal University.

Mar 24 "Singing and Tracing the Accidental Journey of Su Dongpo's Life." Prof. Wang Wei-yung, Department of Chinese Literature, National Cheng Kung University.

Mar 31 "Huang Zunxian's Boundary- and Border-Crossing." Prof. Ko Chia-cien, Department of Chinese Literature, National Taiwan University.

Apr 14 "The Heart is a Reflection of the Universe: Yang Mu's Pursuit of Travel." Prof. Chen I-chih, Department of Chinese, National Taiwan Normal University.

Apr 28 "Battlegrounds and Other Regions: Luo Fu's Experience of War and Self-Exile." Prof. Chen Fang-ming, Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature, National Chengchi University.

The seven lectures spanned from ancient times to the present day, and expounded by renowned professors from Taiwan's Chinese Departments, these wonderfully rich lectures attracted packed audiences, who found them very rewarding.



A series of lectures for the Spring Poetry Reading Festival have attracted enthusiastic participation of the audience.