

in Taiwan. Also, 20 information correspondents in various organizations were awarded the Scholarly Information Dissemination Individual Award. Director-General Tseng hopes that correspondents will continue to provide information in the future, not only for the benefit of the organizations for which they work but also as a record of scholarly development in Taiwan. Furthermore, through the *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* the academic achievements in Taiwan will continue to be shared with the rest of the world. At the same time, this event also featured a lecture by Prof. Chu-shan Chiang, the Dean of the Graduate Institute of History at National Central University, who shared his experience on scholarly dissemination in the digital age.

Over 30 correspondents and institutional representatives attended the workshop, including Director of the Institute of History and Philology at Academia Sinica Dr. Jen-der Lee, Department Chair of the Chinese Department at National Sun Yat-sen University Chia-lun Du, National Cheng Kung University's Department of Chinese Literature Chair Sheng-sung Huang, National Palace Museum's Senior Executive Officer of Department of Rare Books and Historical Documents Hsiao-ming Yu. There was an energetic yet welcoming atmosphere at the workshop, and Prof. Chiang's pleasant humorous talk brought it to a perfect ending.



A group photo of attendees of the *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* and the *Digital Transmission Age Workshop*.

■ The 50th Anniversary of Taipei People: The Inexhaustible Hsien-yung Pai

On December 11-12, National Central Library and Trends Education Foundation teamed up to host

a conference on “The 50th Anniversary of Taipei People: The Inexhaustible Hsien-yung Pai” at NCL’s international conference hall. Invited to the conference were Hsien-yung Pai, Zhao Yang, and many other renowned authors, as well as scholars from various universities to share have a forum and discuss research on a classic novel in modern literature: *Taipei People*. It was a two-day feast of literature lectures and discussion.

The event started off with opening remarks by the Director-General of National Central Library Shu-hsien Tseng. She first thanked Trends Education Foundation for the invitation to cohost the conference. She also thanks the Trends Education Foundation for their being an important partner with NCL in promoting cultural arts events for many years. Besides, she also thanked Hsien-yung Pai for the importance he places on cultural heritage. In addition to the many lectures he has given at NCL, he has also donated his manuscripts to National Central Library for preservation. Next, Trends Education Foundation Executive Director Yi-chen Chen spoke. She talked about the background behind the theme “The Inexhaustible Hsien-yung Pai” for this 50th-anniversary event. Then she mentioned that they are planning on doing an online guided reading activity this year and have invited 14 authors to have each one of them be in charge of a guided reading for one of the stories in *Taipei People*.

On the first conference day, after the opening remarks, the first conference session followed which was comprised of two keynote addresses by Hsien-yung Pai and Zhao Yang. Mr. Yang used James Joyce’s *Dubliners* as a foil, elaborated his personal observations by deeply analyzing the similarities and differences in the narrative style and plot organization of *Taipei People* and *Dubliners*. Then he addressed the view that some readers have that the descriptions in *Taipei People* aren’t of people who truly live in Taipei. He used *Dream of the Red Chamber* (*Hóng lóu mèng*) as an example to support his own views, explaining the era in which the novel was set as well as its actual and imagined parts. Hsien-yung Pai quoted the poem “Wuyi Lane” (*Wū yī xiàng*) by Tang poet Yuxi Liu as an opening to describe Nanjing, which has experienced changes of dynasties twelve times, and revealed that the place has left an significant image to each of the

stories in *Taipei People*. He also responded to Zhao Yang's comments, saying that he thought that the characters in *Taipei People* weren't true residents from Taipei in the beginning, but rather people from mainland China who gradually adjusted themselves and in the end became true residents of Taipei. For the next session, Kuang-ya Fan was invited to read a script; he has previously won a Golden Bell Awards for best male chief actor in an anthology series. He read Hsien-yung Pai's "Liangfu Chant." Kuang-ya Fan used his voice, which at times was worried and grieved while at other times was excited and indignant, to play different roles. Through his amazing acting skills, he brought the entire audience into the world of "Liangfu Chant."

Lastly, "Taipei People and a Country Era" was the theme of another conference session. Invited to present papers on *Taipei People* were Professor Elliot Shie from Tsinghua University's Institute of Taiwan Literature, Professor Chia-hsien Yang from Tsinghua University's Department of Chinese Literature, Professor Yu-xiang Hao from National Taipei University of Education's Language and Creative Works Department. Discussants for the session were Professor Tang-chi Chang from National Chengchi University's Department of Chinese, Professor Yu-yu Cheng from National Taiwan University's Department of Chinese Literature, and Academician Hsiao-bin Yang from the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy at Academia Sinica, respectively.

For the second day of the conference, those invited to present included Prof. Hsiao-feng Shih from the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan Normal University, Prof. Shi-lung Luo from the Department of Chinese Literature at Tsing Hua University, and Dr. Shi-yong Li from the Department of Taiwanese Literature at National Taiwan University. Then Prof. Yi-chih Chen from the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan Normal University, Prof. Jui-teng Li from the Department of Chinese Literature at National Central University, and poet Hung-hung (Hung-ya Yen) was invited as special discussants. Next, Golden Bell winner and film queen Yen Ling Hsu read a script, and Prof. Chi-yang Lin from National Taipei University of Education hosted while Prof. Chiang-sheng Kuo from National Taipei University of Education's Language and Creative

Writing Department, novelist T'ien-wen Chu, Hung Hung, and others attending the symposium continued to read *Taipei People* with everyone.



NCL Director-General Tseng (2nd right) and Hsien-yung Pai (left) with other dignitaries.

■ Readmoo E-Book "2021 Reading Report" Announcement

The National Central Library and Readmoo e-books jointly organized the 2021 Reading Report announcement, which was held on the afternoon of December 15 in the National Central Library's International Conference Hall.

At the event, Sophie Pang, CEO of Readmoo e-books, delivered an annual reading trend analysis report, analyzing the types and rankings of e-books favored by readers of Readmoo e-books in 2021, and the price levels of books that readers were willing to buy. From the report, we learned that the five major categories of books with the most obvious sales growth this year were: literature and novels, business and finance, lifestyle, inspiration and growth and social sciences. Among these, the category of "lifestyle" was speculated to have emerged because of the impact of the pandemic. In addition, although audiobooks and photobooks accounted for a small proportion of sales, they are expected to grow rapidly.

The report compares the reading preferences and habits of readers of different ages and genders, and analyzes the distributions of reading time and accustomed platforms, etc., in hopes of reflecting a complete picture of readers. It can also be seen that, because of the pandemic, working from home was