



Dr. Mark Stevenson (front, far left) with seminar participants (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

The third seminar was held on January 1, 2007. Dr. Cuncun Wu, a CCS visiting scholar and professor of the School of Cultures, Languages & Linguistics at the University of New England in Australia, delivered a lecture entitled, "Not Interested in Beautiful Women, Interested in Beautiful Men: The Late Qing Literati and Their 'Flower-Guides,' Theatrical Tastes and Homoeroticism. The lecture was presided by Dr. Chen Yi-yuan of the Department of Chinese Literature at National Cheng Kung University. During the mid to late period of the Qing dynasty the word "flower guides" had long been used specifically to appraise the beauty of Beijing opera actors playing female roles. Members of the Qing gentry were passionate in writing, printing and collecting these flower guides that were a kind of amorous and sentimental word play. Reading between the lines of the flower guides, one may discover that the people during Qing times treated praise and indecorous relations with actors as a kind of praiseworthy romantic taste. In his studies of the choice of opera's songs and rhythms and editing of flower-guides for opera actors by the gentry and officials in Beijing during the mid to late Qing period, Dr. Wu has revealed that the gentry showed off their power through such activities. He also shows that the interactive influence of the mass media and gentry

culture is emphasized in society and culture, especially in sexual culture, and that amusement trends of this period cannot be viewed in terms of the role of the dramatic arts. (Chinese text by Ms. Kao Te-er)



Dr. Cuncun Wu (front, far left) with seminar participants (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

Reviews

Taipei During the Japanese Occupation Period

The National Central Library released a collection of postcards depicting Taipei during the Japanese occupation period, offering a fascinating glimpse at the history of Taiwan's capital city.

A total of 600 postcards were selected from the NCL's collection of more than 4,000 historic postcards for publication in *Taipei During the Japanese Occupation Period*, which was published in January 2007. The postcards depict a broad range of subjects, from government buildings and public facilities to portraits of daily life in the city. The postcards vividly reflect the socioeconomic, political, and education and other aspects of life in the city and chronicle the city's early development. About one third of the postcards in the collection have never been published before.

The collection is arranged into chapters on colonial government buildings, Taiwan prefectural buildings, the Taipei city wall, city districts and streets, education and culture, health, transportation and communications, places of worship, industry and markets, and leisure and recreation. Brief introductions are given to the architecture depicted in the postcards, adding to the educational value of this work.



Cover photo of Taipei During the Japanese Occupation Period

Introduction to Online Resources for Taiwan Studies

In conjunction with a series of library activities organized for the Ministry of Education's "2006 Community Lifelong Learning Festival," the NCL recently published an *"Introduction to Online Resources for Taiwan Studies."* The book introduces a representative selection of the growing volume of online resources for Taiwan studies, with a description and reader's guide presented for each website listed.

The main emphasis of the book is on major

digital and online resources related to research achievements and resources on Taiwan. Each resource listed is presented with a color image of the website home page and arranged into one of eight major categories, including General; Religion; Natural Science and Environment; Society, Politics and Economy; History and Geography, Local Culture, Language and Literature, and Art. There is also an index at the back of the book to help readers locate sources.

The book aims to deepen public awareness and understanding of Taiwan, while also fostering public interest in continuing education, research and reading. The book also helps readers make the most out of a wide range of e-library sources, both as a replacement for and complement to written works and visits to physical libraries. (Chinese text by Chung Hsue-chen)



Cover photo of Introduction to Online Resources for Taiwan Studies

NCL International Exchange Events