

CCS News and Activities

■ CCS Seminars

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) invited visiting scholar Dr. Oh Soon-bong to present a lecture on "Missionary Work, Translation, Enlightenment and Novels: Textual Works of Protestant Missionaries in China in the 19th Century and Transitions in Novel Writing in the Late Qing Period" on March 29, 2007. The lecture was chaired by Dr. Li Sher-shiueh, an assistant research fellow at the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica.

Dr. Oh is a professor at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Korea's Soongsil University, as well as president of Korea's Chinese Literature Translation Society. He is also a highly accomplished researcher who in recent years has focused his studies on the relations between Christian missionaries and the Chinese novel in the late Qing period.

In his lecture, Dr. Oh noted that since 1819, when missionary Robert Morrison came to China and

translated the Bible into Chinese, many missionaries to China have engaged writing and translation related to their missionary work, including John Fryer, Timothy Richard and Griffith John of Britain. Dr. Oh discussed the Chinese language works of several Christian missionaries in China, including those of William Milne, Griffith, and Richard; as well as the production and circulation of original and translated Christian novels by other missionaries in China in the 19th century.

Fryer, Richard and Griffith all worked at the Translation Department of the Jiangnan Arsenal, as well as at the publishing houses of various missionary churches. In these positions they oversaw publishing affairs and furthered their missionary work through writing and translation. By such activities, all three played an important role in the translation of western works into Chinese and in advocating literary reform in China.

During the seminar, there was a lively and productive exchange of views between Dr. Oh and the other participating scholars, bringing the event to a successful completion. (Chinese text by Kao Teh-er)



Dr. Oh Soon-bong (front row second from left) with seminar participants (Photo by Caesar Tsai)