

Prof. Stephen H. West of Arizona State University; Prof. Emma Teng of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Prof. David Holm of the Confucius Institute at the University of Melbourne; Prof. Kozo Kawai of Tokyo University; Prof. Tatsuhiro Seno of Chuo University; Prof. Rong Xinjiang of the Department of History at Peking University; and Taiwan area scholars. A total of 26 papers on traditional Chinese society were delivered at the conference, including studies in the fields of literature, history, anthropology and religion on such subjects as immigration, colonialism, exile, banishment, travel, exploration, religious journey's, merchants, garrisoned troops, and diplomatic missions.

Conference website:<http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/ccs/conference2007/welcome.htm>.



Poster for the International Conference on the Cultural Interpretations of Mobility

■ CCS Seminars

Two visiting scholars presented lectures during two academic seminars held by the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) on November 21 and December 17, 2007. Dr. Halvor Eifring of Norway presented the first lecture on the psychological composition of the *Dream of the Red Chamber*;



(Front row from left to right: Prof. Wang San-ching, Prof. Halvor Eifring, Prof. Kang Lai-hsin, and Prof. Kao Kui-hui)

and US Doctoral candidate Chang Le-hsiang presented an analysis of the Qing system of awarding official appointments based on donations to the government.

The lecture by Dr. Eifring, a professor of the Department of East European and Oriental Studies at the University of Oslo, was presided by Prof. Kang Lai-hsin of the Department of Chinese Literature, National Central University. Prof. Eifring's talk focused on the psychological factors and conflicts present in the structure of the *Dream of the Red Chamber*. He found that the novel has an extremely tight structure with mutually reflective relationships weaving the characters and events together. This type of structural relationship often presents deeper psychological elements than the specific content of the novel itself. There are many autobiographical elements in the *Dream of the Red Chamber*. Early resources indicate that the characters of the novel are fictitious and do not directly represent actual people. It is therefore likely, Dr. Eifring concludes, that the success of the *Dream of the Red Chamber* in penetrating into the psychological realm is a product of the greater room allowed by the fictional context of the story, enabling the author to deeply explore his own psychological reactions and inner contradictions.



(Front row from left to right: Prof. Chen Hsi-yuan, Prof. He Han-wei, Mr. Chang Le-hsiang, and Prof. Atsutoshi Hamajima)

The second lecture was led by Mr. Chang Le-hsiang, a doctoral candidate at the Department of East Asian Civilizations & Languages at Harvard University, Prof. Chen Hsi-yuan, an assistant research fellow at the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica, presiding. In his study, Mr. Chang found that there is relatively little research on informal methods related to the formal methods of becoming an official in the Qing period. The most commonly adopted method is by donating money to get a government position, and there has not been any monograph study of this topic since the publication of Hsu Ta-ling's book *Official Appointments by Donation during the Qing Period* in 1950. Although this work comprehensively resolves the subject of the Qing donation-based appointment system, the status of the officials thus acquiring their positions remains unanswered. What kind of people were these officials? What kind of positions did they occupy? Embarking from these two questions, Mr. Chang's paper draws on material from the Qing central government archives and various historical records in an attempt to find an answer. (Chinese text by Lin Pei-ni)

■ *Chinese Studies Goes Quarterly and Joins EBSCO Database*

The semiannual Center for Chinese Studies' Chinese Studies journal will be issued as quarterly (in March, June, September and December) from the 2008 Volume 26 issue, thanks to support from co-publisher the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange. The greater frequency of publication is expected to position the journal to better serve scholars and attract even more high quality articles in its focus area of Chinese literature, historiography, and philosophy

After shifting to a quarterly publication cycle, the journal plans to put out a special issue every year on a special topic to promote high-quality research in Taiwanese and Chinese studies.

Chinese Studies is a several-time winner of the Outstanding Research Award of the National Science Council, Executive Yuan, and it is regularly ranked among Taiwan's top humanities periodicals, earning widespread respect from domestic scholars. The journal also has established a strong reputation in the international world of Chinese studies. Chinese Studies has also been included in full-text form in several domestic and international database products. In 2006, Airiti was authorized to include the journal in its Chinese Electronic Periodical Services (CEPS) system. The system includes the full contents of all of the journal issues starting from Issue 1, Vol. 24.

Moreover, at the end of 2007, the journal publishers authorized internationally renowned database provider EBSCO to include Chinese Studies in its "History Abstracts with Full Text" database in full-text form for global online access, searching, printing. Inclusion in EBSCO's well-