



(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-

known database has enabled Chinese Studies to further broaden its user base in the international world of Chinese studies, while also boosting the journal's reputation and citation rate and promoting Taiwan's academic research achievements in the international community. (Chinese text by Keng Li-chun)

■ *CCS foreign scholars enjoyed a Cultural banquet*

Three foreign scholars of the Center for Chinese Studies accompanied by CCS' Jane Liao followed the call of TaipeiEYE and enjoyed a night of Chinese and Taiwanese delights for eyes and ears on 23 February 2008. Oded Abt (Israel), Valentin Golovachev (Russia) and his wife Marina, as well as Sigrid Winkler (Austria) could already catch first glimpses of the following show in the entrance hall of TaipeiEYE, when Peking Opera actors put on their elaborate make-up and photos could be taken with other artists. The whole event was in the spirit of the Lantern Festival, red lanterns were given out as presents to the guests, and during the break TaipeiEYE served tang yuan (rice cake with sweet filling in a soup) as it is customary during Spring Festival in Taiwan.

The show itself consisted of traditional Chinese dances, Taiwanese folk songs and dances,



CCS scholar Oded Abt (right) and Sigrid Winkler (left)

and a Peking Opera. The artists did not only impress the audience with stunning choreographies but also with their colorful costumes. Fans and scarves were whirling during the first part of the show. When Taiwanese folk dances were displayed even the audience was invited to join the singing and dancing. As a final highlight TaipeiEYE's artists showed the Peking Opera "Legend of the Eight Celestials Crossing the Sea". Although not every foreigner is able to grasp, let alone enjoy, the melodies of Peking Opera, the impressive costumes and daring acrobatics certainly made the visit more than worthwhile. All in all the evening was a very successful introduction to Taiwanese and Chinese traditional arts. (Sigrid Winkler)

Reviews

■ *2007 ROC Library Yearbook*

The *2007 ROC Library Yearbook* National Central Library Editor was published in December 2007. Edited by the National Central Library, the yearbook chronicles major library events and developments in the Taiwan and Fujian areas, including an overview of library collections, services, and information technology applications. The yearbook also reports on the status of automation and digitization work at public libraries, university and college libraries, elementary and secondary schools libraries, and special libraries. Library-related organization events, conferences and exchanges, education, and research in the library and information studies field are also covered in the yearbook.

The yearbook includes sections with material on library statistics, a chronology of major library events, and library laws and regulations. The chart