



Dr. Frank Kraushaar (second from left) and colleagues with NCL Director General Karl Min Ku (first from right) (Photo by Pinery S. Wu)

Chinese Studies Symposium

■ *CCS Seminar*

The Center for Chinese Studies held a seminar on May 1, 2009, for the visiting scholar Professor Poul Andersen, an Associate Professor in the Department of Religion at Hawaii University, U.S.A. Professor Andersen spoke on "The Scripture of the Jade Pivot and Daoist Iconography." Professor Li Feng-mao, a research fellow at the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, chaired the seminar.

The seminar focused on the Scripture of the *Jade Pivot* (Yushu jing), one of modern Daoism's most important texts, and the main scriptural expression of the Thunder Rites of the Shenxiao tradition. The scripture is the central vehicle of the Celestial Worthy Who Transforms All through the Sound of Thunder, Leisheng puhua tianzun, the supreme Daoist god of thunder, and appears to have been written around 1200. It was revered throughout the Ming and Qing dynasties, not only by Daoists, but also by self-declared Confucians, and not least in circles dedicated to self-cultivation framed by the notion of the unity of the Three Religions. To this day, it continues to be one of the most important scriptures chanted, and indeed performed, as part of many different kinds of Daoist liturgy. Professor

Andersen researches several aspects of this scripture, notably textual variants and the dating of the various editions of the text; the local context in which the scripture originated and the question of the specific religious affiliation of the text; and the significance of the illustrations of the text, both for this historical work and for Daoist iconography in general.

The seminar attracted many research students and scholars specializing in Daoism from several institutions, including Academia Sinica, the National Palace Museum, universities, and religious groups.



Professor Poul Andersen (second from left, front row) (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

CCS News and Activities

■ *NCL Visiting Scholars Visit Miaoli for Cultural Tour*

Visiting scholars at the NCL were treated to an up-close look at traditional customs and ways of life in Taiwan during a field trip to Miaoli County on April 10.

The group stopped first at the Sanyi Wood Sculpture Museum for a guided tour introducing the rise and fall of the timber industry in Sanyi and the subsequent revival of the township as a center of wood art.

The visitors then continued on to the Hwataoyao Botanical Garden, Ceramic Studio & Wood Kilns, which sprawls over six hectares on Huoyan Mountain in Yuanli Township. From its hillside perch, Hwataoyao commands a bird's-eye



Participants in the 2009 NCL Visiting Scholar Cultural Tour (Photo by Caesar Tsai)

view of the alluvial plains of the Da-an River. After entering the kiln area, the visitors were greeted by a rustic scene of farmland checkered with irrigation channels. The group first toured the front garden guided by Ms. Li Jung-shan, who provided an in-depth introduction to the local ecology, wood kilns, and garden landscape art. At noon, the group was treated to a fortifying "rice cutting" lunch of rice, meat and veggies in the style traditionally prepared by rice farmers during the harvest season. After lunch, the visitors toured the botanical garden and enjoyed the local scenic beauty. The group then let their creativity go wild at the pottery wheel, with guidance from of a master ceramist. On the way back, the group stopped at Gongguan Township for dinner before returning home. (Chinese text by Caesar Tsai)

■ *Full-text Database of CCS Publications*

Since its establishment in 1981, the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) has contributed extensively to the field of Chinese studies through the compilation and publication of academic resources in Taiwan and abroad. In 1982, the center launched its quarterly *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies* and the semiannual *Chinese Studies* (which became a quarterly in 2008). Over the years, both periodicals have earned a well-deserved reputation for excellence of editorial standards and content. For over 25 years, they have provided a wealth of

information on Chinese studies and been widely cited in the field both in Taiwan and around the world. Recently the CCS decided to make the content of both publications available online through its "Full-text Database of CCS Publications" to make these resources accessible to a broader readership.

Launched at the end of 2008, the database can be accessed from the CCS website from the "Subject Database" link (<http://ccs.ncl.edu.tw/ccs/TW/ExpertDB7.asp>). The main database functions include browsing by publication title and issue and simple and integrated search by category, article title, author, abstract or keywords. All articles can be viewed online in PDF format or downloaded and printed. The database currently comprises the full content of 55 issues of *Chinese Studies* and 108 issues of the *Newsletter for Research in Chinese Studies*, including articles, thesis summaries, research reports, seminar news, introductions to Chinese studies programs, academic news, new book reviews, and other information related to Chinese studies, totaling about 2,300 full-text images. The CCS is also seeking copyright authorizations to expand the database content and further promote Chinese studies. (Chinese text by Sun Hsiu-ling)

NCL Publications

■ *2008 NCL Annual Report*

Seventy-six years have passed since the National Central Library (NCL) was founded in Nanjing in 1933. Since then, the library has evolved with the changing political, economic and technologic landscape, moving to Taiwan in 1949, relocating to new facilities, and developing services to meet the needs of the time. Throughout it all, however, one thing has remained constant, and that is the library's role in preserving culture and promoting knowledge.

NCL Director-general Karl Min Ku once said that: "Libraries should evolve in a way that does not affect the consistency of their contribution to society.