

NCL with Director Yi-E Lin of Academia Sinica's Institute of Modern History Library.



Director General Karl Min Ku and Director-general Min Fang (right) of Capital Normal University Library.

2010.04.18: Pontificio Consigliodella Cultura Secretary-General Fr. Barthèlemy Adoukonou and Asian Affairs ministry officer Fr. Theodore Mascarenhas visited the Library accompanied by one secretary of the Department of European Affairs of Foreign Affairs Ministry.



Pontificio Consigliodella Cultura Fr. Father Barthelemy Adoukonou (right), and Asian Affairs ministry official Theodore Mascarenhas (left).

2010.04.22: Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences Secretary-general Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo visits the Library, accompanied by Department of European Affairs Secretary Ri-Xin Zhong.



Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences Secretary-general Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo (center) and Charge D'Affaires Monsignor Paul Fitzpatrick Russell (left) appreciating rare books on display. Director-general Karl Min Ku (right) looks on.

2010.04.29: Thirty-one librarians and official guests from Mainland China's Chongqing Municipal Culture Bureau were led on a visit to NCL by Chongqing Library Assistant Director-general Bo Zhang.

Chinese Studies Symposium

January 8

The Center for Chinese Studies visiting scholar Dr. Gerald Chan, a professor in the Department of Political Studies at The University of Auckland, spoke on "Taiwan's Quest for International Space: Constraints and Possibilities." Dr. Ming Lee in the Department of Diplomacy, National Chengchi University chaired the seminar.

This seminar explored two issues: firstly, the implications of Taiwan's quest for international space for its foreign-policy choices; and secondly, the implications of such a quest for the study of International Relations. The seminar examines the constraints on Taiwan's quest. These constraints come in the main from China's political pressure on Taiwan as well as on other actors in world affairs; constraints also come in relatively smaller measure

from other actors in the international community as well as from the country's own domestic interests. The seminar focuses on Taiwan's participation in intergovernmental organizations and assesses the possibilities of Taiwan's increased involvement in the activities of these organizations. The conclusion discusses what we can learn from Taiwan's experience in this quest, so as to inform or revise our understanding of international relations.



Dr. Gerald Chan (front left) and Dr. Ming Lee (front right).

March 30

Marián Gálik, Professor Emeritus of Comenius University in Bratislava, a renowned Sinologist and scholar of comparative literature, was invited to speak on "The Contemporary Taiwanese Woman Poet Rongzi and the Bible." Han-Liang Chang, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, National Taiwan University, chaired the seminar. Rongzi (1928-, one of the best women poets of new Taiwanese literature) and the well-known author Hsiao-Fong Chang also participated.

Prof. Gálik believes that as the most influential work in world history, the Bible entered China in a unique way, and played an important role in shaping the consciousness of the modern intelligentsia. Even though China had its own comprehensive and deep-rooted Confucian, Taoist and Buddhist traditions, the Bible was still able to bring new ideas into traditional literature,

poetry and myth. The Bible, and its reception and reflection in the poetic work of Rongzi, became the object of Gálik investigation.



Prof. Marián Gálik (left), and National Taiwan University Prof. Han-Liang Chang (right).

April 18

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of Robert H. van Gulik. Last year, National Tsing Hua University and NCL's Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) collaboratively hosted the first part of a "Robert H. van Gulik and Material Culture" series of symposia, the 5 September 2009 symposium "Van Gulick's Erotic Colour Prints of the Ming Period, Fifty Years On." This year, the second installment of the international symposium was held on 18 April 2010, entitled "Robert van Gulick and Cultural History." The symposium concerned the significance of material culture in these books, as well as an examination of van Gulick's role in the transformation of twentieth century Western Sinological paradigms, looking more broadly to developments in cultural history.

Dr. Hartmut Walravens (Berlin State Library, Germany), Prof. Alan Berkowitz, (Program Coordinator and lecturing professor in Asian Studies, Swarthmore College, U.S.A.), Dr. Thomas Geissman, (Chair of the Gibbon Research Lab, University of Zurich, Switzerland), and Prof. Dorothy Ko (Department of History, Columbia University, U.S.A) presented papers as part of the

international forum on “Robert Hans van Gulik and Cultural History,” jointly organized by the Center for Chinese Studies and National Tsing Hua University. Karl Min Ku, the Director of the National Central Library, made a speech at the opening ceremony.



Director-general Karl Min Ku and division chief Li-Chun Keng.

April 29

The Center for Chinese Studies visiting scholar Dr. Tian Yuan Tan, an assistant professor in the London School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), spoke on “Qing Dynasty Literati Opera Writers and Court Theatre”. Dr. An-Chi Wang in the Department of Drama and Theatre, National Taiwan University chaired the seminar.

Dr. Tan studied the development of Qing Dynasty opera, and found the literati opera and court theatre represent two important facets of theatre that are drastically different from each other with regard to cultural atmosphere. Hence, the histories of drama often portray the composition of literati opera and court theatre as two separate domains of activity and handle them separately: each of the two forms has its own set of participants, and the principles of creation of the two forms are mutually conflicting. This speak sketches a number of points of confluence between authors of literary opera and court theatre in the Qing dynasty.



Prof. Tian Yuan Tan (left) and National Taiwan University Drama Dept. Prof. An-Chi Wang.

CCS News and Activities

5 February

Sha Chun-Sheng, member of council of the Taiwan Education Center in Seoul, Korea and Song Min-Jing, general manager of the Hankook Ilbo Newspaper group’s English-language *Korea Times* together came to NCL to have an interview of Director-general Karl Min Ku. The interview was aimed at generating a series of reports on Taiwan’s recruitment and scholarship programs for foreign students, as well as inquiring about the current state of affairs at the Center for Chinese Studies and the “Research Grant Program to Assist Foreign Scholars in Chinese Studies.”



Director Sha Chun-Sheng (first from the left).