

2010.07.22: A 10-member delegation of mainland university law school library professionals visits the NCL while in Taiwan to attend the "Cross-strait University Law School Library and Information Science Exchange Symposium" held by National Chengchi University. The group was led by Chen Zhihong (fifth from left), head of the School of Law Library at Peking University and was received by NCL Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei (sixth from left). The two sides exchanged views on government information and legal document archives and services.



2010.07.30: A nine-member group from mainland China, including Director Fang Shu (back row, second from left) of the National Science Library, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Deputy Director Zhong Yongheng (back row, second from right) visited the NCL, led by China National Chemical Information Center Deputy Director Jiē Yu-bin (back row, center). The group was in Taiwan to attend the Cross-strait Mainland Book Exhibition. At the NCL, the group met with Director-general Karl Min Ku (front row, fourth from right) and Deputy Director-general Wu Ying-mei (front row, fourth from left).



Chinese Studies Symposium

May 4

The Center for Chinese Studies held two academic conferences, inviting two of its grant receiving scholars to give talks. The first was Andreas Berndt of the University of Leipzig, who spoke on the "Belief and Worship of Dragon Kings during the Ming and Qing", and who was introduced by Li Fong-mao, a research fellow in the Institute of Philosophy and Literature at Academia Sinica. The second talk, entitled "Chiang Kai-shek's Secret Korean War," was given by Chang Cheng, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History at the University of California at San Diego, and was introduced by Chang Shu-ya, an associate research fellow at Academia Sinica's Institute of Modern History.

In the first session, Andreas Berndt explored the role and position the belief in the dragon kings occupies in traditional Chinese society. In traditional belief, the dragon kings most often appear in the image of water gods, and are closely related to dragons, similarly regarded by the Chinese as propitious omens. Indeed, the two share many similarities in terms of symbolism. However, the dragon kings are not merely a branch of dragons; during the course of the historical development of beliefs surrounding the dragon kings, other symbolic connotations were developed, and so in this respect there exist differences compared to dragons. On one hand, as gods who controlled the rain, the dragon kings were worshipped by the government and the people. Later, in classical literature, they were also combined into the non-religious image of the Dragon Kings of the Four Seas. From the Ming to the beginning of the republican era, temples dedicated to the dragon kings were built throughout China, but reliance on belief in the dragon kings varied from place to place. Berndt believes that by analyzing records in local gazetteers relating to changes in climate and geographical environment, it may be possible to understand the reasons for this, and indeed this is a direction he will pursue in future research.

Chang Cheng's talk focused on Chiang Kai-shek's propaganda campaign aimed at more than 10,000 prisoners of war captured from the Chinese Communist Party's People's Volunteer Army during the Korean War. When the Korean War erupted in 1950, the R.O.C. government dispatched volunteers to Tokyo and Korea to participate in activities such as translation, intelligence, psychological warfare, and the interrogation and re-orientation of prisoners of war. These personnel were deployed and directed to use political warfare strategies in the prisoner of war camps, finally successfully persuading more than 15,000 Chinese prisoners to refuse repatriation in April 1952, and be relocated to Taiwan on January 23, 1954. Chang Cheng suggested that this, the first time that Chiang Kai-shek and Chiang Ching-kuo had successfully waged a propaganda war, had a deep and far-reaching impact in terms of the retention of the R.O.C. government's UN membership, Taiwan's return to the U.S. defense umbrella, and the reversal of the R.O.C.'s fortunes.

The two conferences attracted researchers of History and religion, who eagerly expressed their views and enthusiastically participated in the discussions. The two scholars presenting papers received a great number of valuable opinions that will provide much food for thought when deciding the direction of their future research. (translator / Darren Martin Davies)

May 19

The Center for Chinese Studies organized a World Sinology Lecture, inviting Prof. Marie Bizais, the head of the Department of Chinese at the University of Strasbourg, France, to deliver a lecture entitled A Brief Analysis of the Terminology of Style and Genre in "*Wen Xin Diao Long*". Prof. Bizais was introduced by Prof Liao Dong-liang of the Department of Chinese Literature at National Chengchi University. On this visit to Taiwan, Prof. Bizais won the 2010 Taiwan Visiting Scholar prize awarded by the Taipei Representative Office in France's Cultural Bureau.

"*Wen xin diao long*" (文心雕龍) is a work of literary criticism and theory important in the

history of Chinese literature, whose author, Liu Xie, believed that the form of an essay was especially important. In this book, he gave a lot of space over to analyzing and expounding its importance, dividing form into four categories: *ti* (體), *feng* (風), *gu* (骨), and *shi* (勢). However, in the intervening years, each new wave of literature has brought with it new elements and new methods of interpretation. Thus how a contemporary reader should approach understanding the vocabulary Liu Xie used to deconstruct literary form is an important research topic. To give an example, the two characters *feng* and *gu* are each defined in "*Wen xin diao long*", but the term *fenggu*, which also appears in the book, is extensively cited by later generations, but not used in exactly the same way as it was originally. In fact, in recent years it has become confused with the commonly-used word *fengge* (風格).

Prof. Bizais' analysis of the terms *ti*, *feng*, and *gu* reveals that their meaning differs according to context, with even more subtle changes of meaning when used in parallel prose. Thus blanket explanations or glosses for these terms are not necessarily accurate. For example, Liu Xie's usage of the term *feng* is extremely meaningful; it produces an abundance of different connotations according to differing contexts. Prof. Bizais also went further to remark that the ways the three terms *ti*, *feng* and *gu* are used in the theories of literature and calligraphy are closely related to the body paradigm. During the Six Dynasties, in an environment heavily influenced by the critique of ethical relations, the educated classes placed particular emphasis on the body's physical form and bearing. Because of this, in understanding *shen*, Prof. Bizais' began with its most basic connotation, *shenti* (身體). With this as a basis, she said she believed that to the literati (including Liu Xie), *ti* does not refer to unreal or abstract form, but rather, like the body, to real, concrete form. Furthermore, *ti* must be accompanied by *feng* and *gu* in order to survive. Turning to the meaning of *feng* and *gu*, Prof Bizais suggested *feng* symbolizes *qi* (氣) and rhythm, whereas *gu* links together skeleton and structure.

Prof. Bizais' analysis simplified this profound

subject, helping those attending reach a deeper understanding of this extensive and penetrating work. On this trip she also visited the National Central Library, gathering documents in the Rare Books Reading Room to use in her research. (translator / Darren Martin Davies)



Prof. Marie Bizais (center) with the Center for Chinese Studies Director Karl Min Ku (right).

CCS News and Activities

■ *EACS Biennial Conference and Book Exhibition*

The European Association for Chinese Studies (EACS) held its 18th Biennial Conference on July 14 to 18 at the University of Latvia (UL) in Riga, Latvia. The event was chaired by EACS President Brunhild Staiger and opened with a welcoming speech by Frank Kraushaar, dean of the Research Institute of Asian Studies (RIAS), University of Latvia.

Reflecting Riga's position as a crossroad for European and Russian culture, the conference chose as its theme this year: "Culture is a Crowded Bridge." The four-day event consisted of nine sessions during which there were discussions on 16 topics, 212 papers presented, and 68 panels.

Prominent Russian Sinologist (and 1997 Center for Chinese Studies grant winner) Prof. Irina F. Popova gave a keynote speech at the opening ceremony on developments in Russian Sinology over the past decades. She also mentioned representative scholars and traits in major related areas, as well as talked about major trend-setting

factors, illustrated from her extensive studies in this field. Chu, Yun-han president of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange (CCKF), which provided sponsorship for the conference, also presented a speech at the opening ceremony.

The Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) arranged a "Sinology Book Exhibition" at the Small Hall upstairs from the Great Hall of the conference venue. Personnel from Latvia's National Central Library and the RIAS assisted with the display, which comprised dozens of boxes of publications on Chinese and Taiwanese studies published in Taiwan over the past three years. The works covered the humanities and scientific fields, as well as numerous government and university publications. The 687 publications (729 volumes) were divided into eight major categories, including: 1) philosophy, thought, and classical studies; 2) history and geography; 3) religion, customs and people; 4) society, education, economy, politics, law, and diplomacy; 5) language, literature and drama; 6) art, music, architecture, and archeology; 7) selections from the classic bibliography, such as "One Hundred Volumes from East Asia", and 8) DVDs. The UL arranged a projector and screen to play the DVD on rotation during the event, generating significant interest among the participants.

Turnout from the academic sector was especially strong on the opening day of the conference and book exhibition. Among the participants were several former recipients of CCS grants, including Olga Lomová and Lucie Olivová from the Czech Republic, Jana Rošker and Natasa Vampelj Suhadolnik from Slovenia, Uffe Bergeton of Denmark, and Dinu Luca from Romania. The CCS alumni highlighted the major contribution of the CCS through its visiting scholar grant program over the past 20 years. They also paid high attention to developments in Taiwan's academic sector and showed a strong interest in related Taiwan publications.

After the opening ceremony, CCKF representatives visited the Latvia National Central Library's "Castle of Light" facility now under-