

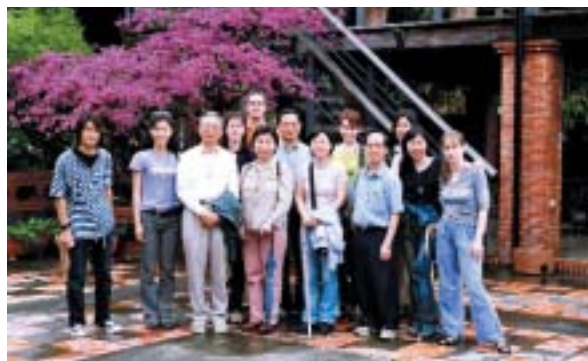
“Genealogy Field Survey Culture and History Workshop” was held in the courtyard of the Penghu Reclamation Hall on July 22. Local cultural and history workers and genealogical editors were invited to the event to exchange experience and tools for genealogical editing work. The Bureau of Culture also invited county residents to submit genealogical materials in order to compile a more complete genealogical record for the county.

CCS News and Activities

■ 2005 Cultural Field Trip for CCS Visiting Scholars

On May 13, the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) organized a cultural field trip to Sanyi and the Hwataoyao Botanical Garden, Ceramic Studio, and Wood Kilns. The trip was joined by 14 people, including visiting scholars and staff at the center.

The first stop was the Sanyi Woodcarving Museum, where the group enjoyed the beauty of local woodcarving art. The visitors then continued on to Hwataoyao at base of Mt. Huotan in Yuanli, where took in the beauty of Taiwanese-style gardens, natural ecology, and cultural attractions. The group was accompanied by a professional guide who illuminated points of interest on the plants, art, and historical events of the area. Tour participants were also invited to try their hand at pottery making. After visiting Hwataoyao, the group feasted on a sumptuous Hakka-style dinner, bringing to a close a fun and highly educational tour through Chinese culture! (Chinese text by Caesar Tsai)



*CCS visiting scholars pose for a group picture at Hwataoyao
(Photo by Caesar Tsai)*



*CCS visiting scholars try their hand at pottery making
(Photo by Caesar Tsai)*

■ CCS Seminar on Tang Dynasty Officials

On May 24, the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) held a seminar on “Tang Dynasty Official Studies: New Perspectives, New Resources, and New Questions” at the NCL.

The seminar was hosted by CCS visiting scholar, Dr. Lai Swee Fo, a former professor of Tang history at Princeton University and currently director and research fellow at the Center for Tang Studies in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Dr. Lai recently published a book on low-level officials during the Tang period, an area that scholars have largely

neglected. He has unlocked several riddles concerning official titles and also filled in blanks in the study of Tang officialdom to present a fascinating portrait of society in the middle Tang period.

Dr. Lai frequently came across references to official titles in the course of his studies on Tang history and poetry, indicating their importance to official and personal histories in the Tang period. Tang officialdom was a system of orderly advancement, in which official position was related to age, and this had an impact on the attitude of officials of the time. The content of Tang official records are often sketchy, but recently unearthed tomb inscriptions and other material have shed new light on errors in the T'ang liu-tian, T'ung-tian, and the two T'ang-shu. A recently created full-text database has also expedited research in this area and led to new scholarly interpretations on Tang history. Historians armed with these new historical resources can help to resolve the discrepancies between scholars of Tang

literature and Tang history over the same historical figure or event, and thereby uncover the true face of Tang history, and with it, the true meaning of the literature of the period. (Chinese text by Ms. Te-Erh Kao)

■ *CCS seminar on the Definition and Scope of Portraits*

Dr. Olga Gorodetskaya of the Russian Academy of Sciences presented a speech on “Outline of the Definition and Scope of Portraits” at a Center for Chinese Studies seminar held at the NCL on June 23. Dr. Gorodetskaya analyzed the forms of figures depicted in Chinese art to ascertain figures could be considered as portraits. She noted that there is a lack of consensus in academic circles on this point due to different definitions and scopes of portraits. Portrait theory originated in European contemporary culture, and such theories are not suitable for understanding portraits in other cultures. In order to understand portraits in Chinese culture, one needs to first expand the scope of this art form and set limits that apply across cultures. This would enable new understanding of portraits in Chinese culture and provide an outline for defining and setting the scope of portraits.

Dr. Olga earned her doctorate in history and is currently a researcher at the Oriental Studies Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences. She is a visiting scholar at the CCS, where she is researching ancient Chinese culture. (Chinese text by Te-Erh Kao)



*Dr. Lai Swee Fo (front, first from left) at a Center for Chinese Studies seminar held at the NCL.
(Photo by Caesar Tsai)*