

Conference on the Creativity of Linguistics in Taiwan

The Center for Chinese Studies wrapped up 1999 with three seminars in November and December on topics ranging from Chinese literature to folk religion.

On November 26, the center hosted a seminar, chaired by Prof. In-cho Jun (全寅初) of Yonsei University in South Korea. Prof. Jun discussed a fifteenth-century compendium of eulogistic hymns-the Lung-fei yu-t'ien ke (龍飛御天歌) -commemorating the founding of the Choson Kingdom (1392-1910) . In its later annotated form, this work is an invaluable reference for the study of Korean literature and philology. Its many references to the dynastic houses of China since the Han period make it an equally important text for the study of Chinese history.

On December 10, Prof. Bonnie S. McDougall of the University of Edinburgh was the keynote speaker at a seminar on the published and unpublished letters exchanged between Lu Hsun (魯迅) and Hsu Kuang-ping (許廣平) . The lecture explored the private life of Lu Hsun, one of China's most celebrated writers, through his written correspondences with his lover Hsu. The letters provide insight not only to this overlooked aspect of Lu's life, but also to his view on contemporary society and the relations between the two sexes.

The following week, on December 17, visiting mainland Chinese scholar Mr. Qu Liuyi (曲六乙) was invited by Prof. Chen-liang Yang (楊振良) of National Hualien Teachers College to host a lecture on folk religion. Mr. Qiu spoke on the topic, "Nuo (儺) : the Culture of Masks." The seminar was hosted by Prof. Wang Qiugui (王秋桂) of the Chinese Literature Department at National Tsinghua University.