

## **Professor Tung Shen Lectures on “Lan-Ping Zhou and the Legend of ‘Green Island Serenade’”**

In the second half of 2014, the Center for Chinese Studies of the National Central Library held three lectures based on the theme of “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” and a Theme Documents Exhibition on Taiwanese Music in Seattle, New York, and Houston, USA.

The second lecture of “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” was held in the Auditorium of Flushing Library, in coordination with the Flushing Library at Queens, New York City. City Counselor Peter Koo, Deputy Director of National Central Library Wu Ying-mei, and Director of Flushing Library Qiu Xin-ye each gave short speeches in turn. Other invited guests included Deputy Director Wang Xian-yun of the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, Director Yiu Shu-jing of the Taipei Cultural Center in New York, Commissioner Yuan Guang-da, Director of the Chinese Radio Network in New York, Chain Huei, Director of the Chinese-American Librarians Association (CALA), Carol Kachuen Gee, and several members of the Association. Chiu Tzu-heng, Director of the Division of International Cooperation of the National Central Library, was the master of ceremonies at the lecture. World Journal, Epoch Times, the Chinese Radio Network in New York, and other media gave reports about the event. It was a cold rainy day, but almost one hundred people came to share the occasion.

Professor Shen Tung earned her Ph.D degree from the Department of Chinese Literature at National Taiwan University (NTU). She currently serves as the Professor of Graduate Institute of Musicology and as the Director of the Center for the Arts at NTU. In the past, she also served as the Dean for International Affairs at NTU for many years, responsible for all international issues on behalf of NTU. The topic of the lecture given in New York was, “Lan-Ping Zhou and the Legend of ‘Green Island Serenade’”. Four aspects were covered in the lecture. First, Zhou Lan-ping’s life and musical background was introduced, followed by the composing process of the song “Green Island Serenade” and how the recording became popular by focusing on the phonograph recording in the 1950s and 1960s. The third aspect was an in-depth analysis of the lyrics of the song in which Pan Ying-jie, the lyricist, imaginatively depicts Taiwan as a Utopia. Moreover, the elegant melody, mainly composed in scales of fifths, repeated with variations, which shows Zhou Lan-ping’s excellent composition skills. Finally, the lecture examined the popularity of “Green Island Serenade” in the Asia Pacific Region by presenting the different versions of the song as they appeared in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and China. In the course of her lecture, Professor Shen played many old popular songs and music which

was familiar to the Chinese audience who listened to the music while learning about the origins and stories of those songs through the lecture and gradually came to appreciate the musical style of the era and the efforts and contributions of musicians and producers of the time. Professor Shen's lively lecture indeed caught the attention of the audience.

In presenting the theme of "Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies," the National Central Library, in coordination with the Library of National Taiwan University, reconstructed part of the exhibition "Musical Recollection in Formosa: The Legend of Zhou Lan-Ping and Four Seas Records" held in the University Library outside the Auditorium of Flushing Library. It also held a special exhibition of the same title from October 11 to October 30. Afterwards the exhibition was moved to the Resource Points of Taiwan Academy established by the National Central Library in New York. In addition, Taiwanese publications devoted to the music, including 79 books and 92 video and audio recordings of the contemporary music, traditional music, popular music, aboriginal music, Hakka folk music, and musicians in Taiwan, were also exhibited at the Flushing Library to highlight the beauty of Taiwanese music. The books and related data were given to the Flushing Library after the activity. The Book-giving Ceremony was hosted by Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei who represented the National Central Library. Deputy Director Qiu Xin-ye of the Flushing Library accepted the gift for the library. Thanks to the assistance of the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, the activity was a success. After the lecture, a tea party was held at which the lecturer and the audience were able to exchange their opinions and feelings. Members of the audience thanked the National Central Library for holding such a meaningful lecture series.



Photo 1: “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” and the Theme Documents Exhibition was held in coordination with the National Central Library and the Flushing Library at Queens of New York, USA.



Photo 2: “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” invited Professor Shen Tung to give a lecture on “Lan-Ping Zhou and the Legend of ‘Green Island Serenade’.”



Photo 3: (from left to right) Deputy Director Qiu Xin-ye of the Flushing Library at Queens in New York, Counselor Peter Koo of New York City, Lecturer Professor Shen Tung, Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei of National Central Library, Director Yiu Shu-ying of Taipei Cultural Center in New York, Deputy Director Wang Xian-yun of the Education Division of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, Director Chiu Tzu-heng of the Division of International Cooperation of National Central Library



Photo 5: Exhibition on Taiwanese Music: “Musical Recollection in Formosa: The Legend of Zhou Lan-Ping and Four Seas Record”



Photo 6: Exhibition of Taiwanese books and video-audio recordings related to the theme of Taiwanese music



Photo 7: After the exhibition, the National Central Library donated the books and other materials to the Flushing Library at Queens in New York. The ceremony was conducted by the representative of the National Central Library, Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei (left) and the representative of the Flushing Library at Queens in New York, Deputy Director Qiu Xin-ye (right)