

**Professor Tung Shen Lectures on
“The Love for Taiwan, Towering in the Middle of the Ocean – The
Taiwan Imagination in the Compositions of Lan-Ping Zhou”**

The National Central Library held three “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” on the topic of Taiwanese music in America in the second half of 2014. After the lectures given at the University of Washington in Seattle and the Flushing Library at Queens, New York, the last lecture was held in Houston, Texas, in coordination with the National Central Library and Rice University in Houston.

The lecture was held from 3 to 6 pm, on October 15, in the Kyle Morrow Room of the Fondren Library of Rice University. At the opening tea party, guests greeted each other and exchanged opinions in a relaxed setting. The lecture commenced at 3:40 pm. Associate Director Yeh Meng of the university’s Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication served as the master of the ceremonies. Director Sara Lowman of Fondren Library, Director Huang Min-jing of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, and Deputy Director of the National Central Library Wu Ying-mei each gave a short speech. Other guests included Deputy Director Kerry Keck of the Research Division of the University Library, Ms. Tsai Pei-ting, instructor at the Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication, Professor Chen Shih-hui of the Music Department, Professor Huang Shi-shan of the Department of Art History, Vice Director Qi Yang-qiang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Ms. Zhou Hui-yi, Division Chief of the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Secretary Zhang Li-li of the Culture Division, Secretary Liu Yue-qin, Director Chin Hong-jun of the Chinese Writers Society of Southern America, et al.

Professor Shen Tung, who gave the lecture in New York, was again invited to give the lecture on the topic of “The Love for Taiwan, Towering in the Middle of the Ocean–The Taiwan Imagination in the Compositions of Lan-Ping Zhou,” mainly dealing with the atmosphere in 1950s’ Taiwan and the songs created by Zhou Lan-Ping. It was a highly politicized time marked by anti-communist clichés, yet many popular songs in Mandarin written by Zhou Lan-Ping transgressed acceptable standards of expression, revealing rather another kind of Taiwanese imagination of “loving Taiwan.” In contrast with the lecture given in New York when Mandarin was used to deliver the speech, Professor

Shen gave her speech this time at Rice University in English. Many songs about Taiwan were played to accompany the speech in the lecture hall to arouse the foreign audience's interest in getting to know the atmosphere and the musical style of Taiwan in the early period. Professor Shen is presently a full-time professor of the Graduate Institute of Musicology and the director of the Center of Arts and Culture of National Taiwan University. Her field of research is the History of Ancient Chinese Music, with a particular focus on the Wei, Jin and North-South dynasties as well as the Sui and Tang Periods. In recent years she changed her field of interest to the history of modern music, focusing on uncovering historical facts related to popular music in Mandarin from the early period of Taiwan.

In presenting the theme of "Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies," an exhibition of diverse Taiwanese publications devoted to the theme of music was held at the same site as that of the lecture. More than 200 books and video and audio recordings of Taiwanese contemporary music, traditional music, popular music, aboriginal music, Hakka folk music, and musicians in Taiwan, were exhibited to showcase the beauty of Taiwanese music. All the books and related documents were given to the Fondren Library in Rice University after the activity. The Book-giving Ceremony was hosted by Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei who represented the National Central Library; Director Sara Lowman of the Fondren Library accepted the gift for the library. The lecture and the exhibition went smoothly having provided a stimulating atmosphere which aroused the interest of the audience.



Photos 1: The last lecture of “Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies” and related exhibition were held at Rice University in Houston.



Photos 2: Associate Director Yeh Meng of the university’s Center for Languages & Intercultural Communication was the master of the ceremonies.



Photos 3: Professor Shen Tung was given the lecture on the topic of “The Love for Taiwan, Towering in the Middle of the Ocean: Taiwanese Imagination in the Compositions of Lan-Ping Zhou”



Photos 4: Professor Shen Tung interacting with the audience



Photos 5: At a corner of the site



Photos 6: (from left) a group photo of Vice Director Qi Yang-qiang of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Secretary Zhang Li-li of the Culture Division, Division Chief of the Education Division Ms. Zhou Hwei-yi, Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei of the National Central Library, Professor Shen Tung, the featured lecturer, Director Huang Min-jing of the

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston, Professor Chen Shih-hui of the Music Department, Vice Director Keck of the Fondren Library of Rice University, and Chin Zi-heng, Division Chief of the Division of International Cooperation of the National Central Library



Photos 7: An exhibition of diverse Taiwanese publications of books and video and audio recordings devoted to the theme of music



Photos 8: The National Central Library donates the books and related documents to the Fondren Library of Rice University after the activity. Representatives at the Book-giving Ceremony: (left) Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei of the National Central Library and Director Lowman of the Fondren Library of Rice University



Photos 9: (from left to right) Director Lowman and Vice Director Keck of the Fondren Library in Rice University, talking to Deputy Director Wu Ying-mei of the National Central Library during tea time