

**Professor of Chi-Chiang Huang, Hobart and William Smith Colleges**  
**Speaks on the Image of Su Shi in Southern Song Chan Texts**

In 2013, the National Central Library (NCL) and various prominent United States universities jointly sponsored the Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies to establish an exchange platform for showcasing research results from the field of Taiwan Studies and Sinology, and to enhance awareness of Chinese culture with Taiwan characteristics. The final lecture in this series was given in collaboration with the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and the East Asian Library at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey. An academic lecture aimed at university students and faculty was given on October 18, 2013 at the Alexander Library of Rutgers University. Professor Huang Chi-Chiang of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Hobart and William Smith Colleges was invited to speak on the “Image of Su Shi in Southern Song Chan Texts.” The lecture was introduced by Assistant Professor Jessey Choo of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers. NCL Director General Tseng Shu-hsien also spoke on behalf of the sponsoring institution.

Professor Huang received his MA in History from the Graduate Institute for the Study of History, National Taiwan University, and his Ph.D. in Chinese History from the University of Arizona. His Chinese-language books include *Studies in the History of Northern Sung Buddhism, Causality, Pure Land and Rebirth in the Land of Utmost Bliss: Perspectives on the History of Chinese Buddhism*, and *Legend, Piety, and Buddhism in Song-Yuan China*. He has also written numerous articles that can be seen in various academic journals.

Professor Huang feels that there have been many studies on Su Dongpo since Lin Yu-tang introduced him (also known as Su Shi) to the English-speaking world in the 1940s, but there has been little discussion of his image; and Professor Huang has discovered that Chan monks of the Southern Song period in various parts of the Chan religious canon, such as Lamp Histories, patriarch biographies, recorded sayings and anthologies of writings, held Su Dongpo (Su Shi) in high esteem. Thus, the lecture provided a glimpse via these anthologies of writings by Chan monks of how Su Dongpo’s

image fits within the context of Chan religious culture. Professor Huang's talk introduced the audience to Su Dongpo's life, prominent poetry and the vicissitudes of his career, as well as the connections between various localities and his official sojourns and wanderings following demotion. It also pointed out that his image comprises that of more than just a man of immense literary and artistic talent, he was a loyal official repeatedly exiled, and a good friend and supporter of many Chan monks, as well as an erudite and highly principled Confucian who influenced many later generations of scholars and Chan monks.

After the lecture, an English-language video produced by the NCL's Center for Chinese Studies (CCS) on Taiwan's Sinological research resources was shown, introducing the various services provided by the CCS, including the provision of grants, and Taiwan's major research institutions and electronic resources. The audience was deeply impressed.



The event was moderated by Assistant Professor Jessey Choo of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers University



National Central Library Director General Tseng Shu-hsien speaks about the NCL and its role in Taiwan's Sinological research



Professor Huang Chi-Chiang Gives Lecture on  
“Image of Su Shi in Southern Song Chan Texts”



Group photo taken at lecture venue: Director Liu Ching-jen (2<sup>nd</sup> from right); Professor Huang Chi-Chiang (3<sup>rd</sup> from left); Richard V. Simmons, Chairman, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (4<sup>th</sup> from right); Assistant Professor Jessey Choo (1<sup>st</sup> from left); NCL Director General Tseng Shu-hsien (3<sup>rd</sup> from right); Director Yu Hsiao-ming (1<sup>st</sup> from right); Section Chief Geng Li-Chun.